
ROLE OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA AS KNOWLEDGE CENTRE FOR GROUNDNUT GROWERS

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Deesa block of Banaskantha district with a view to know usefulness of Krushi Vigyan Kendra, Deesa as perceived by groundnut growers. Majority of groundnut growers had perceived Krushi Vigyan Kendra as reliable source of latest information regarding improved variety, plant protection measure and fertilizer management. Majority of the respondents had awareness about the farmer oriented activities carried out by Krushi Vigyan Kendra.

KEY WORDS: Groundnut, krushi vigyan kendra,

INTRODUCTION

Krushi Vigyan Kendra is an innovative science based institution designed for filling up the gap between the available technologies at the one end and their applications in the field condition for increasing production at the other. Thus, it plays a significant role in increasing knowledge of the farmers regarding the improved technologies through multifactor extension activities at grass root level. Krushi Vigyan Kendra, Deesa was established on 22nd February, 1976 in the 5th Five years plan of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. The activities of this Krushi Vigyan Kendra are focused on Banaskantha district of Gujarat State. Groundnut is one of the important oil seed crops of the district and hence, opinions of the groundnut growers collected to know the usefulness of Krushi Vigyan Kendra as perceived by them. The study was conducted in Deesa block of Banaskantha district of Gujarat state with the following objectives 1) to determine the usefulness of the Krushi Vigyan Kendra on the basis of the opinion expressed by the groundnut growers, 2) to know the awareness of groundnut growers about the role of Krushi Vigyan Kendra, and 3) to identify the type of advantages availed by the groundnut growers through the Kendra.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Deesa block of Banaskantha district. Five villages namely Malgad, Juna Deesa, Rampura, Rasana and Kansari were purposively selected because

more number of participants took part in the different activities of Krushi Vigyan Kendra from these villages as well as all five villages had maximum area under groundnut cultivation. From each selected villages, 30 groundnut growers were selected by simple random sampling technique. Thus, the sample consisted of 150 respondents. The data were collected by personal interview technique with the help of structural interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The responses obtained from the respondents when asked to narrate usefulness of the Krushi Vigyan Kendra, Deesa were tabulated in Table 1. The results revealed that majority of the respondents (80.00 %) had perceived Krushi Vigyan Kendra as the centre of agriculture information as temple of farmers.

Planting material

Majority of the groundnut growers (88.66 %) had considered Krushi Vigyan Kendra as a source of information regarding improved varieties of groundnut, while 84.00 per cent and 75.33 per cent groundnut growers had expressed their views as a source of information for procuring planting material of improved variety and seed rate, respectively (Table 1).

Chemical fertilizer

Majority of the groundnut growers (73.33 %) received the information regarding timely application of fertilizer from Krushi Vigyan Kendra (Table 1). However, 65.33 per cent and 57.33 per cent considered it as a source of information for the proper dose and methods of application, respectively.

Plant protection measure

About 70.00 per cent groundnut growers considered Krushi Vigyan Kendra as a source of information on pesticides to be used against insect/pests and disease of the crop. The data further revealed that 69.33 per cent respondents considered Krushi Vigyan Kendra as a source of information regarding when and how to apply the plant protection measures, whereas 60.00 per cent growers expressed that information regarding proportion of pesticide to be used (Table 1).

Adoption of improved farm practices

Data with respect to adoption of farm practices presented in Table 2 revealed that 88.00 per cent groundnut growers perceived the usefulness of Krushi Vigyan Kendra as a source of inspiration for adoption of improved farm practices. More than eighty three per cent respondents were inspired for sowing improved variety, while 53.33 per cent were inspired for the adoption of seed treatment. Out of 150 farmers, 73.33 and 65.33 per cent were inspired for adoption of plant protection measures and use of fertilizers, respectively. The result further indicated that

84.00 per cent respondents made aware for weed management and earthing up at proper time in groundnut.

Awareness of activities

The responses of respondents about awareness regarding objectives of Krushi Vigyan Kendra are presented in Table 3. Majority of the respondents (80.00 %) agreed that they were aware about the short term trainings organized by the Krushi Vigyan Kendra. It was found that 63.33 per cent respondents were aware about various extension activities organized by the Kendra such as farmer's day, field day, exposure visit etc. The data further indicated that 70.66 and 65.33 per cent respondents showed awareness about scientific visit to farmers field (diagnostic visit) and the front line demonstration laid down on farmers field, respectively. Only 36.33 per cent respondents indicated their awareness about long term vocational training for rural youth.

Benefits availed

The benefits availed by respondents are presented in Table 4. The data indicated that majority of the respondents (80.00 %) had taken the advantages about scientific cultivation of groundnut from Krushi Vigyan Kendra. About 68.00 per cent of the respondents obtained information on the availability of planting material from other source. Out of 150 farmers, 79.33 per cent got information regarding proportion, time and method of use of pesticides, while 62.66 per cent respondents took advantages about planting material of groundnut. About 75.00 per cent of the respondents obtained guidance regarding the doses, time and method of fertilizer application. The above findings are in conformity with the finding of Saxena and Tripathi (1999) and Thakor and Patel (2005-06).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded from above findings that majority of the groundnut growers had perceived Krushi Vigyan Kendra as a reliable source of latest information regarding different package of practices of groundnut cultivation. Majority of them had awareness about the farmer oriented activities carried out by Krushi Vigyan Kendra.

REFERENCES

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Table 1: Perception of respondents regarding usefulness of the Krushi Vigyan Kendra as an information centre (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	No. of groundnut growers who perceived Krushi Vigyan Kendra as information centre.	120	80.00
Groundnut planting materials			
2.	Information regarding improved variety	133	88.66
3.	Information regarding source of procuring planting material of improved variety	126	84.00
4.	Information regarding seed rate Kg/ha	113	75.33
5.	Information regarding seed treatment	103	68.66
Chemical Fertilizers			
6.	Information regarding proper time of application	110	73.33
7.	Information regarding dose of fertilizer	98	65.33
8.	Information regarding method of applying fertilizer	86	57.33
Plant Protection Measure			
9.	Information regarding pesticides/ insecticides to be used against pest of groundnut crop	105	70.00
10.	Information regarding proportion of pesticide/ insecticides to be used.	90	60.00
11.	Information regarding when and how to apply pesticides / insecticide	104	69.33

Table 2: Perception of respondents regarding usefulness of the Krushi Vigyan Kendra as a source of inspiration for adoption of improved farm practices (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	No. of groundnut growers considering Krushi Vigyan Kendra as a source of inspiration for adoption of improved production technology	132	88.00
Inspiration Regarding			
2.	Adoption of High Yielding Variety.	130	83.33
3.	Adoption of seed treatment with fungicides	80	53.33
4.	Adoption of Plant Protection Measure	110	73.33
5.	Adoption of recommended dose of fertilizer	98	65.33
6.	Adoption of weed management and earthing up at proper time.	122	81.33

Table 3: Awareness of respondents about activities of Krushi Vigyan Kendra (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Short term training programme on different aspects of agricultural development	120	80.00
2.	Organizing various extension activities such as farmers day, field day, farmers field school, exposure visit etc.	95	63.33
3.	Diagnostic visit to farmers field.	106	70.66
4.	Laying out of Front Line Demonstration Oilseed / Pulse crops.	98	65.33
5.	Long term vocational training for rural youth	55	36.66

Table 4: Advantage availed by respondents from Krushi Vigyan Kendra (N = 150)

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No of Respondents	Percentage
1.	Information regarding scientific cultivation method of groundnut	120	80.00
2.	Planting material for groundnut	94	62.66
3.	Information about availability of planting materials from other source	102	68.00
4.	Guidance regarding use of pesticides, its proportion, time and methods.	119	79.33
5.	Guidance regarding use of fertilizers its doses, time and methods of application	112	74.66

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