

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 trainings were found responsible for diffusing the practices such as improved implements, improved seeds and use of fertilizers. 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 impart such training courses through the hardway 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 check on the utilization of knowledge by the trained farmers.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Rice Research Station, Pattambi has organised two training courses on propagation techniques and nursery management of fruit and ornamental plants. This study was conducted to evaluate the knowledge utilization by the trainees through mailed questionnaires. All the eighteen farmers from Trithala and Keezhayoor villages, who had undergone the training were included in the study, but only fifteen of them responded.

All the farmer trainees reported that they had clearly understood the various propagation techniques and those were useful in their own field conditions. This was further confirmed by the fact that all of them had attempted to put into practice what they have understood,

The Table-1 reveals that grafting is the propagation technique which is most preferred by the farmers. The other methods of propagation in the order of preference are layering, propagation by root cuttings, slips and suckers and budding.

Utilization of knowledge was studied on three aspects namely, use of knowledge its communication and adoption. It is interesting to note that 87 per cent of the farmers put the knowledge into practice in their own farm, Twentyfive 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 studied by them to an average of five farmers around their homesteads.

Regarding the adoption of the techniques, 60 per cent of the attempts were successful indicating an attainment of skill to the extent of 60 per cent in the propagation techniques of fruit and ornamental plants (Table-2).

From Table-2, it is obvious that different crops were selected for utilising the knowledge gained. Highest number of attempts were done in the technique

Table-1
Preference to propagation techniques by trained farmers

Sl. No.	Propagations technique	Remark score	Rank order
1	Grafting	47	1
2	Layering	45	2
3	By roots, slips and suckers	29	3
4	Budding	28	4

Table-2
Adoption of propagation techniques by the trained farmers

Sl. No.	Plant	Technique	Number of		
			Attempt	Success	Percent
1	Mango	Approach grafting	60	32	53.33
2	Crotons	Air-layering	52	39	75.00
3	Rose	'T' budding	41	16	39.02
4	Guava	Air-layering	30	23	76.67
5	Hibiscus	'T' budding	7	4	57.14
6	Lime	Layering	7	4	57.14
7	Bread fruit	Root cuttings	6	3	50.00
8	Rose	Layering	5	2	40.00
9	Jack	Approch grafting	5	4	80.00
10	Cashew	Shield budding	1	1	100

of approach grafting in Mango (60) followed by Crotons (52), Rose (41); Guava (30) and the other attempts were relatively lower.

The findings that all the farmers properly **under-stood** the techniques and they applied the **skills** in their owe farms indicate the necessity for continuing such need based training courses.

സംഗ്രഹം

പട്ടാമ്പി കൃഷിവിത്ത് ജന കേന്ദ്രത്തിൽ കർഷകർക്കായി നടത്തിയ ഫലവൃക്ഷങ്ങളുടെയും അലങ്കാര ചെടികളുടെയും വംശവർദ്ധനാഹിതീ യെക്കുറിച്ച് നടത്തിയ പരിശീലനം വിലയിരുത്തിയപ്പോൾ താഴെപ്പറയുന്ന വസ്തുതകൾ മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ സധിച്ചു,

- 1 പരിശീലനപരിപാടി എല്ലാപേർക്കും ഉപയോഗപ്രദമായി തോന്നി അവ പ്രദേശത്തിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരാൻ എല്ലാവർക്കും ശ്രമിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു.
- 2 പരിശീലനം നേടിയവരിൽ 25 ശതമാനം കർഷകർ ഫലവൃക്ഷതൈകളുടെ ഉൽപാദനം ഒരു ഉപാതാഴിലായി സ്വീകരിക്കുവാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നു.
- 3 മാവിലെ ഒട്ടിക്കൽ സമ്പ്രദായമാണ് പരിശീലനാർത്ഥികൾ ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ പഠിക്കിച്ചു നോക്കിയത്.

References

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