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Knowledge Level of Farm Women about Groundnut Production Technology

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INTRODUCTION

In modern agriculture too, women share number of farm operations with men. She is the main architect of change in the rural farming (Randhawa, 1975). Among five major oilseed crops (Groundnut, Castor, Mustard, Linseed and Sesamum) grown in India, groundnut occupies first rank in terms of area and production. (Modha, 1980). However its average yield per hectare is comparatively low. Traditional method of farming is the major reason for low productivity. This might be due to poor knowledge of farm women about groundnut production technology, which is also influenced by the various factors. Keeping this in view, the present study was planned to conduct with the following specifice objectives.

OBJECTIVES

1. To Know the knowledge level of farm women about groundnut production technology.
2. To ascertain the association between farm women's knowledge about groundnut production technology and their selected characteristics.
3. To predict the extent of variation in farm women's knowledge about groundnut production technology caused by their selected characteristics.

METHODOLOGY

Junagadh district of Gujarat State, being the highest groundnut producing district where National Research Centre for groundnut & Main Oilseed Research Station of G.A.U. are situated, was selected for the study. Three talukas and one village from each taluka were selected randomly. Farm women who actually engaged for more hours on their groundnut fields as compared to other women of the family, were selected as respondents. Accordingly 100 such farm women were selected propotionately on random basis.

To measure the level of knowledge of groundnut growing farm women, a scale developed by Popat ***et al.*** (1985) was used with slight modifications. The data were collected with the help of structured schedule by way of personal interview. Statistical measures such as mean score, co-efficient of correlaton and multiple regression were used for

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Table 1 : Knowledge level of farm women about Groundnut production Technology

N=100

Sr. No.	Knowledge Level	No. of Respondents	Expected Knowledge Index	Observed Knowledge Index	Mean	S. D.	C. V. %
1.	Low < 26.04	13	0 to 100	17 to 77	36	9.96	27.66
2.	Medium 26.04 to 45.96	71					
3.	High > 45.96	16					

knowledge level, ascertaining association and predicting the extent of variation in the knowledge level about groundnut production technology caused by the selected characteristics of groundnut growing farm women.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is revealed from the data depicted in Table 1 that, 13.00 per cent

Table 2 : Zero-order correlation Co-efficient between knowledge level of respondents and the independent variables

N=100

Sr. No.	Independent variable	'r' value
1.	Age	+ 0.1353 *
2.	Education	+ 0.1051 NS
3.	Reading habits	+ 0.0379 NS
4.	Training received	+ 0.1597 *
5.	Size of family	- 0.1889 **
6.	Ratio of total No. of females to total No. of family members	+ 0.1680 **
7.	Ratio of total No. of children to total No. of females in family	- 0.0440 NS
8.	size of land holding	- 0.1954 **
9.	Irrigation potentiality	+ 0.0400 NS
10.	Groundnut yield index	- 0.0349 NS
11.	Social participation	+ 0.2575 ***
12.	Extension participation	- 0.0046 NS

NS = Non significant
* = Significant at 0.2 level.
** = Significant at 0.1 level
*** = Significant at 0.01 level.
DF = 98.

of the respondents had low, and 16.00 per cent of them had high level of knowledge about groundnut production technology. The expected range of knowledge index was 0 to 100, but the minimum and maximum observed index ranged between 17 to 77 with a mean score of 36.00, S. D. 9.96 and C. V. 27.66 per cent. So, it can be concluded that groundnut growing farm women had medium level of knowledge with respect to groundnut production technology.

It can be seen from the Table 2 that, there was positive and significant association between the knowledge level of respondents with respect to groundnut production technology and their age, training received by them, ratio of females to total number of family members and social participation.

There was negative and non-significant association between size of knowledge level of respondents with respect to groundnut production technology and their size of land holdings. Other variables like, level of eduction, reading habits, ratio of children to total number of females in the family, irrigation potentiality, groundnut yield index and extension participation had shown non-significant association with knowledge level regarding groundnut production technology.

Table 3 clearly shows that the total contribution of six variables was only 16.98 per cent. The contribution of training received by the respondents and their social participation was in the descending order and these two variables were important in affacting the knowledge level of farm women.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATIONS

It can be concluded that the extension agencies should strive to raise

Table 3 : Multiple regression between independent variables and knowledge level of farm women about groundnut production technology

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Partial 'b' value	't' value for partial 'b'	std. partial beta 'b'	Rnak	R^2
1.	Age	0.0709	0.591 ^{NS}	0.0569	VI	
2.	Training recieved	5.2479	2.414 *	0.2347	I	
3.	Size of family	- 0.3166	-0.971 ^{NS}	-0.1028	IV	
4.	Ratio of females to family members	5.4550	0.854 ^{NS}	0.0841	V	0.1698
5.	Size of land holdmg	-0.6525	-1.597 ^{NS}	-0.1653	III	
6.	Social participation	4.0095	2.263 *	0.2296	II	

* Siguificant at 0.05 level.

the knowledge level of farm women and to bring up the characteristics such as training received and social participation in order or priority. Accordingly farm women should be motivated to expose themselves to participate more in social organisations. They should also be motivated and advised to participate in training programmes in relation to agriculture in general and groundnut production technology in particular.

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SELF EMAGE		
S	:	Sociable
E	:	Efficient
L	:	Long Sighted
F	:	Fellowship
I	:	Industrious
M	:	Mature
A	:	Actual
G	:	Good Will
E	:	Entrepreneur