

EXTENSION PERSONNEL'S KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract: Information and Communication Technologies are emerging as important tools for agricultural extension and it is now essential for every extension worker to have working knowledge of ICT tools and devices like computers, internet, mobile phone, kisan call center, information kiosks, e-mails, expert systems, touch screen systems, and World Wide Web. The present study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. The state department of agriculture extension was purposively selected as a government organisation and eight NGOs working in agriculture with more use of ICTs were also selected from Udaipur district. To select a sample of respondents from the GO, 80 extension personnel were selected on the basis of random sampling technique. Likewise, 80 extension personnel from selected NGOs were taken on the basis of proportionate random sampling. Consequently, a total of 160 respondents (80 from GO & 80 from NGOs) were included in the sample of study. For the purpose of study five commonly used ICT tools namely computer, internet, mobile phone, kisan call centers and information kiosks were selected. It was noted that overall knowledge of respondents about computer, internet, mobile phone, kisan call center and information kiosk was 61.16, 57.22, 75.50, 58.45, and 45.82 per cent respectively. The knowledge of NGOs personnel was significantly higher than GO personnel about ICT tools.

Keywords: ICT, Extension personnel, Agriculture, Knowledge, GO and NGO

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