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Dr. C Padma Veni
 Principal Scientist & Programme
 Co-Ordinator, Telangana, India

Dr. M Swetha
 SMS, Extension, Krishi Vigyan
 Kendra Rudrur, Nizamabad,
 Telangana, India

Knowledge gain of farmers by Krishi Vigyan Kendra training programmes

Dr. C Padma Veni and Dr. M Swetha

Abstract

Training is a critical input for the farmers for quick transfer of technology to improve agricultural production so as to uplift their socio-economic status. The International Labour Organization (1986) defined training as an activity which essential aims at providing the skills, knowledge and attitude required in a particular occupation or for exercising a function in any field of economic activity. Institutional training programmes are designed to acquaint farmers with modern and scientific techniques of farming so as to adopt in their fields. To keep the pace with the development in agriculture technology, it is imperative to streamline the transfer of technology system, so that the benefits of innovations can reach the farming community in the quickest possible time. For quick transfer of improved agricultural technologies, role of training for farmers has been recognized according to their requirement. As assessing the training needs and evaluating the outcomes of training are crucial, both for training providers and recipients of training, the effective utilization of training resources need to be ensured. In Nizamabad district rice is a major crop cultivating in 94,307 ha, the training need of farmers on management practices in rice was considered for the study. The farmers of Nizamabad district were trained in scientific way for management practices in rice. The training without need based, may have a little impact on bringing desirable change in the clientele system. Therefore, the present study was carried out on impact of training programme in terms of gain in knowledge of farmers on rice management practices.

Keywords: training, knowledge, rice, KVK etc

Introduction

Objective

To assess the knowledge gain among farmers on rice management practices through KVK training programmes.

Materials and Methods

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rudrur organized training programmes on "Management practices in Rice" to 150 farmers of Nizamabad district during 2017-18. The age group selected for the study is 18 to 40 years. Pre and Post training tests were conducted to assess the knowledge gain. A set of 25 questions related to rice crop management was used. Data was collected before and after training by using questionnaire to assess the knowledge gain. Frequency and percentage were used to analyse the data and interpreted with SD and t test. For analysing the knowledge level of knowledge on paddy crop management practices, the correct response was given '1' score whereas '0' to incorrect response. The mean percent knowledge was computed by following the formula.

$$\text{Knowledge} = \frac{\text{Total score obtained}}{\text{Potential score}} \times 100$$

Results and Discussion

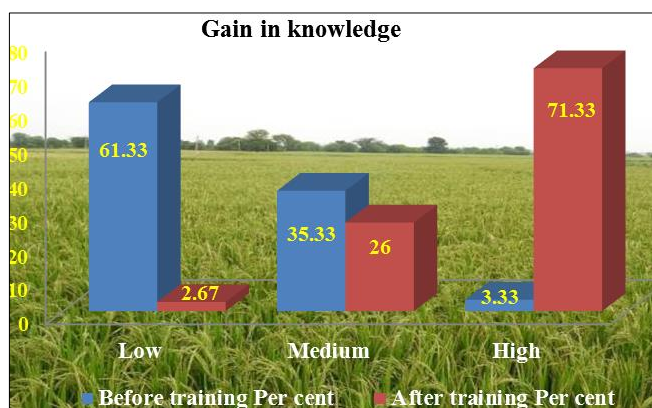
1. Knowledge level on management practices in rice

Correspondence

Dr. C Padma Veni
 Principal Scientist & Programme
 Co-Ordinator, Telangana, India

Table 1: Distribution of respondents on the basis of knowledge level Pre and post training

Level of knowledge	Pre training		Post training		Difference
	No. of respondents	Percent	No. of respondents	Percent	
Low	92	61.33	4	2.67	-58.66
Medium	53	35.33	39	26.00	-9.33
High	5	3.33	107	71.33	68.00
Total	150	100.00	150	100.00	

**Fig 1:** Distribution of respondents on the basis of knowledge level before and after training

The Table 1. Revealed that about 61.33 per cent farmers fell in the category of low level of knowledge, 35.33 per cent fell in the category of medium level knowledge. Only 3.33 per cent fell in the category of high level of knowledge on the management practices in rice. Whereas in case of after training knowledge 71.33 per cent fell in the category of high

level of knowledge, 26.00 per cent fell in the category medium knowledge and only 2.67 per cent fell in the category low level of knowledge. Sixty eight per cent of the respondents fell in the category of high level of knowledge.

2. Knowledge of farmers before and after training

Table 2: Average score of knowledge of farmers before and after training

Evaluation category	No. of respondent	Minimum marks (%)	Maximum marks (%)	Mean + Standard deviation	't' value
Before training	150	4.17	29.17	34.31 + 13.6233	2.3516**
After training	150	75.00	91.67	74.58 + 12.5023	

Table 2. revealed that in pre evaluation test, the knowledge range of different participants was 4.17 per cent to 75.00 per cent with an average of 34.31 per cent. In post evaluation, the knowledge level ranged from 29.17 per cent to 91.67 per cent

with an average of 74.58. The statistical analysis of data using student 't' test indicated that there was significant increase in knowledge regarding rice management practices.

Table 3: knowledge increase after training with respect to different questions under study

S. No	Statement/Variable	Before Training Evaluation (%)	After Training Evaluation (%)	Gain in Knowledge
1	What is the seed rate per acre in sowing	18.00	52.67	34.67
2	What are the chemicals used for treating the rice seed	11.33	54.00	42.67
3	What is the quantity of chemical used for treating the Kg rice seed	12.00	72.67	60.67
4	What is the quantity of chemical (Carbendazim) used for treating the Kg rice seed (Wet treatment)?	44.00	84.67	40.67
5	Name the chemical used to remove rice seed dormancy	36.00	54.00	18.00
6	What is the recommended quantity of FYM per acre of rice crop	68.00	93.33	25.33
7	What is the recommended dose of Nitrogen fertilizer per acre of rice crop	40.67	76.00	35.33
8	In how many doses the Nitrogen fertilizer should be applied to the rice crop	47.33	94.67	47.34
9	What is the recommended dose of Phosphatic fertilizers per acre of rice crop	79.33	83.33	4.00
10	At what time the Phosphatic fertilizers should be applied for the rice crop	56.67	80.67	24.00
11	What is the recommended dose of Potassic fertilizers per acre of rice crop	25.33	94.00	68.67
12	At what time Potassic fertilizers applied for rice crop in heavy soils	27.33	90.67	63.34
13	In how many doses Potassic fertilizers applied for a rice crop in light soils	25.33	55.33	30.00
14	What is the recommended dose of ZnSo ₄ per acre of rice crop in correcting Zinc deficiency?	24.67	66.00	41.33
15	At what time ZnSo ₄ should be applied for the rice crop	42.67	80.00	37.33
16	What is the quantity of Ferrous Ammonium Sulphate added for one litre of water for correcting Iron deficiency	6.00	22.67	16.67
17	Rice stem borer attack at which stages	10.67	52.67	42.00
18	Fertilizers are applied in form foliar application in conditions of prolonged drought and flooded conditions	30.67	68.67	38.00
19	Physical method to control brown plant hopper in rice by forming alley ways	57.33	84.67	27.34
20	What are the symptoms of Zinc deficiency	62.00	90.67	28.67
21	When the split application of Potassium is recommended	44.00	67.33	23.33
22	What are the symptoms of iron deficiency	4.00	74.00	70.00
23	What are the symptoms of stem borer in rice	4.00	69.33	65.33
24	What are the symptoms of BPH in rice	46.00	81.00	35.00
25	What are the sulphide injury symptoms	24.67	66.00	41.33

The data presented in Table 3. indicated that in pre evaluation test, the knowledge level was in the range of 4.00 per cent to 79.33 per cent in different questions with an average of 34.31. There was low level of knowledge on the symptoms of iron deficiency and the symptoms of stem borer in rice; Rice stem borer attack at which stages 10.67 per cent; the chemicals used for treating the rice seed 11.33 per cent; the quantity of chemical used for treating the Kg rice seed 12.00 per cent; the seed rate per acre in sowing 18.00 per cent observed. However, the participants had maximum knowledge regarding the recommended dose of Phosphatic fertilizers per acre of rice crop 79.33 per cent; the recommended quantity of FYM per acre of rice crop 68.00 per cent; the symptoms of Zinc deficiency 62.00 per cent; Physical method to control brown plant hopper in rice by forming alley ways 57.33 per cent and the Phosphatic fertilizers should be applied for the rice crop 56.67 per cent. Thus, the low level of knowledge is due to their involvement in farming with lack of training.

In the post evaluation, the knowledge level ranged from 22.67 per cent to 94.67 per cent with an average 74.58 and 16.74 per cent respectively. Seven questions were answered by 50 per cent of respondents In how many doses the Nitrogen fertilizer should be applied to the rice crop was answered by 94.67 per cent participants, followed by the recommended dose of Potassic fertilizers per acre of rice crop (94.00 per cent), the recommended quantity of FYM per acre of rice crop (93.33. per cent), the time of Potassic fertilizers applied for rice crop in heavy soils (90.67 per cent).

With an apprehension to reap higher yields in rice crop, the farmers of the Nizamabad district go for early sowings, use higher seed rate, apply excess fertilizers and pesticides ultimately ending up with pest and disease problems leading to high cost of cultivation and also the crop getting effected with weather parameters finally effecting the yields. Keeping these problems faced by the farmers the training programmes conducted by KVK Rudrur on management practices in rice crop resulted in good knowledge gain which definitely would help then in adopting in their field.

Conclusion

Training imparts the change in behaviour in terms of knowledge gain to a significant extent. Post training knowledge obtained by the farmers ranging from 22.67 to 94.67 per cent in comparison to pre training knowledge score ranging from 4 to 79.33 per cent shown farmers interest in learning the management aspects in rice for inturn adoption in their fields. This finding clearly emphasised the importance of need based and timely training on the farming community for upgrading the knowledge level on the management aspects in rice crop as the rice is one of the major crops in Nizamabad district grown in 94,307 ha.

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