

INFLUENCE OF KRISHI VIGHAN KENDRA ON OKRA GROWERS

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ABSTRACT

The study revealed that due to KVK, Vyara intervention, the knowledge and adoption level of okra growers raised significantly and had great influence on adoption of all improved cultivation practices in general and high yielding varieties and nutrient management in particular.

INTRODUCTION

Tapi is one of the tribal dominated districts of the South Gujarat where 38 per cent area of cultivable land is under irrigation. The farmers of this area are very much conscious about the judicious use of irrigation water and comical fertilizers in their crops. Since beginning, the KVK, Vyara is frequently organising the training programmes to motivate the farmers for higher crop production. In recent time the okra crop is being cultivated by the large number of farmers due to assured market. The okra dominant pockets are more or less connected with Dolvan vegetable market yard. The farmers are much habituated about to use of hybrid seeds of okra from private seed agencies. Though the higher production, the okra growers are not getting reasonable price. It was observed that after harvesting the okra growers were not taking enough care while transport and in selling. Value addition concept in okra is missing therefore; the quality of harvested okra becomes deprived. From their total budget, they spent more behind fertilisers and plant protection measures which resulted in higher cost of production. At

alternate day's not less than one container being exported from market yard. This export has been around 33 carors per season. The okra cultivation in this area has created an identity at National as well as international level. Considering all these facts an influence of KVK, Vyara was under taken for present study.

METHODOLOGY

Ex-post-facto research design was used in the present study. Several on and off campus training, field days, meetings and other techniques were used during last three years by the KVK, Vyara to enhance the level of knowledge and adoption of okra growers. Ten villages nearby Dolvan vegetable market yard were randomly selected and from each village ten farmers were also randomly selected. This makes 100 sample size for the present study. A structure interview schedule was developed to obtain the responses. The data from respondents were collected personally and by using simple statistics the data were analysed.

FINDINGS

Basically, the data were collected and tabulated in following tables.

Table 1: Distribution of okra growers according to overall knowledge regarding scientific package of practices n=100

Categories	Before contact with KVK (%)	After contact with KVK (%)
Low level of knowledge	55	16
Medium level of knowledge	35	56
High level of knowledge	10	28

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Table 1 indicates that before contact with KVK, Vyara, majority of the okra growers belonged to medium (35.00 per cent) to low (55.00 per cent) level of knowledge while after rigorous approach

the majority of them were found in the categories of medium (56.00 per cent) to high (28.00 per cent) level respectively.

Table 2 : Distribution of okra growers according to their level of Knowledge regarding selected scientific innovations n=100

Sr. No.	Selected scientific innovations	Low (%)	Medium (%)	High (%)
1	New high yielding varieties	16	28	56
2	Seed rate	11	16	73
3	Integrated nutrient management	26	35	39
4	Integrated pest management	25	61	14
5	Knowledge regarding yellow mosaic virus and powdery mildew	26	43	31
6	Plant growth regulator	7	11	82
7	Value addition	6	16	78

The data presented in Table 2 indicates that the majority of the okra growers had high level of knowledge about plant growth regulator (82.00 per cent) followed by value addition (78.00 per cent), seed rate (73.00 per cent), new high yielding varieties (56.00 per cent) and integrated nutrient

management (39.00 per cent) whereas, 61.00 and 43.00 per cent of them had medium level of knowledge about integrated pest management and knowledge regarding yellow mosaic virus and powdery mildew respectively.

Table 3 : Overall adoption of scientific package of practices of okra n=100

Sr. No.	Categories	Before contact with KVK (%)	After contact with KVK (%)
1	Low level of adoption	14	4
2	Medium level of adoption	69	28
3	High level of adoption	17	68

The data presented in Table 3 indicates that before contact with KVK, Vyara, the majority of okra growers belong to medium (69.00 per cent) level

of adoption category while after contact with KVK, Vyara majority of them found in medium (68.00 per cent) category respectively.

Table 4 : Distribution of okra growers according to adoption of okra production technology n= 100

Sr. No.	Selected scientific innovations	Adoption (%)
1	New high yielding varieties	83
2	Seed rate	76
3	Integrated nutrient management	82
4	Integrated pest management	61
5	Knowledge regarding yellow mosaic virus and powdery mildew	72
6	Plant growth regulator	73
7	Value addition	77

The data presented in Table 4 indicates that the majority of the okra growers had adopted new high yielding varieties high (83.00 per cent) followed by

integrated nutrient management (82.00 per cent), value addition (77.00 per cent), seed rate (76.00 per cent), plant growth regulator (73.00 per cent),

knowledge regarding yellow mosaic virus and powdery mildew (72.00 per cent) and integrated pest management (61.00 per cent) respectively.

CONCLUSION

From above discussion it can be conclude that after intervention of KVK Vyara the influence on level of knowledge and adoption of okra growers were improved.

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Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is that we think of it, the tree is the real thing.

- Lincoln.