

Determinants of Knowledge about Castor Production Technology Among Frontline Demonstrations Beneficiaries

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out on 120 randomly selected Frontline demonstrations (FLD) beneficiaries of Petlad, Khambhat and Sojitra talukas of Anand district which is operational area of KVK, Devataj. The result revealed that great majority of FLD beneficiaries (83.33 per cent) had medium to high level of knowledge about castor production technology. Independent variables viz., education, social participation, land holding, annual income, source of information utilized, extension participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation, scientific orientation, risk orientation and innovativeness of FLD beneficiary castor growers had exerted positive and significant with their knowledge regarding castor production technology.

Keywords : Determinants of knowledge, Castor production, FLD

INTRODUCTION

The primary objectives of the frontline demonstrations (FLDs) are important method for transfer of new package of practices to the farmers with effective interaction with scientist. Farmers can learn new technologies of agricultural production under real farming situation at own field and the demonstrations motivate them to adopt a new technology by showing its result and hence bridge the research-adoption gap. The scientist through frontline demonstrations on farmers field have demonstrated that by adopting new high yielding varieties and following agronomic practices coupled with need based plant protection measures, the yield level of agricultural crops can be improved. As demonstration involved principle “learning by doing” it is expected to increase knowledge and their by developing positivism towards innovation and in turn resulted in to adoption and hence it is essential to assess knowledge level of FLD beneficiaries and factors which affect them. Keeping in view present study entitled “Determinants of knowledge about castor production technology among Frontline demonstrations beneficiaries” was undertaken with following objectives :

OBJECTIVES

- (i) To know the knowledge level of FLD beneficiaries about castor production technology
- (ii) To ascertain relationship between profile of FLD beneficiaries and their knowledge about Castor production technology

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in operational area of Krishi vigyan Kendra, Devataj, The Frontline demonstrations conducted on castor crop in Petlad, Khambhat and Sojitra talukas of Anand district. Thus all these three talukas were selected purposively. Four villages from each taluka were selected and from each village 10 respondents were randomly selected. Thus, total 120 respondents were selected for the study. The well structured pre tested interview scheduled was prepared on line of the objective and the data were collected through personal interview. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of knowledge regarding castor production technology

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge about castor production technology
n=120

Sr. No.	Level of Knowledge	Castor growers	
		No.	Per cent
1	Low (Below 17.41 score)	20	16.67
2	Medium (Between 17.41 to 22.34 score)	70	58.33
3	High (Above 22.34 score)	30	25.00

The perusal of data revealed that majority of the frontline demonstration beneficiaries (58.33%) had medium level of knowledge about recommended castor production technologies followed by high and low with 25.00 per cent and 16.67 per cent respectively. Thus FLD had great influence in determination of knowledge about castor production technology.

Relationship between profile of FLD beneficiaries and their knowledge about castor production technology

To study the relationship between characteristics of frontline demonstration beneficiaries and their level of knowledge about castor production technology is of great importance. These factors plays important role in deciding the level of knowledge due to intervention of FLD. In order to determine the relationship between the personal, social, economical, communicational and psychological characteristics of frontline demonstration beneficiaries the with their knowledge, correlation coefficient was computed and presented in Table 2.

The Table 2 revealed that out of fifteen personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological traits of frontline demonstration beneficiaries farmers, thirteen variables viz education, social participation, land holding, annual income, source of information utilized, extension participation, mass media exposure, economic motivation, scientific orientation, risk orientation and innovativeness of FLD beneficiary castor growers had exerted positive and significant with their knowledge regarding castor production technology and the rest variables viz, age, occupation and land under castor cultivation and animal possession of FLD beneficiary castor growers failed to show any significant correlation with their knowledge.

Table 2 : Relationship between profile of frontline demonstration beneficiaries and their knowledge about castor production technology
n=120

Sr. No.	Variable	Correlation-coefficient (r-Value)
X1	Age	0.129 NS
X2	Education	0.284 *
X3	Social participation	0.285 *
X4	Occupation	0.120 NS
X5	Land holding	0.290 *
X6	Land under castor cultivation	0.196 NS
X7	Milch animal possession	0.089 NS
X8	Annual income	0.267 *
X9	Source of information	0.265 *
X10	Extension participation	0.276 *
X11	Mass media exposure	0.274 *
X12	Economic motivation	0.288 *
X13	Scientific orientation	0.344 **
X14	Risk orientation	0.297 *
X15	Innovativeness	0.320 *

* Significant at 0.05 level **= Significant at 0.01 level
NS= Non-Significant

CONCLUSION

Thus the result implies that all thirteen variables had significant influence in determination of knowledge about castor cultivation technologies and these factors must be reckon while planning of Front Line Demonstration for its effective implementation.

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