

Research Paper :

Assessment of technological training need and interest of the farm women for Mustard crop cultivation

URMILA DEVI, SHASHI KANTA VARMA, DEVENDER SINGH AND KANTA SABHARWAL

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in four villages of Bhiwani and Mahendergarh districts of Haryana State which were selected purposively as mustard crop grown in area at large scale. A proportionate random sample of 175 farm women who were actively involved in farming was selected purposively. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Most of the farm women were in middle (28-41yrs) age group belonging to general caste, illiterate, having low family education status, negligible social participation belonging to nuclear family with farming as their main occupation, low innovative proneness. Regarding information input sources, use of locality source was of high extent. The most needed and interested areas of technological training were harvesting and storage followed by needed and interested areas were sowing, weeding, manures and fertilizer application, insect pest control and threshing, whereas least needed and interested areas were land preparation and irrigation. Therefore, need-based trainings for farm women should be organized in order to update their knowledge and skills and thereby change in their attitude for cultivation of mustard crop more effectively.

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

SHASHI KANTA VARMA

Department of Home Science,
Extension Education, I.C.
College of Home Science,
C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural
University, HISAR
(HARYANA) INDIA

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Agriculture is the mainstay of nation's economy especially in rural community of the Haryana State. In rural areas, women are equally the bread earners of the family and work as much as men in various agricultural operations. A large number of farm women are engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or helpers to cultivators or agricultural laborers. Women participate in most of the agricultural operations like manuring, land preparation, sowing of seeds, transplanting, weeding, applying fertilizers, taking care of standing crops, harvesting, threshing, and carrying the produce from farm to home, storage of food grains, cattle care and preparation of manure pit. Rural women play a pivotal role in agricultural, animal husbandry and other allied activities besides their normal domestic chores. Thus, rural women always play an important dual role in the society. Though not expected, the rural women are compelled to work in agriculture because of many family and situational constraints. The best way to make optimum use of the human resources is to provide them opportunities for self-development through training, which improves the existing knowledge and skills, enhances capability and improves the competency to meet the challenges of the society and technology. Since, farm women are little bit exposed to formal education, imparting training to them on the agricultural work being performed by them would help in improving the quality of work. In

order to make training programmes more effective, it should be based on the identified training need of the farm women. In view of the importance, the study was undertaken with the following specific objectives: to study the socio-economic profile of the farm women and to assess the training need of the farm women for Mustard cultivation.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Haryana state. Bhiwani and Mahendergarh districts were selected purposively as mustard crop is grown in large scale. The study was undertaken in Bhera and Miran villages of Tosham block of Bhiwani district and two villages (Bapora and Nanakwas) were selected from Mahendergarh block of Mahendergarh district. From four selected villages, a proportionate random sample of 175 farm women who were actively involved in farming were selected purposively. Selected respondents were interviewed personally with the help of specially structured interview schedule. Responses of women regarding their training need and interest were collected on a three point continuum namely, most needed and interested, some what needed and interested and least needed and interested with score 3,2,1, respectively. The aggregate score for each item and most preferred field of training was identified. The data thus collected were processed,