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RESEARCH ARTICLE:

Experiential learning- learning experiences and feedback of agricultural graduates towards RAWEP and AELP

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Experiential learning, Agricultural education, Contact farmers **SUMMARY:** The basic core of agricultural education instruction consists of three intra-curricular components like classroom instruction, experiential learning through supervised experiences, and leadership activities. Experiential learning is fulfilled through Rural Agricultural Work Experience Programme (RAWEP) and Agricultural Experiential Learning Programme (AELP). Agricultural Graduates of B.Sc (Ag.) are exposed to learn the knowledge and skills by staying with contact farmers in the village in the fifth semester. Along with RAWEP, students are also engaged in running if enterprise in the last semester to gain self employment and self confidence by establishing their own enterprise with the principle of learning while doing. It is found that improving the knowledge and skills in conducting the group discussions, field days, trainings, establishment of information centers (88.88%), Advantages of Fertilizer management (94.44%), Developing skills in farm budgeting (95.56%), Improving diagnostic skills (96.67%) etc. From the results it was observed that most of the students are felt that it will helps in preparation of village action plans, building of team work, Communication skills, exposure to the various agro climatic situations, preparedness to work with extension professionals. Majority of the students felt that reducing the use of more technical and English words in delivery of presentations and providing portable projectors for visual and video presentation will helps to make RAWEP more effective.

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