

KNOWLEDGE LEVEL AND TRAINING NEED ASSESSMENT OF TRIBAL FARMERS AND OFFICERS OF AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT IN MAIZE PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY OF MEGHALAYA

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to assess the knowledge and training need of farmers and officials in maize production technology. For the study purpose, a total of 165 farmers, 80 agricultural inspectors and state government officials in Meghalaya state were selected. It was found that despite the most important crop, production and productivity of maize is very low in NEH region due to lack of knowledge and training about and improved package of practices. The tribal farmer respondents reported that disease control, fertilizers application, soil testing are the most important areas, which farmers need the training followed by improved seeds, storage, marketing of produce intercultural operations, irrigations, harvesting and ploughing. While, majority of officials need training on disease control which was followed by soil testing facilities, sowing, improved seeds, storage, marketing of produce, intercultural operations, irrigations, harvesting and ploughing. To increase the production and productivity of maize, the improved maize production technology has to be adopted by the tribal farmers. So the farmers should be trained as per their need.

Key words: Knowledge, Training Need, Adoption And Maize Production.

INTRODUCTION

The maize as second most important crop is grown in NEH region. It is observed that the production and productivity of maize is very low in this region. Reason behind is lack of knowledge about and improved package of practices and lack of training on different aspect of package and practices. As training play a very vital role in developing the confidence for adoption of any technology because it improved the knowledge and skill in a particular aspect and makes easy to understand the technology. Hence keeping in view the above study was conducted with the following objectives:

1. To assess the knowledge level of farmers and officials in maize production technology.
2. To assess the training need of the farmers in maize production technology.
3. To assess the training need of the state government officials related to maize production technology.
4. To study the sub areas of maize production technology on which training to be conducted.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Meghalaya state among the tribal farmers and agricultural inspectors to know the training need in scientific maize production as well as sub areas of maize. Total 165 farmers and 80 agricultural inspectors were covered under this study. The separate schedule was developed for farmers and state gov-

ernment officials. Only those farmers were interviewed who were growing maize crop and ready to adopt the improved maize production technologies. Similarly, state government officials who were dealing the maize crop were selected for this purpose. The personals interview method was followed for data collection. The data were coded, tabulated and analyzed for logical conclusion by using statistical tools like mean, percent and rank.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are presented in four tables followed by discussion.

Knowledge level of the Tribal Farmers and State Government Officials—The data presented in table-1 indicated that the 61.82 per cent farmers are having medium knowledge level followed by 30.30 and 7.88 per cent farmers in low and high category respectively in maize crop. Further table-1 also indicated that official were also having the same trend in knowledge level. These findings are supported by Sharma (1994), Sharma *et al* (1994) and Prakash *et al* (1996).

Table 1. Knowledge level of Farmers and Officials

Sl. No.	Category	Farmers		Officials	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	50	30.30	9	11.25
2	Medium	102	61.82	65	81.25
3	High	13	7.88	6	7.50

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