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ADOPTION OF GOOD AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

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ABSTRACT

The concept of Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) has developed in current years in the context of a unexpectedly changing and globalizing meals financial system and because of the issues and commitments of a extensive range of stakeholders about food production and security, food safety and fine and the environmental sustainability of agriculture. GAPs applies hints and to be had knowledge to addressing environmental, monetary and social sustainability for on-farm manufacturing and put up-manufacturing procedures ensuing in secure and wholesome meals and non-meals agricultural merchandise. GAPs as defined by FAO, are a "collection of principles to apply for on-farm production and postproduction processes, resulting in safe and healthy food and non-food agricultural products, while taking into account economic, social and environmental sustainability." North Gujarat comes under the jurisdiction of Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University so study was conducted in North Gujarat. Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts were selected randomly from six districts of the North Gujarat. Each district 120 farmers survey conducted thus, total 240 farmers participated. This study was confined to "Ex-post-facto" research design. That more than one half of the farmers had medium awareness regarding good agriculture practices.

Keywords: *good agriculture practices, environmental sustainability, on-farm production*

INTRODUCTION

The idea of Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) has advanced in latest years inside the context of a hastily converting and globalizing meals economy and due to the issues and commitments of a huge range of stakeholders approximately food manufacturing and security, meals safety and best and the environmental sustainability of agriculture. GAPs applies hints and available knowledge to addressing environmental, monetary and social sustainability for on-farm production and publish-production processes resulting in secure and wholesome food and non-meals agricultural products. A broadly accepted approach using GAPs principles, generic indicators and practices was help guide debate on national policies and actions and on the preparation of strategies to ensure that all stakeholders participate in and benefit from the application of GAPs in the food chain.

The four pillars of exact Agriculture Practices are the center principles used for the effective advertising and adoption of GAPs. With the aid of following those pillars, farmers can build their reputations as carriers of affordable of quality goods items and keep up with competitive export markets. As described through FAO the four GAPs pillars are economic viability, environmental stability, social acceptability and food protection and pleasant. Correct Agricultural Practices are a collection of standards to use for on-farm manufacturing and put up-production techniques, resulting in secure and healthy food and non-meals agricultural merchandise, even as deliberating reasonable, social and environmental sustainability.

GAPs intention to bring balance into the food production equation. It allows all stakeholders of the meals manufacturing chain to understand the significance of food protection, the need of a sustainable food production gadget, and the fact that we need to now not produce waste. GAPs do not prescribe strategies to growth crop productivity. It does but, helps farmers to successfully produce profitable and sustainable vegetation, growing advantages that directly affect them.

Sustainable agriculture is a farming system that provides safe, nutritious, and affordable food to meet the needs of the world population in a way that conserves the environment and natural resources. It seeks to optimize skills and technologies to achieve long-term productivity and profitability for stakeholders of the agriculture enterprise in order to ensure that future generations can also experience the same prosperity that we enjoy today. GAPs are a fitting model to help farmers address this change in the modern food production and distribution system. It is based on assurances, hazard analysis and risk assessment. GAPs approach the issues of safe and sustainable food production from the

following three levels:

1. Starting with a risk assessment approach.

2. Preventive measures.

3. Continuous monitoring of the production process.

OBJECTIVES

(1) To measure the adoption of good agriculture practices

(2) To find out the relationship between selected characteristics and overall adoption of good agriculture practices

METHODOLOGY

The present study was confined to "Ex-post-facto" research design. The literal meaning of ex-post facto is "from what is done afterwards". It means some time done or occurring after an event with a retrospective effect on the event. For this study, the multistage random sampling approach was used for the choice of districts, talukas, villages and farmers. Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts were selected randomly from six districts of the North Gujarat. Four taluka had been randomly decided on from each district. Total eight taluka have been selected randomly. Three villages from every taluka had been selected randomly. From each village ten farmers who engaged in agriculture and allied sports were selected randomly. for this reason, overall 240 pattern size. The facts were gathered via non-public contact approach with the assist of based interview time table and gathered facts were coded, categorized, tabulated and analyzed in light of goal and in an effort to make the findings significant for drawing significant interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adoption manner as the mental manner through which a man or woman skip from first listening to about an innovation to very last adoption. To degree adoption of the farmers were classified into three classes. The statistics on this recognize are presented in Table 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1: Distribution of the farmers according to their overall adoption of GAPs in Banaskantha district (n=120)

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low (Up to 57.61 score)	20	16.68
2	Medium (57.62 to 63.09 score)	83	69.16
3	High (Above 63.09 score)	17	14.86

Mean = 60.35 S.D. = 2.74

Above data presented in Table 1 found that more than two third (69.16 %) of the farmers were medium adoption of good agriculture practices. However, 16.68 per cent of the farmers were low adoption and 14.16 per cent of the farmers were high adoption of good agriculture practices.

Table 2: Distribution of the farmers according to their overall adoption of GAPs in Sabarkantha district (n=120)

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low (Up to 78.06 score)	26	21.67
2	Medium (78.07 to 85.36 score)	74	61.67
3	High (Above 85.36 score)	20	16.66

Mean = 81.71 S.D. = 3.65

The information presented in table 2 found that three fifth (61.67 %) of the farmers were medium adoption of good agriculture practices. However, 21.67 per cent of the farmers were low adoption and 16.66 per cent of the farmers were high adoption of good agriculture practices.

Table 3: Distribution of the farmers according to their overall adoption of GAPs (n=240)

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	Low (Up to 59.86 score)	54	22.50
2	Medium (59.87 to 82.20 score)	138	57.50
3	High (Above 82.20 score)	48	20.00

Mean = 71.03 S.D. = 11.17

A glance at Table 3 found out more than one half (57.50 %) of the farmers were medium adoption of good agriculture practices. However, 22.50 per cent of the farmers were low adoption and 20.00 per cent of the farmers were high adoption of good agriculture practices.

The possible reasons for adoption practices have been due cognizance of farmers and the numerous issues faced via them in adoption of properly agriculture practices.

The finding is in agreement with the findings of Gorfad (2012), Desai (2013), Sharvan K. (2014), Motiwale (2017), Bodhwad (2021) and Abhishek *et al.* (2023).

Relationship between personal, socio-economic, situational, communicational and psychological characteristics of the farmers and their overall adoption of good agriculture practices

The action of character farmer is ruled through non-public, socio-financial, situational, communicational and mental factors concerned in situation. A farmer suggests unique degree of belief toward various components of the good agriculture practices due to the fact of their non-public characteristics. for this reason, it may be said that the degree of the difference of adoption of farmers towards properly agriculture practices differs with their non-public, socio-monetary, situational, communicational and mental characteristics. Subsequently, thinking about the importance of these traits and review of beyond studies, an attempt to confirm the relationship if any, has been among made on this research private, socio-financial, situational, communicational and mental traits of the farmers and their general adoption. A statistical method of Karl Pearson's coefficient correlation (r) become used to calculate dating among the characteristics of farmers and their adoption. The end result obtained is distributed in desk four.

Table 4: Relationship between personal, socio-economic, situational, communicational and psychological characteristics of the farmers and their overall adoption of good agriculture practices

(n = 240)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Correlation coefficient ('r' value)
X_1	**Age**	-0.216**
X_2	**Education**	0.543**
X_3	**Size of land holding**	0.483**
X_4	**Annual income**	0.169**
X_5	**Social participation**	0.099
X_6	**Cropping intensity**	0.136*
X_7	**Irrigation method**	0.479**
X_8	**Farm power**	0.273**
X_9	**Mass media**	0.166**
X_{10}	**Extension contact**	0.798**
X_{11}	**Economic motivation**	0.807**
X_{12}	**Innovativeness**	0.271**

* Significant at 0.05 level of probability ** Significant at 0.01 level of probability

The above Table 4 indicated that out of the twelve independent variables *viz*. education (0.543**), size of land holding (0.483**), annual income (0.169**), irrigation method (0.479**), farm power (0.273**), mass media (0.166**), extension contact (0.798**), economic motivation (0.807**) and innovativeness (0.271**) had positive and significant correlation with overall adoption at 0.01 level of significance. On the other hand, social participation (0.099) had positive and non-significant relationship with the overall adoption of good agriculture practices. Whereas, age(-0.216**) had negative and significant relationship with overall adoption at 0.01 level of significance and cropping intensity (0.136*) had positive and significant relationship with overall adoption of good agriculture practices at 0.05 level of significance.

This finding was in conformity with the finding of Gorfad (2012), Motiwale (2017), Rohila (2018), Sou (2021), Desai *et al.* (2022), Hirapara *et al.* (2023), Samadder *et al.* (2024), Dadheech *et al.* (2024), Chandran *et al.* (2024) and Pandey *et al.* (2023).

CONCLUSION

The research observed that more than one half (52.92 %) of the farmers had medium awareness regarding good agriculture practices. Followed by, 24.58 per cent of the farmers were low awareness and 22.50 per cent of the farmers had high awareness regarding good agriculture practices.

The independent variables viz., education, size of land holding, annual income, irrigation method, farm power, mass media, extension contact, economic motivation and innovativeness had positive and significant correlation with overall adoption at 0.01 level of significance. On the other hand, social participation had positive and non-significant relationship with the overall adoption of good agriculture practices. Whereas, age had negative and significant relationship with overall adoption at 0.01 level of significance and cropping intensity had positive and significant relationship with overall adoption of good agriculture practices at 0.05 level of significance.

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