



Peer-Reviewed, Refereed, Open Access Journal

Research Article

Analysis of Training Programmes Conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Madurai District

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Received: 11.12.2020 | Revised: 15.01.2021 | Accepted: 24.01.2021

ABSTRACT

The current investigation implicates the trainings conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Madurai district and the participation of farmers in the training programmes. From the training register, list of past 6 years trainings (2013-2018) was taken for the study to assess the participation of farmers in the KVK training programmes. Training participation was measured by percentage analysis. The results revealed that in major crop-oriented trainings, the cereals ranked first (17.24%) followed by Vegetable crops (14.94%), Horticultural crops (14.37%), pulses (13.22%) and entrepreneurship training (9.19%) respectively. Subject based trainings constituted 21.83 percentage. This outcome illustrates that trainings given on cereals were comparatively higher than other trainings. Cereals crops are predominantly practiced in Madurai district and vegetable crops comes next to it. More number of trainings should be conducted on pulses followed by millets for enhancing the area under millets cultivation and value addition. Importance should be given to conduct a greater number of entrepreneurship-oriented trainings and trainings on farm mechanization.

Keywords: Training, participation, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Technology.

INTRODUCTION

India's agriculture is comprised of many crops, with the foremost of food staples like cereals, pulses, millets, vegetables and horticultural crops. Nearly 50% of workforce were associated with agriculture and relatively contributes 17-18% to India's GDP. During

the year 2018 India alone produced 284.8 million tonnes of food grains. Even though the statistic is huge, the agriculture sector in India have been consistently declining these days. This would be due to the institutional change of workers from agriculture to non-agricultural sectors.

Cite this article: Perwin, C., Selvarani, G., Mahandrakumar, K., Ramessh, C., & Prabakaran, K. (2021). Analysis of Training Programmes Conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Madurai District, *Ind. J. Pure App. Biosci.* 9(1), 56-59. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18782/2582-2845.8530>

In India, agriculture crucially depends on the larger workforce due to its available technology and population. Thus, languishing in the participation of agriculture leads to drop in GDP, from 34% in 1983-84, to 17% in 2018-19. To rectify these problems, educating the farmers to adopt improved agricultural practices and technologies government has been associated with ICAR to form KVKs during Fifth Five Year Plan.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra predominantly act as a Bridge for Knowledge and skill gap among the farmers and updating the source of information to the extension workers. KVK involves conducting Front Line Demonstration, On-Farm Trials, training programmes, Multi-sector support and advisory services to update the knowledge and skill of farmers and capacity building programmes for extension workers. The current research helps to calculate the percentage of training programmes for farmers conducted by KVK of Madurai district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the KVK of the Madurai District. KVK operates in thirteen blocks namely Melur, Madurai west, Madurai East, Kottampatti, Alanganallur, Chellampatti, Thiruparankundram, T. Kallupatti, Tirumangalam, Kallikudi, Sedapatti, Usilampatti and Vadipatti. Training programmes are selected as the major sphere of the research. For the better assessment six years (2013-2018) source for data were sorted out. Training registers were collected from the KVK and used as the source for secondary data and training list is created from it. Training programmes were collected according to the date, place and number of people attended the training. Number of trainings conducted during six years and participation of farmers in the training registers. Percentage of trainings and training participation was derived by using the formula.

$$\text{Percentage of trainings conducted in particular category} = \frac{\text{No. of trainings conducted in particular category}}{\text{Overall trainings conducted by KVK}} \times 100 \%$$

$$\text{Percentage of respondents attended in particular category} = \frac{\text{No. of respondents attended training in particular category}}{\text{Total No. of respondents attended trainings at KVK}} \times 100 \%$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The documentation of training programmes reveals the data on trainings conducted by KVK and participation of farmers in training programmes. Sixty-nine on-campus training programmes were conducted, in which 2958 farmers participated in the training. One

hundred and five off-campus training programmes were conducted, in which 4246 farmers participated. Totally 174 trainings were conducted and 7204 farmers participated. The training percentage and participation of farmers is presented in the table.

Table 1: Participation of farmers in the training programmes conducted by KVK, Madurai

S. No	Categories	Trainings		Participants	
		No	%	No	%
I	CROP BASED TRAININGS				
a.	Agriculture				
1.	Cereals	30	17.24	1310	18.18
2.	Millets	17	9.77	624	8.67
3.	Pulses	23	13.22	898	12.48
4.	Oil seeds	5	2.89	233	3.23
5.	Vegetable crops	26	14.94	947	13.14
6.	Fodder crops	4	2.29	150	2.08

7.	Commercial crops	6	3.45	273	3.78
b.	Horticultural crops				
8.	Fruits crops	12	6.89	455	6.31
9.	Flowers crops	9	5.17	325	4.52
10.	Gardening	3	1.73	141	1.96
11.	Medicinal plants	1	0.58	60	0.84
	Sub Total	25	14.37	981	13.63
	Total	136	78.17	5892	75.19
II	SUBJECT BASED TRAININGS				
12.	Entrepreneurship trainings	16	9.19	815	11.32
13.	Animal Husbandry	2	1.15	131	1.82
14.	Soil health and management	3	1.72	115	1.59
15.	Information and communication Technologies (ICT)	1	0.58	56	0.77
16.	Organic farming	6	3.45	251	3.48
17.	Bio-Fertilizer	3	1.72	105	1.45
18.	Bio-control agents	1	0.58	40	0.57
19.	New varieties and technologies	3	1.72	144	1.99
20.	Farm mechanization	3	1.72	131	1.82
	Total	38	21.83	1312	24.81
	Grand total	174	100.00	7204	100.00

Table1. For the proper evaluation of various training programmes, the number of trainings were sorted grounded on the crop and subject basis. On the whole crop-based trainings secured more than 75 percent (approximately) of the either trainings and participants, while remaining 25 percent (approximately) were secured by subject based trainings. Approaching the crop-based training conducted cereals holds the first place (17.24%) it was predominantly practiced and made the farmers to update and adopt the technologies, whichever diffused through the training programmes. Simultaneously, vegetable crops hold the second place (14.94%), followed by horticultural crops (14.37%) and pulses (13.22%). Subsequently, the minimal number of trainings were conducted in millets (9.77%), commercial crops (3.45%), oil seeds (2.89%) and fodder crops (2.29%).

Amidst the horticultural crop's trainings (14.37%), the maximum number of

trainings have been conducted in fruit crops (6.89%) which was followed by flower crops (5.17%), gardening (1.73%) and medicinal plants (0.58%).

On the other hand, which was grounded on the subject based, a greater number of trainings have been conducted under the entrepreneurship section (9.19%), which was followed a major section named organic farming which holds second place with the percentage of 3.45. Subsequently, biofertilizer, new varieties and technology, farm mechanization and soil health and management hold third place with equal number of trainings with the percentage of 1.72% correspondingly. Besides, animal husbandry and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) accounted 1.15% and 0.58% respectively.

Similarly, the percentage of participation is also proportionate to the percentage of training conducted, in almost all the aspects. With reference to that, cereals

secured a greater number of participants in the training programmes with 18.18 percentage, succeeding by horticultural crops with 13.63 percentage, vegetable crops (13.14%) and pulses (12.48). Other crop-based training programmes attracted very minimal number of participants. Among the horticultural crops, the training based on the fruit crops have received more participants with 6.31%, while flower crops, gardening and medicinal plants have received the number of participants succeeding to that, with the corresponding percentages of 4.52%, 1.96% and 0.84%.

With respect to the subject based training, the pattern of participation is also alike to that of training percentage pattern. Amidst the various sectors, 11.32% of participants have participated in the entrepreneurship programmes. Only 0.77% and 1.59% of them have participated in the training programmes viz ICT and soil management. Organic farming, new varieties and technologies, farm mechanization, animal husbandry, bio-fertilizer and bio-control agents secured 3.48%, 1.99%, 1.82%, 1.82%, 1.45% and 0.55% correspondingly with respect to the training programmes.

CONCLUSION

Trainings offered by KVK, Madurai in the past six years and the participation of the farmers in the training programmes was evaluated in the study. Trainings given in the cereals was comparatively higher than other trainings. Paddy and vegetable crops were predominantly cultivated in Madurai followed by pulses, millets, vegetable crops and jasmine etc. More trainings should be conducted in Millets cultivation and value addition. Entrepreneurship training since both are more remunerative trainings which helps to develop their livelihoods and standard of living by additional income. Lesser number of trainings were conducted in pulses and millets. Popularizing the new pulses & millets varieties

will help them to produce high yield than conventional varieties. Location specific technologies and machinery-based trainings will help the farmer to adopt it in their field and it resolve the problem more dependence on labor force. So, these areas should be addressed in the forthcoming training programmes.

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