

WILLINGNESS OF AGRICULTURAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARS TO ACCEPT RURAL OCCUPATIONS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted on a random sample of the 120 agricultural postgraduate scholars of the different subjects of agriculture faculty studying in the B.A.College of Agriculture of Anand Agricultural University, Anand of Gujarat State of India. The study concludes that slightly more than half (55.80%) of the postgraduate agricultural scholars had shown willingness for doing own farming by staying in rural area happily with full conviction, while slightly more than half (55.00%) of them expressed favourable to highly favourable willingness to accept rural occupations. However slightly less than half (45.0%) of segment of the agricultural postgraduates were either unwilling or at middle-of-the-road to accept and manage rural occupations by physically staying in rural area for longer period. It is high time to implement strategy to attract maximum agricultural scholars for staying, working and contributing willingly in rural areas for the sustainable development of farming and rural India.

Keywords: willingness, postgraduate scholars, rural occupation

INTRODUCTION

The development of rural India is possible principally through the development of farming. There is a need to develop young generations not only to produce necessary food grains to feed the huge population of India but also to encourage them to stay and work to develop rural area (Khatri and Chauhan, 2018). The system of higher agricultural education is a very important tool for the development of necessary human resources for the sustainable growth of farming and rural area in India. It is important to develop human resource through higher agricultural education with positive feelings and zeal to work staying in rural area either as trainers or workforce to handle rural area connected occupations. However it is observed that very few modern society influenced students of India studying in higher agricultural education have necessary zeal, interest and willingness to work in rural area. Without adequate numbers of well trained professionals with zeal to stay and work in rural area, key national agricultural outcomes are still far to be realized. Considering this fact, a study on willingness of agricultural postgraduate scholars to accept rural occupations was conducted with following objectives.

OBJECTIVES

(1) To study various approaches of willingness of agricultural postgraduate scholars to accept various rural occupations

(2) to examine overall willingness of agricultural postgraduate scholars to accept rural occupations

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted on a random sample of the 120 agricultural postgraduate scholars earning their masters or doctorate degrees in the different subjects in the B.A.College of Agriculture of Anand Agricultural University, Anand of Gujarat State of India. The information was collected through the interview schedules by personal contacts. The data so collected were coded classified, tabulated and analyzed in order to make the findings meaningful. The willingness to accept different 17 rural occupations was measured in five ways of connecting with rural area viz. (1) willingness to accept occupation by staying in rural area happily with full conviction, (2) by staying in semi-urban area (3) by staying in urban area (4) only in helpless circumstances and (5) not at all ready to accept occupation in rural area and scores of 4,3,2,1 and 0 respectively were assigned. The total score was worked out adding scores received for all 17 rural occupations by the respondents. The respondents were classified into five categories viz. highly favourable (above 80% score), favourable (61-80% score), neutral (41-60% score), unfavourable (21-40% score) and highly unfavourable (up to 20% score) willingness to accept rural occupations.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION**Willingness of agricultural postgraduates to accept various rural occupations**

The willingness to accept rural occupations was

conceptualized as degree keenness of the respondents to accept and handle various 17 types of occupations after completion of their education by different ways or mode of connecting themselves with rural area.

Table 1 : Postgraduate agricultural scholars according to their willingness to accept and handle rural occupations

(n=120)

Rural Occupations	willingness to accept by staying in rural area happily with full conviction No/%	willingness to accept in rural area by staying in semi-urban area No/%	willingness to accept in rural area by staying in urban area No/%	willingness to accept in rural area only in helpless position No/%	Not at all willing to accept in rural area No/%
Farming	67/55.80	35/29.20	14/11.70	01/0.80	03/2.50
Farming taking land on lease	35/29.20	48/40.00	24/20.00	01/0.80	12/10.0
Bio-fertilizer production	50/41.66	25/20.83	28/23.33	01/0.80	16/13.33
Nursery production	44/36.66	34/28.33	27/22.50	4/3.330	11/9.16
Seed production	42/35.00	34/28.33	32/26.66	03/2.50	09/7.50
Dairy Farming	49/40.83	40/33.33	17/14.17	06/5.00	08/6.67
Milk Dairy Business	41/34.16	38/31.67	23/19.17	05/4.17	13/10.83
Vermi composting	50/41.67	29/24.17	22/18.33	11/9.17	08/6.67
Tissue culture	30/25.00	27/22.50	31/25.83	08/6.67	24/20.00
Hi-tech agriculture	38/31.67	24/20.00	24/20.00	06/5.00	28/23.33
Chemical production	28/23.33	32/26.67	20/16.67	07/5.83	33/27.50
Agro- Service center	40/33.33	24/20.00	22/18.30	10/8.30	24/20.00
Input dealership	39/32.50	25/20.83	17/14.17	22/18.33	17/14.17
Agro tools production	34/28.33	34/28.33	16/13.33	12/10.00	24/20.00
Agro tourism	36/30.00	32/26.67	23/19.17	15/12.50	14/11.66
Apiculture	49/40.83	24/20.00	25/20.83	09/7.50	13/10.83
Agri equipment dealer	29/24.17	39/32.50	22/18.33	08/6.67	22/18.30

India is a country with around 30 crore of the youth in the age group of 20 to 40 years. Unleashing the entrepreneurship and innovative potentials of these youths is essential to boost the Indian economy Raut *et al.* (2018). Considering this, willingness to accept rural occupations of the agricultural postgraduates was studied. The result shown in Table 1 indicates that as far as willingness of accepting various rural occupations by staying in rural area happily with full conviction was concerned, majority (55.80%) of the postgraduate agricultural scholars had shown willingness for doing own farming by staying in rural area happily with full conviction, followed by bio-fertilizer production (41.67%), vermi composting (41.67%), dairy farming (40.83%), nursery production (36.66%), seed production (35.00%), milk dairy business (34.16%), agro- service center (33.33%), hi-tech agriculture (31.67%), farming taking land on lease (29.2%),

tissue culture (25.00%), chemical production (23.33%), input dealership (22.50%), agro equipment production (28.33%), agro tourism (36/30.00%), apiculture (49/40.83%) and 24.17 % of them had shown willingness for accepting agricultural equipment dealership by staying in rural area happily with full conviction.

The outcome of study also indicates that two fifth (40.00%) of the agricultural postgraduates had willingness of accepting farming taking land on lease in rural area by staying in semi-urban area, followed by dairy farming (33.33%), milk dairy business (31.67%), farming (29.20%), nursery production (28.33%), seed production (28.33%), agro equipment production (28.33%), chemical production (26.67%), agro tourism (26.67%), vermi composting (24.17%), tissue culture (22.50%), bio-fertilizer production (20.83%), input dealership (20.83%), hi-tech agriculture

(20.00%), agro- service center (20.00%) and apiculture (20.00%) of them willingness to accept and manage them in rural area by staying in semi-urban area.

It can be seen from the Table 1 that slightly more than one fourth (26.66%) of the postgraduate agricultural scholars had willingness of accepting occupation of seed production in rural area by staying in urban area, followed by 25.83%, 23.33%, 22.50%, 20.83%, 20.00%, 20.00%, 19.17%, 19.17%, 18.33%, 18.33%, 18.30%, 16.67%, 14.17%, 14.17%, 13.33% and 11.7% of them were ready to accept occupations of tissue culture, bio-fertilizer production, nursery production, apiculture, farming taking land on lease, hi-tech agriculture, milk dairy business, agro tourism, vermi composting, agricultural equipment dealer, agro- service center, chemical production, dairy farming, input dealership, agro equipment production and farming occupation in rural area by staying in urban area.

The result of the Table 1 moreover indicates that 18.33% of the postgraduates agricultural scholars had willingness to adopt or manage occupation of input dealership in rural area only in helpless circumstances, followed by 12.50%, 10.00%, 9.17%, 8.30%, 7.50%, 6.67%, 6.67%, 5.83%, 5.00%, 5.00%, 4.17%, 3.33%, 2.50%, 0.80%, 0.80% and 0.80% of them were ready to accept and manage agro tourism, agro equipment production, vermi composting, agro- service center, apiculture, tissue culture, agricultural equipment dealership, chemical production, dairy farming, hi-tech agriculture, milk dairy business, nursery production, seed production, farming, farming taking land on lease and bio-fertilizer production, respectively in rural area only in helpless circumstances.

It can be moreover seen from the data of Table 1 that slightly more than one forth (27.50 %) of the agricultural postgraduate scholars were not at all ready to adopt business of chemical production in any circumstances in rural area, followed by 23.33 %, 20.00 %, 20.00 %, 0.00 %, 18.30 %, 14.17 %, 13.33 %, 11.66 %, 10.83 %, 10.83 %, 10.0 %, 9.16 %, 7.50 %, 6.67 %, 6.67 % and 2.50 % of them were not ready to adopt and manage hi-tech agriculture, tissue culture, agro- service center, agro equipment production, agricultural equipment dealer, input dealership, bio-fertilizer production, agro tourism, milk dairy business, apiculture, farming taking land on lease, nursery production, seed production, dairy farming, vermi composting and farming, respectively in rural area in any of the circumstances.

Overall willingness to accept rural occupations

After studying occupation wise willingness of the agricultural postgraduates to accept and manage rural occupations in a different mode of acceptance, overall

willingness to accept rural occupations was also worked out and the results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2 : Postgraduate agricultural scholars according to their overall willingness to accept rural occupations (n=120)

Sr. No.	Degree of willingness to accept rural occupations	No.	Per cent
1	Highly unfavourable	16	13.33
2	Unfavourable	07	05.84
3	Neutral	31	25.83
4	Favourable	36	30.00
5	Highly favourable	30	25.00

The result shown in table 2 indicates that slightly below a one third (30.00%) of the postgraduate agricultural scholars possessed favourable degree of overall willingness to accept rural occupations, followed by 25.83% of them were with highly favourable degree of overall willingness to accept rural occupations. The results also indicates that 25.00% of them were with average level of willingness, followed by 13.30 and 5.84% of them were with highly unfavourable and unfavourable willingness to accept different occupations in rural area. Thus majority (55.00%) of the postgraduate agricultural scholars were with favourable to highly favourable willingness to accept rural occupations.

The high degree of technical knowledge of rural area related occupations due to their bachelor and master degrees in agriculture and rural native background might have motivated slightly more than half (55.00 %) of the postgraduate to express favourable to highly favourable willingness to accept rural occupations. However the result also indicates that slightly less than half (45.0 %) of segment of the agricultural postgraduates were either unwilling or at middle-of-the-road to accept rural occupations by physically staying in rural area for longer period.

CONCLUSION

From the above study, it can be concluded that majority (55.80%) of the postgraduate agricultural scholars had shown willingness for doing own farming by staying in rural area happily with full conviction, while slightly more than half (55.00%) of the postgraduate expressed favourable to highly favourable willingness to accept rural occupations. However slightly less than half (45.0%) of segment of the agricultural postgraduates were either unwilling or at middle-of-the-road to accept and manage rural occupations by physically staying in rural area for longer period.

IMPLICATION

It is important to develop human resource through higher agricultural education with positive feelings and zeal to work staying in rural area either as trainers or workforce to handle rural area connected occupations. It is high time to implement strategy to attract maximum agricultural scholars for staying, working and contributing willingly in rural areas for the sustainable development of farming and rural India.

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Received : June 2019 : Accepted : November 2019