

CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH FOCUSED FARMER TRAINING: A STUDY ON THE OPINION AND PREFERENCES OF FARMERS REGARDING TRAINING PROGRAMMES (ON DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF RICE CULTIVATION)

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Abstract: India is predominantly an agricultural country with agriculture being the major occupation for a majority of people in the rural areas. A state level Farmers fair was organised at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur during February 2011, where 120 participating farmers were randomly interviewed to collect the primary data, with the help of structured interview schedule. The result of the study revealed that most of the farmers surveyed had expressed maximum training need with respect to identification of various diseases and their management and control followed by soil testing, identification of various insect pests their management and control, seed treatment, advanced sowing methods like Medagasker and SRI methods etc. So far as attitude of farmers towards training needs on different aspects of rice cultivation is concerned it was found that majority of the respondents had moderately favourable attitude towards training needs. The results of correlation analysis showed that the variables education, social participation, annual income, scientific orientation, and adoption had positive and highly significant correlation with attitude of farmers towards training needs of different aspects of rice cultivation. On multiple regression analysis it was found that the variables scientific orientation and adoption had positive and highly significant contribution towards attitude of farmers regarding training needs. As regards the number of trainees/farmers perceived to be adequate for participation in a farmer training programme it was revealed that just more than two fifth of the farmers perceived upto 20 participants to be adequate to participate in a training programme. Just more than half of the respondents said that 2-3 day training programme is the most acceptable. A significant majority of the farmers said that the training programme should be organized before the beginning of the *kharif* season. About half of them stated that the training programme should be organized twice in a year. Around three fifth of the farmers found audio-visual method to be most acceptable method for imparting training. Regarding choice of trainer it was found that majority of the farmers preferred Agricultural Scientist to be a trainer in any training programme. Slightly more than three fourth of the farmers favoured village panchayat as the most suitable venue for farmers training. It was also found that majority of the farmers interviewed had not received any training previously.

Keywords: Capacity building, Training, Opinion, Rice, Cultivation

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