

CHARACTERISTICS OF FARMERS INFLUENCING USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES

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Abstract: Agricultural education needs to be evolved in a very rapid manner to meet the expectation of the society. Under this situation Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWEX) Programme is an important competence and confidence building programme introduced in all SAUs in India. In this regard a survey was done by interviewing eighty adopted farmers of Parsada village of Arang block of Raipur district of Chhattisgarh. The primary data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule and the statistical analysis was done with the help of computer. It was found that majority of the farmers interviewed were middle aged (27 to 49 years) belonged to other backward class (75.00%) had medium size (78.75%) and nuclear family (71.25%). 43.75 per cent of them had marginal land holding (less than 1 ha), less than half of them (48.75%) had tube well as the source of irrigation; and slightly more than half of them (52.50%) had agriculture alone as their principal occupation. Most of the farmers surveyed (47.50%) had annual income between Rs. 35,001 to 60,000/-. It was observed that a considerable majority of the farmers (77.50%) had medium overall contact with extension personnel. As regard to the overall use of information sources by the respondents, the data revealed that majority of them (43.75%) had medium overall use of information sources. Out of the nine independent variables under study only four variables viz. age, size of land holding, annual income and contact with extension personnel had positive and highly significant correlation with use of information sources; while the variables size of family and occupation had positive and significant relationship with use of information sources. The remaining three variables viz. caste, type of family and sources of irrigation had non significant correlation with use of information sources. On multiple regression analysis it was found that the variables age, annual income and contact with extension personnel had positive and highly significant contribution towards use of information sources; whereas the variables size of family, size of land holding and occupation had positive and significant contribution towards use of information sources.

Keywords : Agriculture education, Farmers, Chhattisgarh, information sources

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