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Profile of the farmers in disadvantaged districts of Marathwada region in relation with indigenous technology knowledge

SP Dhoke, JV Ekale and PS Kapse

Abstract
The present study was conducted with the specific objective of "Profile of the farmers in disadvantaged districts of Marathwada region in relation with Indigenous technology knowledge". The present study was conducted in Hingoli and Nanded district of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state which was selected purposively for the research study. Both districts identified as the disadvantaged districts by the Planning Commission. Out of these two districts total six Tahsils has been chosen for the research study on the basis of disadvantaged Talukas identified by the Planning Commission. Four villages from each Taluka were selected randomly for the study.
The total villages for the study were 24. Ten respondents from each village were selected randomly for the study and prepared a sample of 240 respondents. Ex- post facto research design was adopted in this study. The data were collected with the help of pretested interview schedule from the respondents as per their convenience at their home or farms. For this study the variables taken namely age, education, family size, family type, land holding, annual income, and farming experience, and social participation, source of information, economic motivation, risk orientation, extension contact, and knowledge. The statistical methods and tests such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, co-efficient of correlation, multiple regressions, and path analysis were used for the analysis of data. In relation analysis, it was observed from that the independents variables namely age, type of family, social participation, source of information, farming experience, knowledge were positively and significantly related with overall utility perception of indigenous technology knowledge However, education, family size, Land holding, annual income, extension contact, risks orientation, economic motivation could not establish any relationship with overall utility perception of indigenous technology knowledge.

Keywords: profile, indigenous technology knowledge, utility perception

Introduction
Agriculture has a cultural background of over thousands of years. It is true that the history of agriculture development is closely associated with the culture of human beings and development in science and technology. It is always said that agriculture is the culture of all cultures. Since time immemorial man has started cultivation of crops and domestication of animals in the process of shifting to settled civilization. He diligently carried out experiments with plants and animals, tools and implements to optimize resource use and improves production.
Indigenous knowledge develops through ongoing experimentation and is usually handed down from one generation to the next through oral histories, myths, songs, and legends. In some regions, this kind of knowledge is handed down through oral and written stories to a key member of the society and is not widely shared. As such, this information may be considered sacred and taboo, retained only in the memory of key persons in the community such as clan leaders or elders. This practice makes such knowledge less accessible. Indigenous communities have a unique way of transferring this knowledge, usually through direct face-to-face contact. (Zulfadrim *et al*., 2019) [6].
Indigenous knowledge is locality specific knowledge and practices in agriculture, natural resource management, health, other areas; developed by indigenous people and farmers over Century's. According to Warren (1991) [5] Indigenous knowledge is local knowledge that is unique to given culture or society. Such knowledge is passed down from generation to generation in many societies; by word of mouth. It is acquired by local people through accumulations of experiences, informal experiments and intimate understanding of the environment in a given culture. It has value not only for the culture in which it evolves but also

for scientists and planners striving to improve conditions in rural areas.

The indigenous knowledge pertaining to agriculture, animal health care, food preservation and storage are still in vogue even after the development of modem technologies. Farmers of different regions especially in remote areas have wide range of indigenous technological knowledge. It is mostly with senior veteran farmers and ruralities. Indigenous technological knowledge related to different farming systems have certain useful and situation specific characteristics namely holistic world view; community based farming; optimal use of resources; reliance on genetic and physical diversity; soil protection and recycling natural nutrients; risk minimization; site specific techniques.

In the present agricultural scenario when the scientists and planners are stressing to achieve 'Ever Green Revolution', the indigenous technological knowledge has a bigger role to offer. ITK by virtue of its inherent characteristics such as maximum reliance on locally available materials, genetic and physical diversity, and holistic approach, capable of meeting multiple needs based on cultural values of the community is vital for preserving the agro-ecosystem (s) and maintaining natural resources in a far efficient way. Thus, it is useful in ensuring the sustainability of agro ecosystem. As ITK is capable of meeting multiple needs based on cultural values of the community, it is useful for confidence building and empowerment of the people who holds it.

Indigenous knowledge, therefore, becomes important, which would otherwise be lost soon, not be regained at any cost. Abstracting the science of indigenous knowledge system would certainly help us to understand the concepts and practices depicting the elements of sustainability to integrate with the modern information system, for efficient resource management. Again, it is becoming evident through many studies that, the traditional practices are still in vogue and are indicative of the fact that they have scientific rationality for development.

Methodology

The study was conducted purposively in Hingoli and Nanded districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. Both districts identified as the disadvantaged districts by the Planning Commission. Selections of the talukas were done from the selected districts. At present there are five talukas in Hingoli district and sixteen talukas in Nanded district. From both districts total 21 talukas counted, among this out of 21 talukas 06 talukas selected for the study. Both Talukas were selected purposively on the basis of disadvantaged talukas identified by the Planning Commission. Four villages from each taluka were selected randomly for the study. The total villages for the study were 24. Ten respondents from each village were selected randomly for the study and prepared a sample of 240 respondents. Taking into consideration the objectives of the study, a detailed interview schedule was prepared with the help and technical guidance from available literature, teaching staff of Department of Extension Education. The data were collected with the help of pre-designed interview schedule by contacting the sample of respondents personally. Ex-post facto research design was adopted in this study, statistically analyzed by using statistical techniques like Mean, Median, Mode, Frequency and percentage, Standard deviation, Pearson's correlation coefficient (r), multiple regression analysis, Path analysis.

Objective

To study the profile of Profile of the farmers in disadvantaged districts of Marathwada region in relation with Indigenous technology knowledge

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to personal and socio-economic characteristics

Sr. No.	Characteristics/Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age (Years)		
a)	Young(Upto36)	41	17.09
b)	Middle(37 to 60)	163	67.91
c)	Old(61 and above)	36	15.00
2.	Education		
a)	Illiterate	70	29.16
c)	Can read only	5	2.09
d)	Can read and write	30	12.50
e)	Primary school (1^{st} to 4^{th} standard)	90	37.50
f)	Middle school (5^{th} to 7^{th} standard)	32	13.34
g)	High school (8^{th} to 10^{th} standard)	10	4.16
h)	College level	3	1.25
3.	Family size		
a)	Small (up to 4)	69	28.75
b)	Medium(5 to 7)	129	53.75
c)	Big(8 and above)	42	17.50
4.	Type of family		
a)	Nuclear Type	85	35.41
b)	Joint Type	155	64.59
5.	Land holding		
a)	Marginal (up to 1.0 ha.)	141	58.75
b)	Small (1.1 to 2.0 ha.)	72	30.00
c)	Semi medium (2.1 to 4.0ha)	27	11.25
d)	Medium (4.1 to 10.0ha)	0	0
e)	Big (Above 10.01ha)	0	0
6.	Annual Income		
a)	Low (Up to Rs. 60068 /-)	179	74.58
b)	Medium (Rs.60069/- to Rs. 198989/-)	43	17.92

c)	High (Rs. 198990/- and Above)	18	7.50
7	Farming experience		
a)	Low(up to 13)	43	17.92
b)	Medium(14 to 37)	151	62.92
c)	High(38 and above)	46	19.16
7.	Source of information		
a)	Low (Up to 20)	45	18.75
b)	Medium (21 to 26)	160	66.67
c)	High (27 and above)	35	14.58
8.	Social participation		
a)	Low (Up to 1)	55	22.91
b)	Medium (2 to 4)	143	59.59
c)	High (5 and above)	42	17.50
9.	Extension contact		
a)	Low (Up to 2)	60	25.00
b)	Medium (3 to 7)	138	57.50
c)	High (8 and above)	42	17.50
10.	Risk orientation		
a)	Low (Up to 16)	140	58.33
b)	Medium (17 to 21)	52	21.67
c)	High (22 and above)	48	20.00
11	Economic motivation		
a)	Low (Up to 13)	51	21.25
b)	Medium (14 to 19)	149	62.08
c)	High (20 and above)	40	16.67
12	Knowledge		
a)	Low (Up to 33)	33	13.75
b)	Medium (34 to 35)	122	50.83
c)	High (36 and above)	85	35.42

Conclusion

The distributional analysis pertaining to age of respondents indicated that relatively higher proportion (67.91%) of the respondents belonged to middle age group. It was found that maximum number of respondents (37.50%) was having primary school level of education. It was found that maximum number of respondents (53.75%) were from medium category of family size having family members five to seven. The study indicated that more than half (54.00%) of the respondents were from nuclear type of family. The study indicated that relatively higher proportion (58.75%) of the respondents were from marginal land holding possessing 1.0 ha. It was observed that, majority (74.58%) of respondents had low annual income i.e. (up to 60068 Rs). It was observed that, majority (62.92%) of respondents had medium farming experience i.e. (14 to 37 yr). More than half (59.59%) of respondents had medium social participation. It was observed that, majority (66.67%) of respondents had medium source of information. More than half of the respondents (57.50%) were found in the medium category of extension participation. It was observed that, more than half (58.33%) of respondents had low risk orientation. More than half (62.08%) of respondents had medium economical motivation. It was observed that, majority (50.83%) of respondents had medium knowledge.

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