

USEFULNESS OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA AS PERCEIVED BY THE SUGARCANE GROWERS

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Kaparada block of Valsad district with a view to know usefulness of KVK as perceived by Sugarcane growers. Majority of Sugarcane growers had perceived KVK as reliable source of information regarding improved variety, plant protection measures and fertilizer management. Majority of the respondents were found aware about the various activities carried out by the kvk.

INTRODUCTION

Krishi Vigyan Kendra is an innovative science based institution designed for bridging the gap between the available technologies at the one end and their applications in the field condition for increasing production at the other. Thus, the institution playing significant role in increasing knowledge of the farmers regarding the improved technologies through multifarious extension activities at grass root level. It is there fore ,become an imperative to study the usefulness of the KVK as perceived by the clientele. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ambheti operates in Valsad district—the tribal dominated south eastern part of the Gujarat state since 1992. Sugarcane is one of the important cash crop of the district and hence, response of the Sugarcane growers were collected to know the usefulness of KVK as perceived by them. The study was conducted in Kaparada block of Valsad district of Gujarat state with the following objectives.

1. To determine the usefulness of the KVK on the basis of the opinion expressed by the Sugarcane growers.
2. To know the Sugarcane growers awareness about extension activities being carried out by the Kendra.

3. To determine the type of advantages availed by the Sugarcane growers from the Kendra

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Kaparada block of Valsad district. Four villages namely ,Motaponcha ,Ambheti, Dhodhadkuva, and Sukhala were purposively selected because maximum number of participants in the activities of KVK came from these villages as well as all four villages having maximum area under Sugarcane cultivation .From each selected villages 30 Sugarcane growers were selected by simple random sampling technique. Thus, the sample consisted of 120 Sugarcane growers. The data were collected by personal interview technique with the help of structured interview schedule.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The respondents were asked to narrate usefulness of the KVK, Ambheti. The responses were tabulated in Table-1. An examination of data in Table-1 revealed that majority of the respondents (95.00 per cent) had perceived KVK as an information centre.

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Table : 1 Distribution of respondents according to their perception regarding usefulness of the KVK as an information centre.

N=120

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	No. of Sugarcane growers who perceived KVK as an information centre.	114	95.00
	Sugarcane planting material		
	Information regarding improved variety	112	93.33
	Information regarding source of procuring planting material of improved variety.	98	81.66
	Information regarding seed rate/ha.	89	74.16
	Information regarding seed treatment	82	68.33
	Chemical fertilizer		
	Information regarding proper time of applying fertilizer.	94	78.33
	Information regarding doses of fertilizers.	85	70.83
	Information regarding methods of applying fertilizer.	79	65.83
	Plant protection measures		
	Information regarding pesticides/ insecticides to be used against pest of Sugarcane crop.	97	80.33
	Information regarding proportion of insecticides/pesticides to be used.	91	75.83
	Information regarding when and how to apply insecticides/pesticides	84	70.00

Planting material

Majority of the Sugarcane growers (93.33 per cent) had considered KVK as a source of information regarding improved varieties of Sugarcane while 81.66 per cent and 74.16 per cent Sugarcane growers had expressed their views as a source of information regarding source of planting materials of improved varieties and seed rate/ha. respectively.

Chemical fertilizer

Majority of the Sugarcane growers (78.33 per cent) expressed their views that information regarding proper time for applying fertilizer was obtained from KVK. However, 70.83 per cent and 65.83 per cent considered it as a source of information for the doses of fertilizer and methods of applying fertilizers, respectively.

Table : 2 Distribution of respondents according to their perception regarding usefulness of the KVK as a source of inspiration for adoption of improved farm practices.

N=120

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	No. of Sugarcane growers considering KVK as a source of inspiration for adoption of improved production technology.	114	95.00
	Inspiration regarding		
	Adoption of HYVs.	105	87.50
	Adoption of seed treatments with fungicides	81	67.50
	Adoption of plant protection measures	85	70.83
	Adoption of recommended dose of fertilizer	98	81.66
	Adoption of weed management and earthing up at proper time.	103	85.83

Table : 3 Distribution of the respondents according to their awareness about activities being carried out by KVK .

N=120

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Short term training programme on different aspects of agricultural development	104	86.66
2.	Organizing various extension activities such as farmers day, field day, exposure tour etc	79	65.83
3.	Diagnostic visit to farmers field.	81	67.50
4.	Laying out of Front Line Demonstration Oilseed / Pulse crops.	77	64.16
5.	Long term vocational training for rural youth	56	46.66

Plant protection measures

About eighty one per cent Sugarcane growers considered KVK as a source of information regarding insecticides and pesticides to be used against insects/pests and disease of the crop. The data further revealed that 75.83 per cent respondents considered KVK as a source of information regarding the proportion of pesticides/insecticides be used . Whereas ,70.00 per cent expressed it as a source of information as to when and how to apply insecticides and pesticides.

It can be observed from the data presented in Table-2 that 79.16 per cent Sugarcane growers perceived the usefulness of KVK as a source of inspiration for adoption of improved farm practices.

More than eighty seven per cent respondents were inspired for sowing improved variety, while 67. 50 per cent were inspired for the adoption of seed treatment . Out of 120 farmers , 70.83 per cent and 81.66 per cent were inspired for adoption

of plant protection measures and use of fertilizer, respectively. The data further indicated that 85.83 per cent respondents were inspired for weed management and earthing up at proper time in Sugarcane.

Awareness of activities

The respondents were asked to give their opinion regarding awareness about different activities carried out by the KVK. These responses were tabulated in Table-3.

The data presented in Table-3 revealed that majority of the respondents (86.66 per cent) indicated that they were aware about the short term trainings organized by the KVK. It was found that 65.83 per cent respondents were aware about various extension activities organized by the Kendra such as farmers day, field day, exposure tour etc. The data further indicates that 67.50 and 64.16 per cent respondents indicates awareness about scientist visit to farmers field (diagnostic visit)and the front line demonstration laid down on farmers field, respectively. Only 46.66 per cent

Table : 4 Distribution of the respondents according to advantages of KVK availed by them.

N=120

Sr. No.	Usefulness	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Information regarding scientific cultivation method of Sugarcane.	105	87.50
2	Planting material of Sugarcane.	79	65.83
3	Information about availability of planting material from other sources.	75	62.50
4	Guidance regarding use of pesticides its proportion, time and methods.	96	80.00
5	Guidance regarding use of fertilizers its doses, time and methods of application	91	75.83

respondents indicate their awareness about long term vocational training for rural youth conducted by the Kendra.

Benefits availed

Respondents were also asked to narrate the type of advantages of the KVK, taken by them . Their responses were tabulated in Table-4.

The data presented in Table-4 indicated that majority of the respondents (87.50 per cent) had taken advantages by learning about scientific cultivation method of Sugarcane .More than 65 per cent of the respondents obtained information about the planting material of Sugarcane. Out of 120 farmers , 80 per cent got information regarding proportion, time and method of use of pesticides. While, 62.50 per cent respondents took advantages of knowing

about availability of planting material from other sources. As many as 75 per cent of the respondents obtained guidance regarding doses , time, and methods of fertilizer application.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority of the Sugarcane growers had perceived KVK as a reliable source of information regarding different aspects of Sugarcane cultivation. Majority of them were also found aware about training programmes and other extension activities organized buy the KVK.

REFERENCE

Saxena, A.S. and Tripathi, S.N.(1999) : Utility of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Training Programmes. Maharashtra .Jr. Ext. Edu. XVIII : 61-63 .