

IMPACT OF FARM WOMEN'S TRAINING ON THE ADOPTION OF IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

It is not only the farmers but the women in the house play an important role in farming and farm management practices. Disregarding their opinions the farmers will not be able to undertake any activity to improve the farm or home. Therefore, training of farm women is as important as training of farmers. At present many training programmes are being conducted for farm women in Kerala to give technical knowledge related to scientific agriculture. This study was undertaken to evaluate the impact of farm women's training programme conducted in Thiruvananthapuram district.

Two groups of trained farm women consisting of 40 each, one group trained at the first half of 1979-80 (Group A) and the other at the second half of 1979-80 (Group B) at five day training camps conducted by the Farmers' Training Centre, Thiruvananthapuram were selected. A control group of 40 farm women who had not undergone any training and had less chances of contact with trained farm women (Group C) was also selected for the study. The data were collected through personal interviews.

The adoption of improved agricultural practices was measured by using the method of Wilkening (1952). A list improved agricultural practices for the "major crops like paddy, coconut, banana, tapioca, vegetables and fodder crops, covered in the training programme was prepared and the percentage of improved agricultural practices adopted by each respondent was

calculated and taken as the measure of adoption for this study.

The mean adoption scores for A & B groups were 23.18 and 22.76 respectively. The mean adoption score for the farms of untrained farm women was only 12.69. Analysis of variance was done in order to analyse the impact of training on adoption (Table 2)

The results revealed that there was significant difference in the extent of adoption of improved agricultural practices in the farms of trained and untrained farm women. However, the adoption level in the farms of the two groups of trained farm women selected on the basis of the time of training did not differ significantly.

The pre and post training adoption levels in the farms of trained farm women were also measured (Table 3). The table revealed that there was significant difference in the pre and post

Table 1. Distribution of trained and untrained farm women according to present level of adoption of agricultural practices in their farms (percentage)

Adoption Score range	Trained farm women		Untrained farm women (C)
	(A)	(B)	
0-9	25.0	22.5	65.0
10-19	22.5	40.0	25.0
20-29	32.5	30.0	10.0
30-39	12.5	7.5	0
40-49	7.5	0	0
Mean scores	23.18	22.76	12.69

Table 2. Difference in the adoption of improved agricultural practices between the farmers of trained and untrained farm women

Score	Df	SS	MS	F
Total	119	16325.160		
Between samples	2	2823.998	1411.999	12.236*
Within sample	117	13501.162	115.395	

* Significant at 5% level

Table 3. Mean adoption scores of improved agricultural practices in the farms of trained and untrained farm women before and after the training programme.

Group	Before training	After training	Value
A	3.61	23.18	7.06*
	4.60	22.76	7.09

* Significant at 5% level

adoption levels in the farms of both trained and untrained farm women. The mean post training adoption score was almost 6 times in group A and 5 times in Group B when compared to pre-training adoption scores.

The study revealed that the adoption level of agricultural practices could be enhanced in favourable direction by giving training to farm women.

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