RESEARCH ARTICLE

COMMUNICATIONAL MANNERS OF TRIBAL FARMERS FOR *BADI* FARMING IN BASTER PLATEAU OF CHHATTISGARH

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Abstract: The presented research work carried out in Baster plateau of Chhattisgarh, the ex-post facto research method used, 320 respondents taken for the study. Respondents got information regarding *badi* farming from different sources, whereas most of the respondents often got information from progressive farmers and 21.25 per cent respondents obtained information some time from progressive farmers. 9.69 per cent obtained information from NGO's and 0.63 per cent respondents obtained information often, while 13.63 per cent got information sometime. 31.25 per cent respondents often believed and 22.19 per cent respondents sometimes believed on progressive farmers. 2nd highest credible source was their own relatives where, 24.06 per cent respondents' often believed, followed by 19.06 per cent respondents sometimes believed on relatives. Respondents had frequently contacted with RHEOs in which 27.81 per cent of the respondents contacted sometime with RHEOs, followed by 23.44 per cent respondents contacted often with of RHEOs.

Keywords: Communicational manners, Tribal farmers, Chhattisgarh

INTRODUCTION

The concept of sustainable rural livelihoods is increasingly central to the debate about rural development, poverty reduction and environmental management. Households combine their livelihood resources within the limits of their context and use their institutional connections to pursue several different livelihood options. Such options can include various types of production and income-generating activities. Thus, each household can have several possible sources of entitlement, which constitute its livelihood. These entitlements are based on the endowments that a household has and its position in the legal, political and social fabric of the society. The sustainable livelihood approach assumes that any developmental intervention for the rural people should be congruent with their existing livelihood options and ability to adapt the technology. A livelihood security analysis should determine the livelihood options portfolios that different individuals pursue and the factors that determine them. Livelihood options of the respondents were also studied (Rathod, 2007).

Bastar is situated in the southern part of Chhattisgarh. It is spread on 39.06 lakh hectare area. About 63% area is under forest and the tribal community dominates in this biodiverse region. The people are very poor and the livelihood depends on subsistence agriculture, collection of non-timber forest produce (NTFP), labour and small ruminants. The tribes of Bastar region are known for their unique and distinctive tribal culture and heritage in India and all over the world. Each tribal group in Bastar has its own distinct culture and enjoys its own unique traditional living styles. Each tribe has developed its dialects and differs from each other in their costume, eating habits, customs, and traditions and even worships the different form of god and goddess. The tribals of Bastar were also amongst the earliest to work with metal and have expertise in making beautiful. The first livelihood security of the farming community depends on agriculture and the second one depends upon forest and non-timber forest produce. It focused more on the net income of farm families rather than the million tones of farm commodities produced. The government also showed a serious concern of the farmer‟s problems and given special emphasis on the development of rainfed and irrigated agriculture for augmenting food supply and generating employment in rural areas. urines of local goats, votive animals, oil lamps, carts and animals (Patil *et al.*, 2012). A kitchen garden is more than just a vegetable garden – It has vegetables but it also has flowers, fruits and herbs, all fresh and convenient to the nearby mainly kitchen.

Homestead gardening or backyard cultivation is common in India. The majority of kitchen gardening is done for beautification around the home and to meet domestic requirements. In Chhattisgarh, some area is left mostly backside of the home and used for cultivation of vegetables. This space is also used for other domestic requirements like cleaning utensils, bathing, keeping agriculture equipment, fuel and animal drinking water. The excess water after use is diverted towards vegetables that grow without extra care and no separate time devoted to management. Thus what so ever produced shall act as a supplement in family food. These kitchen garden or backyard cultivation is locally known as *Badi* cultivation in

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Chhattisgarh. *Badi* cultivation has tremendous potential for improving the livelihood of tribes. Farmers are growing vegetables and some small units of enterprise viz. poultry, goatry, piggery etc. are maintained for self-consumption as well as selling purposes.

The *Badi* farming situation covers 5% area of the total region of Baster. The soils of *Badi* are Entisols and Inceptisol, fenced, upland and sloppy. To increase the income and livelihood from *Badi*, the various integrated farming system is applied by the tribal farmer. Maximum *Badi* cultivation was seen in Baster plateau of Chhattisgarh, there were many people engaged in *Badi* farming and received additional income.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the Bastar plateau zone of Chhattisgarh state. Bastar plateau comprises of seven districts. Out of this, four districts were selected purposively based on the maximum availability of *bodies*. From each selected district two blocks were selected randomly. In this way, a total of eight blocks was selected for this study. Four villages from each selected block were selected randomly because of the maximum tribal farmers engaged in *badi* cultivation. Ten farmers from each selected village were selected randomly as respondents. In this way total, 320 respondents were selected for the study. The data were collected through a well structured and pre-tested interview schedule; an interview schedule consisting of various types of questions related to the objectives of the study was, therefore developed. Initially, the schedule was developed in English and was then translated to the local language *i.e.* Hindi. The schedule was pre-tested and as per the experience gained during pre-testing the language of some of the questions was suitably worded and was made more understandable and clear and the schedule was then finalized. The data were collected by personal interview method by contacting the respondents (farmers) at their home. The respondents did hesitate to give the required information in the beginning. To get the authentic information the help of local leaders, sarpanch, member of gram panchayat, Kisan Mitra, and Rural Agricultural Extension Officers (RAEOs) were sought and the rapport was developed with the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sources of Information

The data presented in Table 1 and Fig 1 reveals that the information sources obtained by the respondents. As per the mean score order it was observed that the highest score was obtained in case of "Progressive farmers" (rank I), followed by "relatives" (rankII), "friends" (rank III), "television" (rank IV), "radio" (rank V), "agricultural magazines" (rank VI), "neighbor" (rank VII), "Kisan mela" (rank VIII), "Panchayat members" (rank IX), "Farmers tour" (rank X) and "NGO's" (rank XI).

Regarding sources of information received by the respondents about *badi* farming, most of the respondents (35.94%) received information often and 21.25 per cent respondents obtained information some time from progressive farmers. Similarly, 11.56 per cent respondents received information often and 13.75 per cent respondents obtained information some time from neighbor, 16.88 per cent respondents obtained information often and 19.38 per cent respondents received information some time from friends. About 18.75 per cent respondents received information often and 24.38 per cent respondents obtained information sometime from relatives. 15.63 per cent respondents received information often and 12.81 per cent obtained information sometime from agricultural magazines. Similarly, 14.69 per cent respondents obtained information often and 18.13 per cent received information sometime from radio. 11.88 per cent respondents received information often and 26.88 per cent obtained information sometime from television. About 11.88 per cent respondents received information often and 15.00 per cent obtained information from Kisan mela. 6.56 per cent respondents obtained information often and 8.13 per cent received information from Farmers tour. Similarly, 3.13 per cent respondents received information often and 9.69 per cent obtained information from NGO's and 0.63 per cent respondents obtained information often, while 13.63 per cent get information sometime.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to use of sources of information n=320

Sl. No.	Categories	Information level			Mean value	Rank
		Often F (%)	Some time F (%)	Never F (%)		
1	Progressive farmers	115 (35.94)	68 (21.25)	137 (42.81)	0.93	I
2	Neighbor	37 (11.56)	44 (13.75)	239 (74.69)	0.37	VII
3	Friends	54 (16.88)	62 (19.38)	204 (63.75)	0.54	III
4	Relatives	60 (18.75)	78 (24.38)	182 (56.88)	0.63	II

5	Agricultural magazines	50 (15.63)	41 (12.81)	229 (71.56)	0.45	VI
6	Radio	47 (14.69)	58 (18.13)	215 (67.19)	0.49	V
7	Television	38 (11.88)	86 (26.88)	196 (61.25)	0.53	IV
8	Kisan Mela	38 (11.88)	48 (15.00)	234 (73.13)	0.26	VIII
9	Farmers tour	21 (6.56)	26 (8.13)	273 (85.31)	0.24	X
10	NGO's	10 (3.13)	31 (9.69)	279 (87.19)	0.19	XI
11	Panchayat members	2 (0.63)	34 (13.63)	269 (84.06)	0.25	IX

*Data are parenthesis in percentage,

Further, it was noticed that respondents obtained information from progressive farmers and their relatives frequently whereas an opposite was observed with information from panchayat members and NGO,s. Some respondents were also used agriculture magazine, news and media etc.for farming. Gakkhar *et al.* (2010) "found that neighbours (25.33%) were found to be the main source of information source, followed by local leaders (20.00%), newspapers (19.33%), radio (16.00%), television (14.00%) and Panchayat or society officials (5.33"%). Meena *et al.* (2011) revealed that 46.50 per cent of the total farmers were using information sources up to medium level. Only 32 per cent farmers were under low level of information source used and rest 21.50 per cent of them were using information source to a high extent. Singh *et al.* (2012) revealed that the source of information utilized of moth bean growers was found to be significantly associated with the level of knowledge and extent of adoption.

Credibility of sources of information

Regarding credibility of the source of information, Table 2 and Fig 1 reveals that the total of 11 information sources listed in which progressive farmers were accepted as most credible sources of information for *badi* farming. Further, the data reveals that, 31.25 per cent respondents often believed and 22.19 per cent respondents sometimes believed on progressive farmers. 2nd highest credible source was their own relatives where, 24.06 per cent respondents' often believed, followed by 19.06 per cent respondents sometimes believed on relatives. 3rd highest credible resource was radio in which 20.00 per cent respondents often believed and 12.81 per cent respondents sometimes believed in radio. 4th highest credible source was television among respondents in which 26.87 per cent respondents sometimes believed and 18.13 per cent respondents often believed on television. Further, more data elaborates that 5th ranked credible source was friends in which 25.31 per cent respondents sometimes believed on their friends and 10.94 per cent respondents often believed on their friends regarding information of *badi* farming. Agricultural magazines was listed in 6th rank in which 17.19 per cent respondents often believed and 11.25 per cent respondents sometimes believed in this source for the *badi* farming. 7th ranked credible source was neighbours in which 17.50 per cent respondents believed sometimes and 7.81 per cent respondents often believed on neighbours. 8th ranked credible source was kisan mela, in which 14.38 per cent respondents often believed and 12.50 per cent respondents sometimes believed on kisan mela. 9th ranked credible source was farmer's tour amongst respondents in which 8.75 per cent respondents often believed and 5.94 per cent respondents sometimes believed on farmer's tour. 10th ranked credible source was panchayat members, in which 11.88 per cent respondents sometimes believed and 4.06 per cent of the respondents believed often and 11th ranked credible source was NGO's in which 8.13 per cent respondents sometimes believed and 4.69 per cent of the respondents believed often.

Table 2. Distribution of the respondents according to their credibility of sources of information n=320

Sl. No.	Categories	Credibility level			Mean value	Rank
		Often F (%)	Some time F (%)	Never F (%)		
1	Progressive farmers	100 (31.25)	71 (22.19)	149 (46.56)	1.69	I
2	Neighbor	25 (7.81)	56 (17.50)	239 (74.69)	0.71	VII
3	Friends	35	81	204	1.02	V

		(10.94)	(25.31)	(63.75)		
4	Relatives	77 (24.06)	61 (19.06)	182 (56.88)	1.43	II
5	Agricultural magazines	55 (17.19)	36 (11.25)	229 (71.56)	0.99	VI
6	Radio	64 (20.00)	41 (12.81)	215 (67.19)	1.15	III
7	Television	58 (18.13)	86 (26.87)	176 (55.00)	1.05	IV
8	Kisan Mela	46 (14.38)	40 (12.50)	234 (73.13)	0.56	VIII
9	Farmers tour	28 (8.75)	19 (5.94)	273 (85.31)	0.53	IX
10	NGO's	15 (4.69)	26 (8.13)	279 (87.19)	0.41	XI
11	Panchayat members	13 (4.06)	38 (11.88)	269 (84.06)	0.47	X

*Data in parenthesis are percentage,

Further data summarized that, respondents used mainly 11 information sources regarding *badi* farming whereas progressive farmers, relatives and radio were the most credible sources among all the respondents of present study.

Table 3. Distribution of the respondents according to overall sources of information n=320

Sl. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low level (up to 3 score)	94	29.38
2	Medium level (4 to 7 score)	190	59.38
3	High level (above 7 score)	36	11.24

Mean=4.86 S.D.= 2.18

The data presented in Table 3 reveals that, most of the tribal farmers (59.38%) had medium level of source of information, followed by 29.38 per cent had low level and 11.24 per cent respondent had high level of source of information in *badi* farming system.

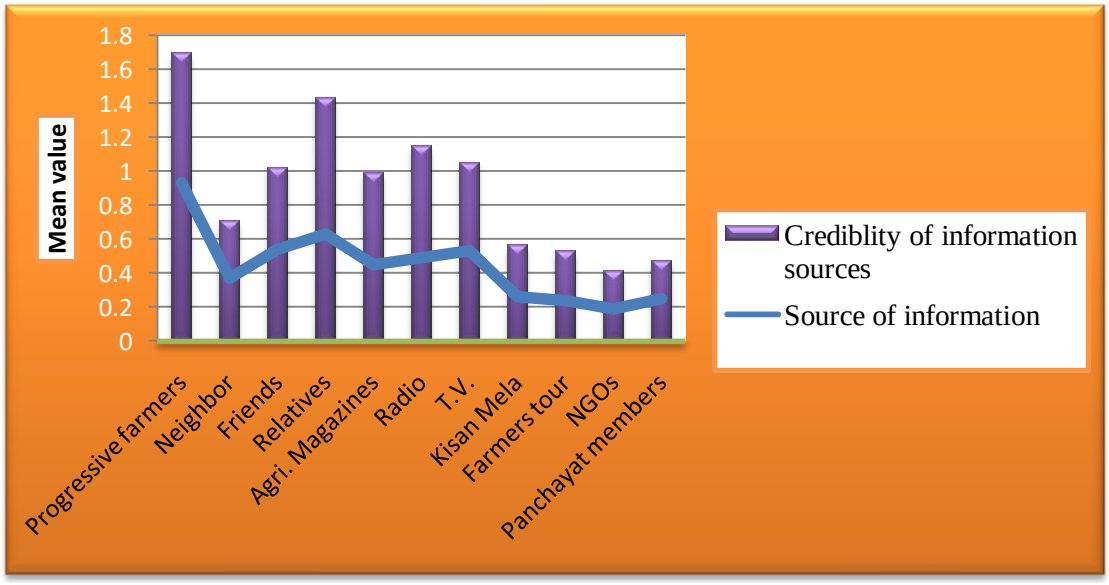

Fig. 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their credibility of sources of information

Contact with extension personnel

Data regarding contact with extension personnel are depicted in Table 4 reveals that, the respondents had frequently contacted with RHEOs in which 27.81 per cent of the respondents contacted sometime with RHEOs, followed by 23.44 per cent respondents contacted often with of RHEOs, whereas, 11.88 per

cent of the respondents were contacted regularly with RHEOs.

2nd more respondents contacted with RAEOs out of which 25.31 per cent respondents contacted often with RAEOs, followed by, 24.06 per cent of the respondents sometime contacted with RAEOs, whereas, 6.88 per cent respondents contacted regularly with RAEOs.

3rd more respondents contacted with the allied sectors (veterinary/fishery/forest) in which 33.13 per cent of the respondents were contacted sometime with allied sector, followed by 12.81 per cent of the respondents were contacted often with allied sectors, whereas, 1.56 per cent respondents contacted regularly with the allied sectors.

4th more respondents contacted with NABARD in which 15.00 per cent of the respondents were sometime contacted and 5.94 per cent of them contacted often.

5th more respondents contacted with scientists in whom 8.75 per cent of the respondents were sometime contacted, followed by, 6.88 per cent of them contacted often and only 0.63 per cent respondents had regularly contacted.

6th more respondents contacted with panchayat in which 7.81 per cent of the respondents were often contacted and 7.50 per cent respondents were sometime contacted.

7th more respondents contacted with NGOs in which 7.19 per cent of the respondents were sometime contacted, followed by 3.44 per cent of them contacted often and 0.31 per cent respondents were regularly contacted.

Table 4. Distribution of the respondents according to their contact with extension personnel n=320

Sl. No.	Categories	Contact level				Mean value	Rank
		Regular F (%)	Often F (%)	Some time F (%)	Never F (%)		
1	RAEOs	22 (6.88)	81 (25.31)	77 (24.06)	140 (43.75)	1.90	II
2	RHEOs	38 (11.88)	75 (23.44)	89 (27.81)	118 (36.88)	2.20	I
3	KVK (Scientist)	2 (0.63)	22 (6.88)	28 (8.75)	268 (83.75)	0.49	V
4	Allied sectors (Veterinary/Fishery/Forest)	5 (1.56)	41 (12.81)	106 (33.13)	168 (52.50)	1.26	III
5	NABARD	0 (0.00)	19 (5.94)	48 (15.00)	253 (79.06)	0.55	IV
6	Panchayat	0 (0.00)	25 (7.81)	24 (7.50)	271 (84.69)	0.48	VI
7	NGOs	1 (0.31)	11 (3.44)	23 (7.19)	285 (89.06)	0.32	VII

*Data are parenthesis in *percentage*,

Table 5. Distribution of the respondents according to their overall extension contact n=320

Sl. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low level (up to 2 score)	94	29.38
2	Medium level (3 to 5 score)	169	52.80
3	High level (above 5 score)	57	17.82

Mean=3.5 S.D.= 1.5

The data given in Table 5 reveals that maximum number of the tribal farmers (52.80%) had medium level of contact with extension personnel, followed by 29.38 per cent respondents had low level of extension contact and 17.82 per cent respondents had high level of extension contact. Gouda *et al.* (2013) observed that half of the "marginal farmers had medium extension contact, whereas 26.67 and 23.33 per cent of them had high and low extension contact, respectively. In" the "case of landless labourers, nearly half (48.33%) had low extension contact, whereas 28.33 and 23.33" had medium and high extension contact. Sharma et al. (2015) reported that the extension contact of majority respondents (68.33%) was in medium category followed by about 18% of the respondents with a low level of extension contact."

CONCLUSION

Study was concluded that maximum respondent often got information from progressive farmer whereas maximum respondents some time got information from television regarding *badi* farming. Respondents got information from different sources but all sources was not credible, they was believed

on progressive farmers and try to follow their cultivation practices. Maximum respondents often contacted to rural horticulture extension officers and least contacted to NGOs. Source of information and their credibility is important to adopt technical practices in their *badi*.

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