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Knowledge gained by farmer by participating in field days organized by K.V.K. Pune

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ABSTRACT

K.V.K. Pune, Dist-Pune (M.S.) has conducted 9 field days of 30-40 farmers per each field day to the farm of successful innovators within its jurisdiction in 2007 and 2008 to motivate farmers to adopt it. Out of that 3 field day were randomly selected for the present study. From each field day 30 farmers were selected randomly for study. Thus their was total sample of 90 respondents. As majority of farmer gain high knowledge from each field visit, so it can be concluded that field visits to the farm of successful innovators of farmers groups are useful for increasing their knowledge in desired way. But the field visit should be at nearer place from the village of farmer and field day should not engage the farmers for whole day.

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Key words : Field day, Knowledge, Innovation, Constraints

India is world's second largest producer of food next to china. But yield per unit area is very low. It is mainly because the farmers are still following traditional practices in farming. There are lots of innovations developed by SAU and research stations but these are not adopted by farmers due to lack in communication. In society there are 2.5 per cent innovators who always try to adopt innovations without botheration of any risk. If field days of farmers group are organized to the field of successful innovators then it will help to change the knowledge, attitude of farmers and help them to motivate to adopt innovations. Kalarani *et al*.(2009) reported that during field day celebration other farmers from the villages appreciated the impact of technologies and assured to adopt the technologies in future.

By considering this K.V.K. Pune have organized 9 field days of 30-40 farmers per each field day to the farm of successful innovators within its jurisdiction. The present study was conducted with specific objectives : to study knowledge gained by the farmers about innovation through field days and to identify constraints faced by the farmers for participating in the field days.

The present study was carried out in Baramati, Indapur and Phaltan Tahsil. This area was selected mainly because farmers participated in all the 9 field days were from this area. In each field day 30-40 farmers participated. Present study was conducted regarding 3 field days organized at Malegaon, Jachak wasti and Nimgaon villages of Baramati Tahsil District Pune. From each field day 30 farmers were selected randomly for study. Thus their was total sample of 90 respondents. The data were collected with help of interview schedule and statistically analyzed with the help of frequency and percentage.

For determining knowledge level a questionary was prepared as per recommended package of each innovation. Each question was carrying 1 score for right and 0 score for wrong answer. Thus total number of correct answers formed the total score. With this data knowledge index of individual farmer was calculated. The respondents were further categorized on the basis of minimum and maximum score. To measure the constraints simple ranking technique was applied.

The results of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under the following sub heads:

Gain in knowledge by farmers:

It is observed from Table 1 that the majority of respondents (60 per cent) gaineded high level of knowledge of cultivation of TPG variety of groundnut, followed by 27.00 per cent and 13.00 per cent respondent gained medium and low knowledge, respectively. It can be inferred that the majority of respondents gain high knowledge.

Table 2 revealed that majority of respondents (67.00

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