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Knowledge level of Beneficiary Farmers of ATMQIC about *Kharif* Crop Demonstrations in Jaipur District of Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture Technology management Quality Improvement Center (ATMQIC)project of Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana was started in Shri Karan Narendra Agriculture University, Jobner in the year 2014-2015 to provide a single windowsystem for farmers.Users knowledge about any programme plays important role in acceptance or rejection of given technology of that programme. Keeping in view the facts, the study was conducted in three selected villages of Jaipur District of Rajasthan and 120 respondent farmers were selected through proportional allocation to the size of the population .The knowledge of ATMQIC beneficiary farmers was measured and found that majority of respondents of ATMQIC (68.34 %) belonged to middle level of knowledge category followed by high (19.16%) and low (12.50%) knowledge category of respondents of ATMQIC about *kharif* crop demonstrations. The crop wise findings of the study indicated that majority of respondents of ATMQIC were found to have adequate knowledge regarding cultivation techniques of Bajra crop followed by Groundnut , Moong , Guar and Cowpea.

Key Words: ATMQIC, Agriculture, Crop,Demonstrations,Farmers, Knowledge, Schemes,Technology.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy and plays an important role in achieving certain national goals, such as reducing rural poverty, providing food and nutritional security, supplying raw materials to major industries where as central and state govt. were started a number of projects to increase agriculture production to mitigate demand of growing population.In this sector Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture University(SKNAU) Jobner started various projects specially for infrastructure development and transfer of technology. The Agriculture Technology Management and Quality Improvement Centre (ATMQIC) project sanctioned under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was one of them introduced in selected areas of SKNAU,Jobner to transfer the Agriculture technology . In addition to supporting individual farmer, farmers' groups, public and private agencies in supplying quality materials techniques/ technologies/ knowledge etc. the information services and supplies under ATMQIC projectwere included *i.e.*agriculture technologyof *kharif*crops and demonstration. Because crop demonstration is an important tool to transfer advance agronomical practices and innovative technology to the farmers. Under ATMQIC project *kharif* crop demonstrations of Bajra, Ground Nut,Moong, Guar and Cowpea werelaid out at farmers' field toenhance their knowledge about cultivation technologies of *kharif*crops.Most of the selected villages of this project were rainfed and thus farmers were dependant on rain fed crop.Therefore, a study was conducted to assess the knowledge level of beneficiary farmers of ATMQIC about *kharif*crops Jaipur District of Rajasthan

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Table 1. Distribution of beneficiary farmers regarding knowledgelevel of *kharif*crop demonstrations. n=120

Sr. No.	Knowledge Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (<26.60 scores)	15	12.50
2.	Medium (between 26.60- 32.87 scores)	82	68.34
3.	High (>32.87 scores)	23	19.16

Mean =29.73, SD = 3.13

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The district Jaipur of Rajasthan was selected purposely because the ATMQIC project activities were implemented in three selected villages *viz.,*Dhani Boraj and Khejrawas of Panchayat Samiti Sambhar Lake and village I Dan ka Bas of Dudu. A list of all the respondents/farmers of three selected villages who have been benefited under ATMQIC was prepared with the help of project staff and 120 beneficiaries were selected randomly from these villages through proportional allocation to the size of the population. An interview schedule was developed based on expert opinion and literature reviewed which was pre-tested and applied in the field. The data regarding given technology about demonstrations of crops namely bajra,moong, groundnut, guar and cowpea were collected with the help of interview schedule. The collected data were classified, tabulated, analysed and interpreted in order to make the findings meaningful. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean, mean percent score, standard deviation etc.were used to reach at conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledgelevel of *kharif*crop demonstrations

The knowledge of *kharif* crops demonstrations by the beneficiaries of ATMQIC was divided into three categories*viz.,* low,medium and high based on the mean and standard deviation.

The data (Table 1)reveal that majority of beneficiary farmers (68.34 %) belonged to category of middle knowledge level followed by high (19.16 %) and low (12.50 %) category related to *kharif* crop demonstrations.Therefore, it might be concluded that majority of the beneficiaries were found to have medium knowledge level about *kharif* crops demonstrations.Similar findings were also reported by Choudhary and Sharma (2012) and Dhayal and Bairathi (2017).

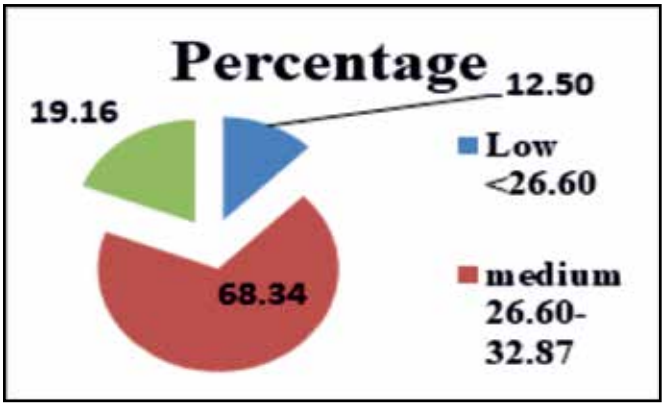

Fig. 1: Distribution of beneficiary farmers regarding knowledge level of *kharif* Crop .

Crops wise Knowledge of beneficiary farmers

Crop wise knowledge was also worked out to get a clear picture of knowledge possessed by them. For this, mean per cent scores for each crops was calculated and ranks were awarded accordingly. The results revealed that first rank was given to the knowledge level of bajra crop production technology (85.42 MPS) followed by groundnut (77.92 MPS), moong (72.92 MPS), guar (72.40 MPS) and cowpea (63.54.03 MPS) production technology and second, third, fourth and fifth ranks were awarded, respectively.

Knowledge of beneficiaries about recommended cultivation practices of *kharif* crops

The data (Table 3) revealed that *kharif* crop demonstration beneficiary gave first rank to

Table 2. Crop wise Knowledge of beneficiaries about *kharif* crops. n=120

Sr. No.	Name of Crop	MPS	Rank
1.	Bajra	85.42	I
2.	Groundnut	77.92	II
3.	Moong	72.92	III
4.	Guar	72.40	IV
5.	Cowpea	63.54	V

appropriate time for crop sowing (95.83 MPS) followed by field preparation before sowing(91.67 MPS), recommended seed rate (76.67 MPS), appropriate time of harvesting (85.83MPS), yield of the crop (85.00MPS), diseases of the crop (84.17 MPS), common insect pests of crops (81.67 MPS) and recommended variety of the crop (72.50 MPS) and second, third, fourth fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth ranks were awarded, respectively.

It might be concluded from the findings that majority of respondents were having knowledge level about bajra cultivation practices which got the toprank and the second highest rank was assigned to knowledge about groundnut.This might be due to the fact that bajra can easily be grown in rainfed area which gives maximum production in comparison to other *kharif* crops and also fulfill basic requirement of farmers. It was also found that the highest knowledge was found about appropriate time for crop sowing and obtained the highest rank followed by recommended seed rate of crop, appropriate time of harvesting while the lowest knowledge was found about common insect pests of crops and recommended variety of the crops. These parameters were observed because *kharif* crops production technologies generally involves the knowledge about integrated application of new technology about field preparation before sowing, recommended variety of the crop, appropriate time for crop sowing, recommended seed rate of crop, common insects of crops, common diseases of the crop, appropriate time of harvesting, expected yield of crop etc.These finding were in agreement with findings of Devi *et al* (2013), Kumar and Kumawat (2019) and Choudhary*et al* (2019).

CONCLUSION

It might be concluded that the bajra crop growers had more knowledge about major practices of bajra cultivation than other *kharif* crops due to suitability of crop under rainfed conditions and fulfilling of farmers basic requirement of feed and fodder. Other

Table 3.Knowledge level of beneficiaries about recommended cultivation practices of *kharif* crops.

n=120

Sr. No.	Practice	MPS	Rank
1.	Appropriate time for crop sowing	95.83	I
2.	Field preparation before sowing	91.67	II
3.	Recommended seed rate of crop	86.67	III
4.	Appropriate time of harvesting	85.83	IV
5.	Yield of the crop	85.00	V
6.	Diseases of the crop	84.17	VI
7.	Insect pests of crops	81.67	VII
8.	Recommended variety of the crop	72.50	VIII

reasons to grow bajra crop were duration of crop whichcan easily be grown in low rainfall area and easily managed.

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