

KNOWLEDGE UTILIZATION BY FARMER TRAINEES ON PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES OF FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

Need based training to the farmers on improved agricultural technology has become an important strategy in its diffusion. Menon and Duraiswamy (1975) have found that group contact methods like agricultural meetings and training were found responsible for diffusing improved agricultural practices. Patil (1972) has found that more than half of the respondent farmers had adopted adequate dose of fertilizers, better seeds and plant protection measures as a result of training. Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established to develop skills through the hard way of learning by doing. Post training evaluation is of utmost importance to assess the achievements and pitfalls and to reorient the future programmes. Such evaluation will also serve as a clock on the utilization of knowledge by the trained farmers.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rice Research Station, Pattambi has organised seven training courses to farmers and farm youth on propagation techniques and nursery management of fruit and ornamental plants during 1979-80. This study was conducted to evaluate the knowledge utilization by the trained farmers, A structured questionnaire consisting of 15 questions including one open ended question was prepared and mailed to the trained farmers. The open ended question was intended for suggesting further improvements to the courses. All the 112 farmers who had undergone the training were included in the study, but only 83 of them responded.

All the 83 respondents reported that they had clearly understood the various propagation techniques and those were useful in their own field conditions. Their preferences to individual propagation techniques are presented in Table 1.

Table 1
Preference to propagation techniques by trained farmers

Sl. No.	Propagation techniques	Rank scores	Rank order
1	Grafting	289	1
2	Layering	257	2
3	By roots, slips and suckers	209	3
4	Budding	184	4

It could be seen from Table 1 that grafting was the propagation technique most preferred by the farmers. The other methods of propagation in the order of preference were layering, root cuttings, slips and suckers and budding.

The respondents were asked to indicate the number of attempts made under each technique on various fruit and ornamental plants and the successful attempts. The data are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

Adoption of propagation techniques by the trainees

Sl. No.	Plant	Technique	Number of		Per cent
			Attempt	Success	
	Mango	Approach grafting	258	124	48.05
2	Rose	'T' budding	237	106	44.74
3	Crotons	Air layering	168	8	58.33
4	Guava	Air layering	134	94	70.14
5	Hibiscus	'T' budding	87	47	54.02
6	Jack	Approach grafting	25	10	40.00
7	Cashew	Shield budding	16	6	37.50
8	Lime	Ground layering	14	9	64.28
9	Breadfruit	Root cuttings	9	3	33.33

From Table 2 it could be seen that different crops were selected for utilizing the knowledge gained. Highest number of attempts were made in the technique of approach grafting in mango (258) followed by T budding in rose (237) air-layering in crotons (168) and guava (134). Other attempts on other plants were relatively lower.

Utilization of knowledge was studied on three aspects namely, use of knowledge, its communication and adoption. It is interesting to note that 72 per cent of the farmers put the knowledge into practice in their own farm. Eighteen per cent thought of making use of it for self employment. Besides adopting it in their own farm, two-third of them have communicated the techniques to an average of five farmers around their homesteads.

The findings that all the farmers properly understood the techniques and they applied the skills in their own farms indicate the necessity for continuing such need based training courses.

As suggestions for futher improvement of the training courses, almost all the respondents suggested a follow-up visits by the staff of K, V. K. to the home gardens to give further encouragements.

സംഗ്രഹം

പട്ടാമ്പി കൃഷി വിജ്ഞാന കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ കർഷകർക്കായി നടത്തിയ ഫലവ്യക്തങ്ങളുടെയും അലങ്കാര ചെടികളുടെയും വംശവർദ്ധനവ് നേടുന്നതിനുള്ള പരിശീലനം വിലയിരുത്തിയപ്പോൾ താഴെ പറയുന്ന വസ്തുതകൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചു. പരിശീലന പരിപാടി എല്ലാവർക്കും ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായി തോന്നി, അവ പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ എല്ലാവരും ശ്രമിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. പരിശീലനം നേടിയവരിൽ 18

ശതമാനം കർഷകർ ഫലവ്യക്ഷ്ണ തൈകളുടെ ഉൽപ്പാദനം ഒരു ഉപതൊഴിലായി സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു. മാവിലെ ഒട്ടിക്കൽ സമ്പ്രദായമാണ് പരിശീലനാർത്ഥികൾ ഏറ്റെടുക്കുകയും കൂടുതൽ പരീക്ഷിച്ചു നോക്കിയത്.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Rice Research Station
Pattambi-679306

O. Abdul Rahiman Kunju
S. Mothilal Nehru

References

- Menon, K. R. and Duraiswamy, K. N. 1975. Effectiveness of extension methods in the diffusion of improved agricultural practices among small farmers *Madras agric. J.* 62, 609-614.
- Patil, R, B., 1972. Impact of institutional farmers training programme. M. Sc. (Ag) thesis, Dept. of Extn. Edn, N. M. College of Agriculture, Navsari.