

Attitude of Farmers Towards Developmental Activities of Agriculture Experimental Station NAU, Paria

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture Experimental Station Paria came into existence in the year 1962 in Pardi taluka of Valsad district to test the feasibility of growing other crops instead of natural grasses. Initially, this station was run by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Gujarat. Later on, in 1972 this station was transferred to Gujarat Agricultural University. Now this research farm is working under Navsari Agricultural University from May, 2004. This region comes under South Gujarat Heavy Rainfall Agro-climate Zone-I. This zone comprises of whole of Dangs, Valsad, Navsari and parts of Surat district. The total geographical area of this zone is 9.59 lakh ha. This zone has been divided in to 4 Agro-ecological situations. The Agriculture Experimental Station (AES), Paria is situated in the Agro-ecological situation –II at 20°-27' N latitude and 72°-57' E longitude with an elevation of 10 meters above sea level. Basically, it is research oriented organization and at present about fifteen research projects are running with different mandates. Apart from this, one extension scheme i.e. vegetable and fruit crop demonstration scheme for tribal upliftment is also being undertaken for the farmers of the area. Farmers are advised at the station as well as on farmer's field. Besides this training programmes and demonstration are also organized by the station. Training to the students of agriculture like B. Sc.(Agri.), B.Sc.(Hort.), B.R.S. and Diploma (Krushi) etc. is undertaken. The scientists of AES, Paria are also actively engaged in organizing various farmer oriented programmes by Department of Agriculture and Department of Horticulture as well as other N.G.Os. Solving the agricultural problems of the farmers.

Keywords: Valsad, Paria, horticulture, Krushi, AES

Keeping all these views in mind, the present investigation entitled 'Attitude of farmers towards developmental activities of Agriculture Experimental Station, NAU, Paria' was undertaken with the following specific objectives:

- i. To study the socio economic characteristics of farmers.
- ii. To study the attitude of farmers towards developmental activities of Agriculture Experimental Station, NAU, Paria.

METHODOLOGY

The valsad district consist of five talukas i.e. Pardi, Dharampur, Valsad, Kaparada and Umergam out of these Pardi and Dharampur taluka were selected purposively for study purpose. Five villages were selected from each selected taluka, thus forming of 10 villages by simple random sampling technique. A list of farmers was prepared from selected village.

Out of those 10 respondents were selected from each village by simple random sampling technique. Thus total sample of 100 farmers was drawn for study purpose. The structural interview schedule will be used for data collection. The data were tabulated and analyzed in the light of the objectives.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of farmers

Age : A perusal of data presented in Table 1 reveals that majority of the respondents (56.00 %) were found to be in the middle age group, followed by old age group (35.00%) and young age group (9.00 %).

Education: The data presented in Table 1, indicated that 33.00 per cent of the respondents were secondary level, followed by illiterate (23.00 %), up to primary (20.00 %), up to middle (15.00 %), graduate (5.00 %), and can read and write (4.00 %) respectively.

Land holding: The data presented in Table 1, indicated that majority of the respondents (54.00%) were comes in small farmers followed by marginal farmers (31.00%) and big farmers (15.00%), respectively.

Family size: A perusal of data presented in Table 1, reveals that majority of the respondents (51.00%) were found to be have their small families followed by medium (39.00%) and 10.00 per cent were found large families.

Family type: It is evident from the Table 1, that majority of the respondents (58.00%) belonged to nuclear family and 42.00 per cent farmers belonged to joint family.

Social participation: The examination of data presented in Table 1, indicated that majority of the respondents (62.00%) had low social participation followed by 38.00 per cent farmers had high social participation.

Annual income: A perusal of the data in Table 1, indicate that 72.00 per cent of the respondents were found to be in low income group followed by high income group i.e. 28.00 per cent.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their personal characteristics

Sl. No.	Category	Farmers N = 100	
		No.	Per cent
1	Age group		
	◊ Young age group (up to 35 years)	09	9.00
	◊ Middle age group (36 to 50 years)	56	56.00
	◊ Old age group (above 50 years)	35	35.00
2	Education		
	◊ Illiterate	23	23.00
	◊ Can read and write	04	4.00
	◊ Up to primary	20	20.00
	◊ Up to middle	15	15.00
	◊ Secondary	33	33.00
	◊ Graduate	05	5.00
3	Land holding		
	◊ Marginal farmers (up to 1.0 ha)	31	31.00
	◊ Small farmers (1.01 to 2.50 ha)	54	54.00
	◊ Big farmers (above 2.50 ha)	15	15.00

4	Family size		
	◊ Small (up to 5 members)	51	51.00
	◊ Medium (6 to 8 members)	39	39.00
	◊ Large (above 8 member)	10	10.00
5	Family type		
	◊ Nuclear	58	58.00
	◊ Joint	42	42.00
6	Social participation		
	◊ Low participation (up to mean)	62	62.00
	◊ High participation (above mean)	38	38.00
7	Annual income		
	◊ Low income (up to ₹ 43590.00)	72	72.00
	◊ High income (above ₹ 43590.00)	28	28.00
8	Extension contact		
	◊ Once in a fortnight	11	11.00
	◊ Once in a month	30	30.00
	◊ Once in two month	38	38.00
	◊ No contact	21	21.00

Extension contact: It is evident from the Table 1, that 38.00 per cent of the respondents were found to have contact with extension personnel once in a two month, followed by once in a month (30.00%), no contact (21.00%) and only 11.00 per cent of the respondents had contact once in a fortnight, respectively.

Attitude level of farmers towards developmental activities of AES, NAU, Paria

The attitude level of the respondents towards developmental activities of AES, NAU, Paria was measured with the help of attitude test. The respondents were assigned scores based on their performance in the test. The range of attitude score was divided into three categories after computing mean and standard deviation. These three categories are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Attitude level of farmers towards developmental activities of AES, NAU, Paria

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Per cent
1	Least Favourable (score up to 53.48)	17	17.00
2	Favourable (score from 53.49 to 69.53)	64	64.00
3	Most Favourable (score above 69.53)	19	19.00

The table 2 states that on the whole 64.00 per cent of the respondents having favourable attitude towards developmental activities of Paria whereas, 19.00 percent respondents had most favourable attitude. There were about 17.00 percent respondents who expressed to have least favourable attitude towards AES, Paria.

Furthermore the individual attitudinal statement wise MPS was calculated. The data has been presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Attitude of farmers towards developmental activities of AES, NAU, Paria

Sl. No.	Statement	MPS*
1	Crop production is increased due to guidance of scientists at AES Paria.	83.60
2	Due to presence of AES, Paria in your region area under fruit crops has increased.	69.80
3	New technologies have been introduced by AES, Paria	78.40
4	AES, Paria is helpful in upliftment of economic conditions of farmers.	79.00
5	Farmers have adopted the improved technologies demonstrated by AES, Paria	77.80
6	During farmer's oriented activities, information regarding subject matter is sufficient.	78.80
7	Training creates confidence among farmers to perform innovative agricultural work.	79.40
8	Period of extension impetus is sufficient to provide all information at AES, Paria	76.60
9	Scientists of AES, paria have sufficient knowledge regarding their subject.	76.80
10	Infrastructural facility for training is appropriate.	76.60
11	Out of station development activities of AES, Paria are beneficial to farmers.	77.60
12	Training at AES, Paria are useful in self employment of farmers.	80.00
13	Diagnostic visit of scientists of AES, Paria to solve and guide farmers on the spot is apt.	82.60
14	Direct interaction with research scientist of AES, Paria during the programme/ activities.	74.20
15	Need based developmental activities are organized by AES, Paria.	66.70
16	Adoption of recommended practices is not possible for all type of farmers.	62.20

* Mean per cent score

It is apparent from the Table 3 that most of the respondents agreed with the fact that, "crop production is increased due to guidance of scientists at AES Paria", with mean percent score 83.60. This was followed by "Diagnostic visit of scientists of AES, paria to solve and guide farmers on the spot is apt," (82.60 MPS) and "training at AES, Paria are useful in self employment of farmers" (80.00 MPS) followed by other statements, respectively.

Based on the results it could be concluded that majority of the respondents showed favorable attitude towards developmental activities of AES, NAU, Paria.

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