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AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NEEDS OF FARMERS IN HYDERABAD KARNATAKA REGION

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to highlight the agricultural information needs of farmers covering total population of 884 farmers. Result discussed on the different type of information required by farmers in their farming activities and their dependent on formal and informal agencies.

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INTRODUCTION

Assessing farmers' information needs is a point of departure of any attempt to improve the availability of, and access to information among farmers. Some information could be contradictory or vague, available from sources of varying credibility, applicable to a number of tasks being performed, and available at varying social as well as economic costs. Users pursuing multiple objectives face a number of challenges in choosing and obtaining the right information conveniently and at a reasonable cost. The rural farmers' community requires various types of information for their day-to-day agricultural activities. But, rural areas in the State lack proper information infrastructure and service centres. Rural farmers' are not getting the right information at the right time, leading to slow development of rural farmers' community in sustainable agricultural development activities. Information support system for rural farmers' community is a prerequisite for sustainable agricultural development in the State of Karnataka.

In a State like Karnataka with agro-based rural economy, rural development can play a major role in national development. Therefore, quick and easy access to information is vital for the development of rural areas.

Objectives

The objectives of the study are to

- To identify the different categories of information required by farmers in their farm activities
- To understand the formal informal openness supporting the farmers in getting their farm needs
- To determine the information required for pre and post harvesting activities and
- To determine the significance of Raitha Samparka Kendra of Hyderabad Karnataka region

METHODOLOGY

A total of 995 farmers are surveyed out of which 884 farmers of six (6) district of Hyderabad Karnataka region responded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table-1 shows the distribution of farmers of Hyderabad Karnataka region who have lived either in native of their own place of migrant from other places.

Almost all the farmers surveyed in this study are from their own native place and only 2.1% are from other places working in the farm. Table-2 shows that more than half of the farmers indicated that that soil testing / preparation (54.1%), selection of seeds (57.7%), weather related information (48.5%), Agriculture credit / facilities (55.0), Live stock husbandry (42.9%), Crop disease and pesticide (42.8%), Manure and fertilizers (48.5%), Pre-post Harvesting allied (41.9%), Marketing information (53.6%), Storage (45.7%), Government plans / schedules / subsidies (46.4%), Technology (59.0%),

Table-1 Distribution of Rural Farmers in Hyderabad Karnataka

District	Lived		Total
	Native	Migrant	
Kalaburagi	182 100.0%	0 .0%	182 100.0%
Bidar	88 96.7%	3 3.3%	91 100.0%
Raichur	146 94.8%	8 5.2%	154 100.0%
Koppal	189 100.0%	0 .0%	189 100.0%
Yadgir	127 94.1%	8 5.9%	135 100.0%
Bellary	133 100.0%	0 .0%	133 100.0%
Total	865 97.9%	19 2.1%	884 100.0%

Table 2: Categories of information for farmers daily farming activities

Sl. No.	Agriculture Information	Very important	Important	Neutral	Not much important	Not important at all
a)	Soil testing / preparation	478 (54.1%)	298 (33.7%)	25 (2.8%)	63 (7.1%)	20 (2.3%)
b)	Selection of seeds	510 (57.7%)	247 (27.9%)	58 (6.6%)	34 (3.8%)	35 (4.0%)
c)	Weather related information	429 (48.5%)	286 (32.4%)	82 (9.3%)	35 (4.0%)	52 (5.9%)
d)	Agriculture credit / facilities	486 (55.0%)	245 (27.7%)	53 (6.0%)	27 (3.1%)	73 (8.3%)
e)	Live stock husbandry	379 (42.9%)	237 (26.8%)	130 (14.7%)	92 (10.4%)	46 (5.2%)
f)	Crop disease and pesticide	378 (42.8%)	345 (39.0%)	77 (8.7%)	10 (1.1%)	74 (8.4%)
g)	Manure and fertilizers	429 (48.5%)	262 (29.6%)	120 (13.6%)	62 (7.0%)	11 (1.2%)
h)	Pre-post Harvesting allied	370 (41.9%)	296 (33.5%)	157 (17.8%)	21 (2.4%)	40 (4.5%)
i)	Marketing information	474 (53.6%)	238 (26.9%)	106 (12.0%)	37 (4.2%)	29 (3.3%)
j)	Storage	404 (45.7%)	248 (28.1%)	147 (16.6%)	21 (2.4%)	64 (7.2%)
k)	Government plans / schedules / subsidies	410 (46.4%)	295 (33.4%)	128 (14.5%)	29 (3.3%)	22 (2.5%)
l)	Technology	522 (59.0%)	188 (21.3%)	105 (11.9%)	54 (6.1%)	15 (1.7%)
m)	Education, Training & Development	493 (55.8%)	266 (30.1%)	56 (6.3%)	8 (0.9%)	61 (6.9%)
n)	Organic farmers	497 (56.2%)	177 (20.0%)	140 (15.8%)	20 (2.3%)	50 (5.7%)

Table-3: Type of information do you require for selecting needs

Sl. No.	Particulars	Yes	No
a.	Sales agent / Field officers	777 (87.9%)	107 (12.1%)
b.	Pesticide dealers	784 (88.7%)	100 (11.3%)
c.	Television / radio	785 (88.8%)	99 (11.2%)
d.	Raitha Sampark Kendra	780 (88.2%)	104 (11.8%)

Table-4: Information needs required on Pre and Post-Harvesting Activities

Sl. No.	Particulars	Yes	No
a.	Pricing	754 (85.3%)	130 (14.7%)
b.	Crop storage	812 (91.9%)	72 (8.1%)
c.	Market situations	785 (88.8%)	99 (11.2%)
d.	New Agro-techniques	788 (89.1%)	96 (10.9%)
e.	New suitable crops	792 (89.6%)	92 (10.4%)
f.	Weather conditions	688 (77.8%)	196 (22.2%)

Table-5: Frequently do you consult following channels/media for getting agriculture information

Sl. No.	Source	Never	Rarely	Occasionally	Often	Very often
a.	Raitha Samparka Kendra	177 (20.0%)	113 (12.8%)	196 (22.2%)	146 (16.5%)	252 (28.5%)

Education, Training & Development (55.8%) and Organic farmers (56.2%) is shown that very important nearly half of the farmers indicated that weather related information (32.4%) is just important rating in scale 4. Thus from the above almost all the farmers consider the different types of information as very important and just important rate in scale 4 and 5 of information. Majority of the farmers approach sales agents (87.9%), pesticide dealers (88.7%), Television (88.8%) and Raitha Sampark Kendra (88.2%) for selecting information needs. It is found from the above table that the information needs required on pre and post harvesting activities are crop storage (91.9%), new suitable crops (89.6%), new agro-techniques (89.1%), market situations (88.8%) and in the last 77.8% of weather conditions shown in the survey.

It is clearly from the table that 38.9% of farmers very often consult shop the agriculture information 29.3% of them most Krishi Mela 28.7% of farmers consult elders and 28.5% consult Raitha Sampark Kendra. In rural areas, government of Karnataka has established Raitha Sampark Kendra with an objective to cater needed information of the farmers. But from results, it is indicated that 20% of farmers never visit, 12.2% really and 22.2% of them occasionally. This indicates the need from strengthening Raitha Sampark Kendra to cater to the needs of farmers

Conclusion

Agriculture development in India should be put on fast track by making farmers aware of new technological advancement and different sources of information in this field it is concluded for questionnaire based survey. Since the government of Karnataka has established Raitha Sampark Kendra, it should play significant role to meet the agricultural needs of farmers.

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