



Knowledge and use of computer by the Scientists of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

BUTANI KETANKUMAR* AND D.S. DHILLON

Department of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University, LUDHIANA (PUNJAB) INDIA

Abstract : The present study was undertaken to ascertain the knowledge of scientists regarding computer, its use by them in teaching, research and extension and problems being faced by them in its use. A sample of 200 scientists working in teaching, research and extension system of the PAU was drawn by using probability proportional to size (PPS) sampling technique. The data were collected by using distributed questionnaire approach. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the scientists belonged to age group of 44 to 56 years, hailed from rural families, were Associate Professors, most of them had total annual income of Rs. 7-11 lakhs and had service experience of 7-15 years with two trainings. Majority of the scientist were male, had Ph.D educational qualification and belonged to farming families. The findings of the study further indicated that two-third of the scientists had high level of knowledge of computer mainly for the purpose of computer information retrieval or data updating while more than half of them had experience in computer use up to 5 years. It was further noticed that among various computer facilities available, Internet accessing had an added advantage of its ready availability as compared to others. Insufficient budget provision for the purchase and minor repairs of computer mostly restricted the use of different computer tools whereas the major problem faced by the scientists in the use of computers was the lack of regular training. Therefore, they had suggested that the sufficient budget should be provided for the purchase and minor repairs of computer as well as sufficient number of scientists should be trained regularly from time to time.

Key Words : Knowledge, Use, Computer, Internet, Problems, Suggestions

View Point Article : Ketankumar, Butani and Dhillon, D.S. (2013). Knowledge and use of computer by the Scientists of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. *Internat. J. agric. Sci.*, 9(1): 24-31.

Article History : Received : 26.12.2011; Revised : 08.08.2012; Accepted : 07.10.2012

INTRODUCTION

The State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) are primarily responsible for the growth and development of agriculture through their research, education and extension related activities. There are no two opinions about their important position in increasing food grain, livestock and poultry production. Since agricultural research, education and extension are the primary responsibilities of states; the growth of SAUs has to be achieved under any circumstances. With a view to fulfilling this paradigm, the faculties of SAUs are expected to be different than those of the traditional universities. They will have to work as investigators, academicians and extensionists, in short, all in one. The success of any agricultural university depends exclusively on the quality and professionalism shown by the faculty to satisfy their responsibilities to enhance the natural resources

dealing with the development of mankind. They accentuate the exploration of ideas as well as the application and dissemination of agricultural knowledge. They need to be watchful with their role as a major contributor to the economic development of our country through targeted research and the transfer of technology to the marketplace. Thus, through the integration of variety of programmes of teaching, research and extension education, they are committed to agricultural and rural development.

Information technology has been one of the most ambitious fields in the present world. Information technology and agriculture amalgamation caused our country to regulate overall economy and trade. The country is having rapid computerization in different fields of agriculture *i.e.* from weather forecasting for crop production to protection of crop. Different Information Technologies like Remote Sensing, Expert System and Database of research project, modeling

* Author for correspondence