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Research Paper

Hindarances and Strategies for Effective Delivaery and Utilisation of Extension Services in Mahabubnagar District of Andhra Pradesh

Agriculture

KEYWORDS :

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ABSTRACT

Acharya N.G Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU) has been bestowed with the responsibility of teaching, research and extension education. University has reorganized its extension wing by establishing the District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centres (DAATTCs). Ex- post facto research design was followed for carrying out the study. Mahabubnagar district was selected purposively for the study. The villages namely Machinpally from Mahabubnagar mandal; Ibrahimbad from Hanuwada mandal; Gangapuram from Jadcherla mandal; and Manannur from Mirjil mandal were selected four villages randomly by following simple random sampling method. Major problems faced by DAATTC scientists and other stakeholders in delivery of services helped to elicit suggestions. Problems faced by farmers in utilisation of DAATTC services helped to elicit suggestions and strategies.

Introduction

The Acharya N.G Ranga Agricultural University has been bestowed with the responsibility of teaching, research and extension education. Agricultural extension involves the whole gamut of complex interaction between farmers, extension workers and researchers in transfer of technology, eventually resulting in enhancing productivity and profitability to the farmers. Agricultural extension at present is focused on commodity oriented macro – level technologies, the focus of agricultural extension at present needs to be on micro farming situation based on location specifics problem oriented intervention. It is this context that the farmer – scientist interaction brings in high degree of confidence among farmers. In order to reinforce and strengthen this mode of working, the university has reorganized its extension wing by locating the scientists at the district head quarters and operate in close collaboration with all the line department through establishment of District Agricultural Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centres (DAATTCs). Farming situation based extension has been initiated as per the data-base developed.

Accordingly 22 DAATTCs were established during rabi 1998-99 at each of the district headquarter, located either in Agricultural Market Committee or Regional Agricultural Research Station with a multidisciplinary team of four scientists. Major problems faced by DAATTC scientists and other stakeholders in delivery of services helped to elicit suggestions. Problems faced by farmers in utilisation of DAATTC services helped to elicit suggestions and stragies. DAATTC services are effectively delivered or utilised by minimizing these problems which was the ultimate success or result of the DAATTC.

Methodology

Ex- post facto research design was followed for carrying out the study. The State of Andhra Pradesh was selected purposively for the study as the investigator hails from the state. Out of 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh, Mahabubnagar district was selected purposively for the study. Out of 64 mandals in the Mahabubnagar district, The selected mandals were Mahabubnagar, Hanuwada, Jadcherla, and Mirjil. From each mandal, one village was selected at random by following simple random sampling method. The villages namely Machinpally from Mahabubnagar mandal; Ibrahimbad from Hanuwada mandal; Gangapuram from Jadcherla mandal; and Manannur from Mirjil mandal. From each selected village, 30 respondents were selected randomly thus making a sample of 120 respondents for the study. Apart from 120 farmers, a sample of 30 comprising of officials of DAATTC and other stakeholders (line departments, NGOs and input agencies) were interviewed, problems and suggestions were arrived. The base reference period adopted for the study was 2009-2012.

Results and discussion

Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on problems and suggestions elicited by DAATTC scientists and other stakeholders in delivery of services

n=3 n= 27

S. No.	Problems and suggestions	DAATTC scientists			Other stakeholders		
		F (%)	R_1	R_2	F (%)	R_1	R_2
	Administrative problems and suggestions						
1	Inadequate technical staff	3 (100.00)	I		25 (92.59)	III	
	Recruitment of vacant posts	3 (100.00)		I	25 (92.59)		III
2	Power shortage	1 (33.33)	III		22 (81.48)	IV	
	Provision of backup facility	1 (33.33)		III	23 (85.19)		IV
3	Lack of mobile projectors	2 (66.67)	II		27 (100.00)	I	
	Provision of mobile projectors	2 (66.67)		II	16 (59.26)		V
4	Limited finance particularly for transport	2 (66.67)	II		25 (92.59)	III	
	Enhancement of budget allocation towards transport	2 (66.67)		II	26 (96.30)		II
5	Lack of separate funds for information centre	3 (100.00)	I				
	Provision of separate funds for information centre	3 (100.00)		I			
	Technical problem and suggestion						
6	RAWEP is an additional burden	2 (66.67)	II		17 (62.96)	VI	

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S. No.	Problems and suggestions	DAATTC scientists			Other stakeholders		
		F (%)	R_1	R_2	F (%)	R_1	R_2
	Exclusion of RAWEP from DAATTC	2 (66.67)		II	14 (51.85)		VI
	Extension problems and suggestions						
7	Inadequate farmer network	3 (100.00)	I				
	widening the farmers network	3 (100.00)		I			
8	Lack of team work among DAATTC scientists	1 (33.33)	III				
	Training on team building skills	1 (33.33)		III			
9	Poor linkages in provision of information	3 (100.00)	I		26 (96.30)	II	
	Strengthening of linkages in provision of information	3 (100.00)		I	27 (100.00)		I
10	Lack of capacity building programmes				19 (70.37)	V	
	Timely and need based capacity building programmes				27 (100.00)		I

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages. R_1- Ranks of problems, R_2- Ranks of suggestions.

It could be inferred from Table 1 that problems as perceived by DAATTC scientists in delivery of services were inadequate technical staff, lack of separate funds for information centre, inadequate farmer network and poor linkages in provision of information followed by lack of mobile projectors, limited finance particularly for transport and RAWEP is an additional burden in the order of ranking. Least rank was given to power shortage and lack of team work among DAATTC scientists.

Suggestions offered by DAAATTC scientists for effective delivery of services were recruitment of vacant posts, provision of separate funds for information centre, widening of farmers network and strengthening of linkages in provision of information followed by provision of mobile projectors, enhancement of budget allocation towards transport and exclusion of RAWEP from DAATTC in the order of ranking. Least rank for provision of backup facility and training on team building skills.

It could be inferred from Table 1 that problems as perceived by other stakeholders were lack of mobile projectors followed by poor linkages in provision of information. inadequate technical staff, limited finance particularly for transport, power shortage, lack of capacity building programmes and RAWEP is an additional burden were ranked in the order of priority.

Suggestions offered by other stakeholders for effective delivery of services were strengthening of linkages in provision of information, timely and need based capacity building programmes followed by enhancement of budget allocation towards transport, recruitment of vacant posts, provision of backup facility, provision of mobile projectors and exclusion of RAWEP from DAATTC in the order of ranking.

Table 2. Distribution of respondents based on problems and suggestions elicited by farmers in utilisation of DAATTC services

n=120

S. No.	Problems and suggestions	F (%)	R_1	R_2
	Administrative problems and suggestions			
1	Lack of storage facilities	102 (85.00)	III	
	Provision of ware house facilities on custom hiring basis	97 (80.83)		VI
2	Inaccessibility of venue	79 (65.83)	VI	
	Provision of transport facilities to the place of training	102 (85.00)		III
	Technical problems and suggestions			
3	Duplication in services	84 (70.00)	V	
	Programmes should be organized for mutual cooperation	100 (83.33)		IV
4	No provision of budget for travel allowance and dearness allowance in training programmes	107 (89.17)	II	
	Provision of budget for travel allowance and dearness allowance in training programmes	99 (82.50)		V
5	Intensive one day training programme	41 (34.17)	VIII	
	More focus on long duration programmes	41 (34.17)		X
6	Non-availability of location specific technology for resource poor farmers	14 (11.67)	XII	
	Provision of need based and location specific technologies	93 (77.50)		VII
7	Untimely services	39 (32.50)	IX	
	Timely service delivery	78 (65.00)		IX
8	High cost farm machinery	20 (16.67)	XI	
	Low cost farm machinery	108 (90.00)		II
	Extension problems and suggestions			
9	Inadequate farmers network for information exchange	91 (75.83)	IV	
	Widening the farmer network for information exchange	92 (76.67)		VIII
10	Poor scientist to farmer ratio	110 (91.67)	I	
	Allotment of one scientist for a division	112 (93.33)		I
11	No provision of information on successful farmers	46 (38.33)	VII	
	Provision of more exposure visits to successful farmers	25 (20.83)		XII
12	Less contact with DAATTC scientists	31 (25.83)	X	
	Provision of complete information through mobiles	32 (26.67)		XI

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentages.R_1- Ranks of problems, R_2- Ranks of suggestions.

It could be inferred from Table 2 that problems perceived by farmers in utilisation of services were poor scientist to farmer ratio followed by no provision of budget for travel allowance and dearness allowance in training programmes, lack of storage facilities, inadequate farmers network for information exchange, duplication in services, inaccessibility of venue, provision of transport facilities to the place of training, no provision of information on successful farmers, intensive one day training programme, less contact of DAATTC scientists, high cost farm machinery, no provision of information on successful farmers and non-availability of location specific technology for resource poor farmers were ranked in the order of priority.

Suggestions by farmers for effective utilisation of services were allotment of one scientist for a division, provision of low cost farm machinery, provision of transport facilities to the place of training, programmes should be organized for

mutual cooperation, provision of budget for travel allowance and dearness allowance in training programmes, provision of ware house facilities on custom hiring basis, provision of need based and location specific technologies, widening the farmer network for information exchange, timely service delivery, more focus on long duration programmes, provision of complete information through mobiles and provision of more exposure visits to successful farmers were ranked in the order of priority.

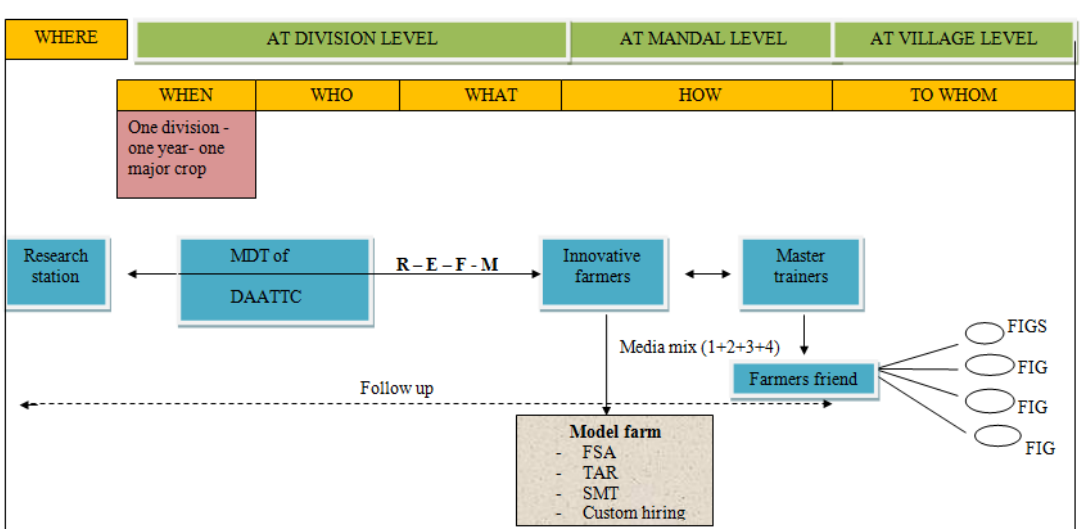
Strategies for Effective Utilisation of Services of DAATTC by Farmers

Strategies were developed based on the results/ responses of farmers for better utilisation of DAATTC services.

1. As majority of the DAATTC scientists felt that inadequate technical staff was hindering effective service delivery, concerned authorities in university should concentrate more on recruitment of posts. Moreover, as farmers felt that poor scientist to farmer ratio was hindering their utilisation, university needs to allot at least one scientist for a division in a year have to focussed approach on single crop during the period.
2. The concerned university authorities need to consider and provide adequate budget for establishment of information centre, training hall, purchase mobile projectors and provide adequate transport facilities as suggested by the various stakeholders in the study.
3. University technologies were disseminated by DAATTC scientists and other stakeholders to farmers. This system restricted only to Research-Extension-Farmer linkages so the linkages should be extended further to market for provision of market intelligence as majority of farmers of farmers had medium market orientation.
4. As the information coverage pertaining to aspects like climate change and natural resource management was less, hence utilisation was also found to be less. Hence, DAATTC scientists should be given practical training in these advanced areas.
5. As strengthening of coordination was a suggestion offered by stakeholders, a common platform to have regular interaction between DAATTC scientists and heads of line departments can be created at least once in a week through video/teleconference so as to review and monitor the implementation of extension activities in the district.
6. As majority of the farmers felt that the need for widening of network for information exchange, the DAATTC can select innovative farmers ten from division i.e. who in turn trains master trainers (20 from mandal) and farmer friends of ATMA as paraprofessionals to promote the farming system approach by farmer interest groups of ATMA.
7. As majority of farmers felt that as observability of slow moving i.e., maintenance of refugee crop, seed treatment, bio fertilizer applications, biological control measures usage in cotton crop was less, so was their adoption. Hence, DAATTC scientists and other stakeholders have to concentrate on these aspects by creating awareness among the farmers, finally convince them through media mix of demonstrations, field days, minikit trials, video presentations and conducting group meetings regularly in model farm of innovative farmers fields. For innovative farmers honorarium should be paid as they in turn train 20 master trainers in mandal to train farmer friends of ATMA who in turn trains farmer interest groups of ATMA at village level. Hence, DAATTC has to link up with the ATMA network in transfer of technology. Moreover, exposure visits to successful fields was suggested by farmers in the study. This method may be considered and innovative farmers may be utilised for this purpose.
8. Timely follow up of each and every technology transferred was most important to be attended by DAATTC scientists to facilitate technology assessment and refinement which helps in effective utilisation.
9. DAATTC in coordination with line departments has to facilitate the custom hiring centre at innovative farmers level which enables effective utilisation.

Conclusion

The major problems and suggestions expressed by the DAATTC scientists, other stakeholders and farmers can also be looked into by the university officials in order to enable effective delivery and utilisation of DAATTC services. Finally, it can be concluded that the utilisation of DAATTC services helps the farmers in increasing the level of knowledge, skill and adoption of technology. They could be made further effective if the officials can implement some of the findings and suggestions of the present investigation.



MDT- Multi Disciplinary Team, R-E-F-M- Research- Extension-Farmer-Market, 1 - Demonstrations, 2 - Field days, 3 – Minikit trials, 4 – Video presentation. FSA-Farming System Approach, TAR- Technology Assessment and Refinement, SMT- Slow Moving Technologies, FIG- Farmer Interest Groups.

Strategies for effective utilisation of services of DAATTC by farmers

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