

Knowledge and adoption of food grain storage practices by farm women of Pune District (Maharashtra)

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ABSTRACT

The study on the knowledge and adoption of food grains storage practices followed by the women in Pune District was undertaken. In all, 170 farm women from 10 villages were selected randomly. The data were analysed and the conclusion were drawn. It revealed 100 per cent farm women had knowledge of recommended food grain storage practices. Regarding adoption of food grains storage practices, majority of the respondents adopted the method of sun drying, 94.11 per cent of farm women adopted the method of separation of infested food grains, while 75.88 per cent of them adopted the method of sieving of food grain and 59.42 per cent of farm women adopted the method of separation of broken food grains, 41.17 per cent adopted the practice of proper dunnage while 22.95 per cent adopted the use of chemical powder, 14.70 per cent of farm women adopted the practice of rearing cat and use of aluminium phosphide whereas 9.41 per cent of farm women adopted the practice to keep the store place airy and in good hygienic condition.

INTRODUCTION

Farm women play a pivotal role in agriculture and other subsidiary occupations. Their contribution is more than 50 per cent in performing the various agriculture operations and maintenance of livestock etc. Studies in the past indicated that farm women participated in most of farm operations. One of this is storage of food grains. Their participation in post harvest practice *viz.*, threshing and storage is relatively more important than other practice. Therefore, it becomes very necessary to know their knowledge level and the methods adopted by them in food grain storage. Knowledge is the total number of recommended practices of food grain storage known to the farm women while adoption means is continuous use of recommended technologies of food grain practices by farm women performing storage activity, so while performing the storage activity many technical and economical barriers are experienced. With this regards, the study will throw light in determining the extent of knowledge and adoption of various practices in respect of food grain storage practices.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried in the Agriculture College Development Block, Pune. Out of 112 villages, 10 villages were randomly selected for the purpose of study. A list of farm women,

who were engaged in performing various farm operations, was prepared. From the list of 350 farm women, 170 farm women were selected by using random sampling method.

An interview schedule was prepared, so as to get accurate information. Suitable questions were included to determine the knowledge and adoption of food grain storage practices followed by the farm women. The statistical tools and test such as frequency and percentage, have been used in the study for the analysis of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adoption is a mental and behavioural process in which stages *i.e.* awareness, interest, trial, decision and adoption pass through the various stages in its literal meaning. The term adoption means the continuous use of recommended technologies of food grain practices by farm women performing storage activities. Knowledge and adoption regarding various food-grain storage practices *viz.*, mechanical control, natural, chemical control, maintenance of storage places and control from rodents etc. have been discussed in this paper.

Mechanical control method :

The results of mechanical control are presented in Table 1. It is revealed that from the table that almost 100 per cent of farm women had knowledge in respect of

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Sieving,
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