

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY FARMERS IN RECEIVING INFORMATION THROUGH VARIOUS TRANSFERS OF TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM

Chitra Henry¹, Sangram Singh² & S.K. Sharma³

ABSTRACT

Various transfer of technology systems namely Kisan Mandals and Krishi Seva Kendra, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, NGO's are operating in Rajasthan for quick transfer of technology. It is true that no system is fool proof. All the systems are operating with certain limitations or pit falls. This is the reason that with the change of the time, the transfer of technology systems is also changing. In the present investigation an attempt has been made to identify, the major problems encountered by the farmers in obtaining/seeking information through currently operating transfer of technology systems. The major problems faced by the farmers were-Kisan seva Kendras are not operating everyday, farms women are generally not taken care of by various communicating agencies, only one KVK in a district cannot serve the purpose etc. Efforts were also made to procure the suggestions from the extension personnel and farmers to improve upon the existing transfer of technology systems. The important suggestions were that representative participation of farmers should be ensured while planning and implementation of programmes, Kisan Mandals should be operated in a cooperative manner with other line departments. Kisan Seva Kendras should be updated from time to time.

Key words : Transfer of Technology Systems, Kisan Mandals and Kisan seva Kendras

INTRODUCTION :

Research dissemination and its utilization is one of the most complex and significant problems of our age. There is increasing concern with the problem of effective dissemination utilisation of newly generated farm innovations and other results either to improve or replace the prevalent practice. It is argued that the researchers and farmers represent two separate social systems, each defined and identified by its own set of norms, values, languages and communication pattern. Various transfer of technology systems like kisan mandals, krishi seva kendras, krishi vigyan kendras, non-governmental organisations are operating in Rajasthan for quick transfer of technology. In the present investigation an attempt has been made to identify the major problems encountered by the farmers in obtaining information through currently operating transfer of technology systems. Efforts were also made to procure the suggestions from the extension personnel and farmers to improve upon existing transfer of technology systems with following objectives:

1. To identify the problems encountered by farmers in receiving information through various transfer of technology systems.
2. To ascertain suggestions from farmers and extension personnel to improve upon the existing transfer of technology systems.

METHODOLOGY :

The study was conducted in Agro-climatic zone I b of Rajasthan which was selected purposely because of the following reasons.

1. The training and visit system of communication which has been considered very important communication system was first implemented in canal command area of Sriganganagar in 1974.
2. The farmers of zone I b are comparatively progressive than the other zones of Rajasthan, since the production and productivity of the district was the highest among the district of Rajasthan.

3. The remanded ZRS- KVK (Zonal research station) which is an experiment in transfer of technology is also operating in Sriganganagar district since 2000.

Agro-climatic zone I b of Rajasthan comprises of two districts Sriganganagar and Hanumangarh. Both the districts were included in the study. Twelve gram panchayats were selected randomly from ten panchayat samitis and from twenty four villages a total of 240 respondents were selected randomly. Data were collected through interview schedule which was developed by the investigator. In case of extension personnel the questionnaires were mailed by post.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

It is apparent from the table-1 that "Kisan Seva Kendra's are not equipped with internet facilities which is the need of the hour", "Farm women generally is not taken care of by various communicating agencies" and "Only one KVK in a district can not serve the purpose" were the major constraints reported by 100, 99.16 and 77.08 percent of respondents, respectively and as such these were I, II and III in rank order, followed by "Only technical advice is given through communication systems however critical inputs are not available in the market when required "(65.0 percent)". "Many a times political matters are discussed in Kisan Mandal meetings which may create conflicting situation", (61.66), "Presently, the communication systems provide the information for enhancement of production, however these are lacking in other aspects like marketing, value addition etc., (50.41 percent) and so on. However "Kisan Mandal meetings are not held at proper time" and "Kisan Seva Kendras are located at distant places" (4.58 percent each) were ranked at last by the respondents.

Suggestions of the farmers and extension personnels to improve the existing transfer of technology systems: Open ended query was made to furnish their suggestions to improve on existing problems are further strengthening the system. The content of the responses was translated into specific suggestions which further provided base framing the recommendations. 92 percent respondents suggested that representative

Table 1. Problems faced by the respondents in receiving the innovations through the communication system as per their perception.

N = 240

S. No	Problems	Freq.	(%)	Rank
1.	Kisan Mandal meetings are not held at proper time.	11	4.58	11
2.	Kisan Seva Kendras are located at distant place.	11	4.58	11
3.	Many a times political matters are discussed in Kisan Mandal meetings which may create conflicting situation.	148	61.66	5
4.	Sometimes the VEW's do not listen properly to the problems of the farmers at Kisan Seva Kendras.	20	8.33	10
5.	Only technical advice is given through communication systems however critical inputs are not available in the market when required.	156	65.0	4
6.	Presently, the communication systems provide the information for enhancement of production, however these are lacking in other aspects like marketing, value addition etc.	121	50.41	6
7.	Only one KVK in a district can not serve the purpose.	185	77.08	3
8.	Many a times solutions of the problems are not provided timely by the communicating agencies.	104	43.33	8
9.	Farm women generally not taken care of by various communication agencies.	238	99.16	2
10.	Kisan Seva Kendras are not operating everyday.	105	43.75	7
11.	Kisan Seva Kendra's are not equipped with internet facilities which is the need of the hour.	240	100	1
12.	Lack of proper co-ordination among the line departments of the district.	53	22.08	9

participation of farmers should be ensured in Research and Extension systems while planning and implementation of the programmes. 90 percent suggested for a combination of all the teaching methods used for effective transfer of technology and that Kisan Seva Mandal working should be in line with other line departments so as to have a smooth working conditions. Defects in the working system of agriculture communication systems like untimely and inadequate information availability, irrelevant information to their condition needs to be strengthened, this statement was suggested by 88 percent farmers. Similarly, 80 percent farmers suggested that Kisan Seva Kendra should be updated with the recent literature related to all necessary information on agriculture. Further suggestions like need for consistent management of information technology credit and agricultural inputs adequately and timely, effective quality control of inputs and proper coordination among scientists to be maintained was reported by 78, 62 and 60 percent farmers, respectively. Likewise, availability of economically feasible and viable as well as socially acceptable and sustainable technological options for all agricultural based activities in integrated manner, Krishi Seva Kendras be strengthened for effective transfer of technology and agriculture supervisors should visit the centres daily were suggested by 44, 34 and 28 percent respondents, respectively.

With reference to the suggestions from extension personnel 95 percent respondents suggested that government should

provide policy support for marketing, subsidy, electricity etc. Likewise, suggestions like extension system should plan need based rather than target oriented programme for better utilization of resources in effective manner, regular visit of farmers to Agriculture Research Station of that area for technical dissemination of knowledge, printed media be popularized on various aspects related to farmers and its distribution to department of agriculture in simple language. CD/video cassettes be prepared and made available to the farmers was suggested by 82, 81 and 80 percent extension personnel. Fifty two percent extension personnel suggested for the need to reorient the extension system in accordance to the demand of the day whereas, 44 percent were of the view that joint programme planning, execution and follow-up mechanism should be adopted for linkage activities. There were 36 percent extension personnel who suggested that during departmental meetings agriculture scientists should acquaint the extension workers with the recent technical know-how for transfer to the farmers. 22, 18 and 12 percent reported to have suggested that a check on incorrect information on transfer of technology be made as it misleads the farmers, monitoring of village extension workers with respect to their working schedule and duties be done strictly to keep a check on malpractices and NGO's generally misuse the sanctioned amount meant for the farmers, thus timely and proper auditing of the amount sanctioned for the NGO's would check this problem.

Suggestions from extension personnel

- Printed media should be popularized for area specific on various aspects related to farmer be distributed to department of Agriculture, in simple language who would in turn pass on the information to the farmers. Along with the Brochures, CD/Video cassettes be prepared and made available to the farmers.
- Government should provide policy support for marketing, subsidy, electricity etc.
- The extension system should plan need based programmes rather than target oriented programmes for better utilization of resources in effective manner.

Suggestions from farmers

- There are defects in working system of Agriculture communication systems like untimely and inadequate information availability, irrelevant informations to their conditions, which needs to be strengthened.
- Kisan Seva Mandal working should be in line with other line departments so as to have a smooth working condition.
- Proper coordination between Research Scientists, Extension Scientists and Agriculture Supervisor be maintained.
- There should be a consistent management of information technology, credit and agricultural inputs adequately and timely.

CONCLUSION :

The important suggestions given by the farmers should be taken into account to improve upon the existing communication system which are as following.

- i. Working system of agriculture communication sys-

- tems like untimely and inadequate information availability, irrelevant information to their condition needs to be checked and strengthened.
- ii. Kisan Seva Mandal working should be in line with other line departments so as to have a smooth working conditions.
 - iii. Kisan Seva Kendras should be updated with the recent literature related to all necessary information on agriculture.
 - iv. Government should provide policy support for marketing subsidy, electricity etc.
 - v. The extension system should plan need based programme rather than target oriented programmes for better utilization of resources in effective manner.
 - vi. Respondents were found more cautious about the KVK's working in the districts. Hence, it is suggested that atleast three KVK's per district should be established to cater the needs of the district properly.
 - vii. Agriculture graduates may be encouraged to open Agriculture Information centers in the villages, such centers should be well equipped with the literature, audio/video CD's on agriculture, Internet facilities etc and the services provided to the farmers should be on payment basis.
 - viii. The scare resource i.e. water should be utilized judiciously in the farming. It is therefore recommended that water saving devices should be made popular among the farmers, specially in canal areas.

REFERENCES

1. Dayal, P (1993). Broad basing of extension system (BBE) Paper presented at the National Seminar on R&D Linkages and Feedback in Agricultural Development, 23rd Nov., I.C.A.R, New Delhi.
2. Mohammad Idrees (1994). Agricultural Extension, Problems and Future Strategies, Journal of Rural Development and Administration, 26(4) : 135-141.
3. Patel, B.B and Kher, A.O (1995). Inter-System Communication Patterns of VLWs Gujrat Journal of Extension Education, (6 & 7) : 56-60
4. Ogunwale, A.B and Bahalota, A (1998). Problems Militating Against The Dissemination and Acceptance of Research Findings and Improved Farm Technologies : Implications for Agricultural Development Programme in Nigeria. Journal of Rural Development and Administration. 30(3) : 54-62.

