



## Participation of Farmers in Extension Activities of Extension Centres

### KEYWORDS

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**ABSTRACT** Ex-post facto research design was followed for carrying out the study in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Sample comprised of 120 farmers selected randomly from four randomly selected mandals of Mahaboobnagar district which was a purposive selection. Majority of the respondents had medium participation in DAATTC activities followed by low and high respectively.

### INTRODUCTION

Technological innovation has been a key element in the growth of agriculture throughout the world. But the professionals in agricultural development are gradually realizing that modern agricultural science and technology has a certain bias which causes a different impact on development in different regions and areas. Due to the growth of the population and the low price for agricultural produce, there is an urgent need to develop a holistic/ integrated approach to combat the problems of agricultural production and productivity and find out viable solutions to satisfy the various needs of the people of the developing countries. Transfer of agricultural technology through Research – Extension – Farmers systems contributed tremendously in increasing agricultural production in India and also its transfer mechanism has been very purposeful and result-oriented.

The present study was undertaken to study the utilisation of services of DAATTC by farmers which includes right technology being delivered to right people in right way at right time through right channel. It is possible to obtain successful results from the research only when it is conducted based on the needs and interests of the targeted people. The overall development of farmers can be possible through effective transfer of technology system.

### MATERIALS & METHODS

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.

Participation is operationalised as the number and nature of participation of the farmers in different DAATTC activities. Number- It is operationalised as actual number of activities attended by the respondent. A score of one is given to each of the DAATTC activities attended by individual. Nature of participation is studied in terms of active and passive participation. Active participation is operationalised as interaction of respondents with scientists for further confirmation. Passive participation is operationalised as non interaction with scientists for further confirmation. A score of two for active participation and a score of one assigned for passive participation.

The activities were refinement of technologies, diagnostic visits, training programmes, demonstrations, visit to information centre, interaction with scientists, kisan melas, field days, study tours, group meetings and exhibitions. The total participation score of respondent was obtained by adding scores on number and nature of activities. Obtained maximum and minimum scores were 91 and 19 respectively.

**Categorization** : Overall participation in all activities of DAATTC by the respondents were grouped into following three categories i.e. low, medium and high participation based on inclusive class interval technique.

Category	Range
Low	19-43
Medium	43-67
High	67-91

The respondents were grouped into three categories as low, medium and high participation in each of the DAATTC activities based on inclusive class interval technique.

Participation in DAATTC activities/ services	Range		
	Low	Medium	High
Training programmes	0-5	5-10	10-15
Demonstrations	0-3	3-6	6-9
Refinement of technologies	0-4	4-8	8-12
Diagnostic visits in own fields and other farmers fields	0-5	5-10	10-15
Visiting the information centre which is maintained by DAATTC	0-9	9-18	18-27
Kisan melas	0-2	2-4	4-6
Field days	0-3	3-6	6-9
Study tours	0-2	2-4	4-6
Group meeting	0-5	5-10	10-15
Exhibitions	0-2	2-4	4-6
Listening / reading to information presented through mass media	0-3	3-6	6-9

### RESULTS & DISCUSSION

**Table.1 Distribution of respondents according to their overall participation in DAATTC activities n= 120**

S. No	Category	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Low	41	34.17
2	Medium	61	50.83
3	High	18	15.00

**Table.2 Distribution of respondents according to their activity-wise participation n= 120**

S. No.	Participation in DAATTC activities/ services	Respondents					
		Low		Medium		High	
		F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Training programmes	43	35.83	52	43.34	25	20.83

2	Demonstrations	21	17.50	41	34.17	58	48.33
3	Refinement of technologies	45	37.50	39	32.50	36	30.00
4	Diagnostic visits	30	25.00	31	25.83	59	49.17
	Own fields	10	8.33	14	11.67	23	19.17
	Other farmers fields	20	16.67	17	14.16	36	30.00
5	Visiting the information centre which is maintained by DAATTC	51	42.50	46	38.33	23	19.17
6	Kisan melas	63	52.50	34	28.33	23	19.17
7	Field days	49	40.83	39	32.50	32	26.67
8	Study tours	43	35.83	39	32.50	38	31.67
9	Group meeting	29	24.17	35	29.17	56	46.66
10	Exhibitions	36	30.00	55	45.83	29	24.17
11	Listening / reading to information presented through Mass media	56	46.66	38	31.67	26	21.67

Majority of the respondents had medium participation in DAATTC activities as seen from Table.1. This result could be supported from the findings of Table.2 wherein majority of respondents had medium participation in exhibitions (45.83%) and training programmes (43.34%) respectively. Majority of respondents had low participation in kisan melas (52.50%), listening / reading to information presented through mass media (46.66%), visiting the information centre (42.50%), field days (40.83%), refinement of technologies (37.50%) and study tours (35.83%) respectively.

Majority of respondents exhibited high participation in demonstrations, diagnostic visits and group meetings. Demon-

strations attracted the respondents as the skills were taught and technical aspect of practice was shown. As diagnostic visits were more problem based so their participation was higher than that in other farmers fields, who had crop specific problems in the area. In group meetings also there was high participation as the respondents got convinced quickly of issues in these platforms.

Majority of respondents had medium participation in training programmes and exhibitions as DAATTC takes up these activities keeping the whole district in view and hence the respondents responded well to these activities.

Low participation of respondents was in activities viz. in refinement of technologies, visiting the information centre, kisan melas, field days, study tours and listening / reading to information presented through mass media. With reference to refinement of technology their participation was low as on-farm trials conducted in the area under study were less as the DAATTC centre has to cover entire district and hence might have conducted in other areas. With respect to visiting information centre their participation was low as the centre being located at head quarter was not in their proximity. The same reason holds for their low participation in other activities mentioned above.

### CONCLUSION

As the information coverage pertaining to aspects like climate change and natural resource management was less, hence participation of farmers in the activities was also found to be less. Hence, DAATTC scientists should be given practical training in these advanced areas to encourage their participation in activities of extension centres of University.

### REFERENCE

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