

## EXTENT OF ADOPTION OF TECHNIQUES OF SCIENTIFIC VEGETABLE CULTIVATION BY TRAINED FARM MEN AND WOMEN

Application of scientific technology in the cultivation of vegetables will help to better the present yield and thereby bring more income to the farmers. Keeping this in view the *Krishi Vigyan Kendra*, Rice Research Station, Pattambi has organised eight training courses on scientific method of vegetable cultivation for the farmers of Pattambi and Trithala Block areas during 1979 and 1980. The main objective of the training course was to motivate farmers to raise nutritional gardens in homesteads and increase vegetable production by application of scientific techniques.

Of the eight courses, three courses were exclusively conducted for members of *Mahila Samajam*. The duration of the course was three days each. This study was taken up to assess the extent of adoption of various techniques of scientific vegetable cultivation by trained farm men and women and to find out the usefulness of various techniques taught to them.

A structured questionnaire consisting of 12 questions including one open ended question was prepared. The open ended question was intended for recording suggestions for the further improvements of the training course. The data were collected four months after the training course allowing the required time for taking one crop of vegetable in their own farms. The questionnaires were mailed to all 126 trained farm men and women but only 87 of them responded. Out of them 53 were farm women. The data collected were analysed and results interpreted.

The respondents were asked to indicate whether the different techniques of scientific vegetable cultivation taught to them were actually put into practice in their farms. The responses are presented in Table 1.

Table 1

Extent of adoption of various techniques of scientific vegetable cultivation

Name of technique	Percentage of adoption by	
	Farm men (n=34)	Farm women (n=53)
Cultural practices	62.00	68.00
Layout of model nutrition garden	53.00	22.00
Plant protection measures	48.00	72.00
Selection of seeds and nursery practices	38.00	34.00

It could be seen from Table 1 that among various improved techniques taught, plant protection measures and cultural practices were adopted by majority of farm women (72% and 68% respectively) compared with farm men (48% and 62% respectively). In the case of layout of model nutrition garden and selection of seeds and nursery practices, adoption was more on the part of men (53% and 38% respectively). Layout of model nutrition garden as taught, was attempted only by 22 percent of the women trainees.

The respondents were also asked to rank the major techniques of scientific vegetable cultivation in which both theoretical and practical training imparted to them in the order of usefulness. The responses are presented in Table 2.

Table 2  
Usefulness of various techniques of scientific vegetables cultivation as perceived by the trained farm men and women

Name of topic	Rank order by	
	Farm men	Farm women
Plant protection	1	2
Nutritive value of vegetables	2	1
Cultural practices	3	5
Seed selection and nursery maintenance	4	3
Layout of model nutrition garden	5	6
Seed multiplication	6	4

It could be seen from Table 2 that plant protection was the most useful topic for the farm men followed by nutritive value of vegetables, cultural practices, nursery maintenance, layout of model nutrition garden and seed multiplication. This is in conformity with the findings of Gopal and Subramanyan (1979) that nearly three-fourths of the farmers wanted training in plant protection. On the other hand the farm women expressed that nutritive value of vegetables was the most useful topic for them followed by plant protection, seed selection and nursery maintenance, seed multiplication, cultural practices and layout of model nutrition garden.

With regard to the suggestions for further improvement of the course, majority (55%) of the respondents suggested to allot more time for practicals instead of the present allotment of 6 h of theory and 9 h of practicals for the training course. This evidently shows the interest of the farmer trainees to learn the skills by actually doing in the field.

സംഗ്രഹം

കേരള കാർഷിക സർവകലാശാലയുടെ കീഴിലുള്ള പട്ടാമ്പി കൃഷി വിജ്ഞാന കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ കർഷകർക്കുവേണ്ടി നടത്തിയ "ശാസ്ത്രീയ രീതിയിലുള്ള വേനൽക്കാല പച്ചക്കറികൃഷി" പരിശീലനത്തെക്കുറിച്ച് നടത്തിയ പഠനത്തിൽ താഴെപറയുന്ന വസ്തുതകൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കി. പുരുഷന്മാരിൽ 53 ശതമാനവും സ്ത്രീകളിൽ 22 ശതമാനംപേരും മാതൃകാ പോഷകാഹാരത്തോടുമുണ്ടാക്കി. പുരുഷന്മാർക്ക് സസ്യസംരക്ഷണം എന്ന വിഷയവും സ്ത്രീകൾക്ക് പച്ചക്കറിയുടെ പോഷകമൂല്യം എന്ന വിഷയവുമാണ് ഏറ്റവും പ്രയോജനകരമായി തോന്നിയത്. ഭാവിയിൽ ഇത്തരം പരിശീലനം നടത്തുമ്പോൾ പ്രായോഗിക പഠനത്തിന് ഇപ്പോഴത്തേതിലും കൂടുതൽ സമയം നൽകണമെന്ന് അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടു.

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Reference

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