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Motivational factors and constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers in obtaining benefits of agricultural technology management agency

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Abstract

The National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) has framed for pilot testing new institutional arrangements for technology dissemination at the district level and below, through establishment of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) as an autonomous organization providing flexible working environment. In Gujarat State, all districts have been selected for ATMA project as a part of the Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of the project. Since the past fifteen years, the ATMA has been running in Gujarat. ATMA plays a crucial role in enhancing the productivity and sustainability of agriculture by bridging the gap between research and the farming community. For better outcomes from ATMA projects activities, participation of farmers necessary. There should be some motivations to attract farmers to involve in ATMA activities. It is fact that to get benefits of ATMA projects, the farmers must have to join in FIGs and Keeping in mind above fact it is crucial to study motivational factors to join FIGs and constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers in obtaining benefits of Agricultural Technology Management Agency. The present study was carried out in middle Gujarat. The four tribal Districts Dahod, Panchmahals, Mahisagar and Chhotaudepur of middle Gujarat were selected purposively for present study. From each selected district two talukas were selected purposively. From each selected talukas, two villages were selected randomly. Thus, total sixteen villages were selected. Fifteen respondents from each selected village were selected. Thus, total 240 respondents were selected randomly from those four Districts. The result of study revealed that motivational factor to join FIG were; for getting the latest information of agric. & allied fields ranked first among all the motives. It was reported by the (90.00%) respondents of FIGs. The next motives in order of priority were, for getting supplement income (81.66%). Major constraints faced by the ATMA beneficiary tribal farmers were; the demonstrations should not be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit areas (89.50%), latest information regarding value addition in agriculture is not provided timely (81.66%). Major suggestion given by the ATMA beneficiary tribal farmers were; the demonstrations should be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit areas (90.00%), Information on value addition in agriculture should be provided (85.41%), recent knowledge about the latest technologies should be covered during the training programmes (76.66%).

Keywords: ATMA beneficiary tribal farmers, motivational factors, constraints, suggestions

Introduction

The Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) is dedicated to enhancing agricultural productivity and farmer livelihoods by promoting the adoption of modern technologies and sustainable practices. It empowers farmers through training, demonstrations and farmer field schools, ensuring effective technology transfer from research institutions to the field. ATMA fosters public-private partnerships and encourages decentralized implementation to address regional needs, improving market access and resource management. By focusing on sustainable practices and robust monitoring, ATMA aims to increase crop yields, improve farm income and ensure environmental conservation, thereby supporting the agricultural sector's overall growth and sustainability. Keeping in view, the present study entitled "Motivational factors and constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers in obtaining benefits of Agricultural Technology Management Agency" was undertaken with following objectives.

Objectives

1. To study the motivational factor to join FIGs
2. To document the constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers in obtaining benefits of Agricultural Technology Management Agency
3. To seek suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers

Research methodology

For present investigation multistage sampling technique was employed at different levels to select 240 farmers who were the members of FIGs. Middle Gujarat has eight districts. Out of eight districts, four tribal districts Dahod, Panchmahals, Mahisagar and Chhotaudepur were selected purposively. From each selected district two talukas were selected purposively. From the selected taluka, a list of villages has been collected from ATMA office for selection of villages. Two villages were selected from each selected taluka randomly. Further, from each selected village fifteen

respondents have been selected on random basis for the study. Thus, a total of 240 respondents have been selected for the study. The data of this study were collected by arranging personal interviews. The data were analyzed and interpreted with frequency, percentage, mean score and rank.

Results and Discussion

Motivational Factor to Join FIGs: ATMA plays a crucial

role in enhancing the productivity and sustainability of agriculture by bridging the gap between research and the farming community. For better outcomes from ATMA projects activities, participation of farmers necessary. There should be some motivations to attract farmers to involve in ATMA activities. It is fact that to get benefits of ATMA projects, the farmers must have to join in FIGs. Keeping in mind above fact it is crucial to study motivational factors to join FIGs.

Table 1: Motivational factor to join FIGs

Sr. No.	Motivational factors	Frequency	Percent	Rank
1.	For getting the latest information of agril. & allied fields	216	90.00	I
2.	For getting supplement income	196	81.66	II
3.	Development of necessary skills for agril. & allied fields	164	68.33	III
4.	For meeting the family expenses	156	65.00	IV
5.	For getting more social contacts	133	55.41	V
6.	For starting business	129	53.75	VI
7.	For self-empowerment	107	44.58	VII

It can be observed from Table 1 that among enlisted motives to join FIG, for getting the latest information of agril. & allied fields ranked first over all the motives. It was reported by the (90.00%) respondents of FIGs. The next motives in order of priority were, for getting supplement income

(81.66%), development of necessary skills for agril. & allied fields (68.33%), for meeting the family expenses (65.00%), for getting more social contacts (55.41%), for starting business (53.75%) and for self-empowerment (44.58%).

Table 2: Constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers in obtaining benefits of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (n=240)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Percent	Rank
1.	The demonstrations should not be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit areas.	215	89.50	I
2.	Latest information regarding value addition in agriculture is not provided timely.	196	81.66	II
3.	Recent knowledge about the latest technologies was not covered during the training programmes.	186	77.50	III
4.	The information and knowledge learned on the exposure visit to other states are not useful to the local situation.	177	73.75	IV
5.	Lack of linkage between the Milk Cooperative Society and the Gram Panchayat.	168	70.00	V
6.	Frequently meeting of FIG members with ATMA representative are not organized.	134	55.83	VI

The ATMA beneficiary tribal farmers were requested to express the constraints faced by them. The results regarding the same are summarized in Table 2. It is found from Table 2 that the demonstrations should not be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit areas (89.50%), latest information regarding value addition in agriculture is not provided timely. (81.66%), recent knowledge about the latest technologies was not covered during the training programme (77.50%), the information and knowledge

learned on the exposure visit to other states are not useful to the local situation (73.75%), lack of linkage between the Milk Cooperative Society and the Gram Panchayat (70.00%) and frequently meeting of FIG members with ATMA representative are not organized (55.83%) were the important constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers in obtaining benefits of Agricultural Technology Management Agency.

Table 3: Suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by beneficiary tribal farmers (n=240)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Number	Percent	Rank
1.	The demonstrations should be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit areas.	216	90.00	I
2.	Information on value addition in agriculture should be provided.	205	85.41	II
3.	Recent knowledge about the latest technologies should be covered during the training programmes.	184	76.66	III
4.	Training on ICT tools should be given for FIG member.	155	64.58	IV
5.	Strengthening the linkage of ATMA with gram panchayat and milk cooperative society.	102	42.50	V
6.	Frequent interaction of FIG members with ATMA officer should be arranged.	64	26.66	VI

It can be concluded that major suggestions given by the ATMA beneficiary tribal farmers were; the demonstrations should be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit

areas (90.00%), Information on value addition in agriculture should be provided (85.41%), recent knowledge about the latest technologies should be covered during the training

programmes (76.66%), training on ICT tools should be given for FIG member (64.58%), strengthening the linkage of ATMA with gram panchayat and milk cooperative society (42.50%) and frequent interaction of FIG members with ATMA officer should be arranged (26.66%).

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the study that motive for getting the latest information of Agril. & allied fields ranked first among all the motives to join FIG. The next motives in order of priority were, for getting supplement income. Major constraints faced by the ATMA beneficiary tribal farmers were; the demonstrations should not be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit areas, latest information regarding value addition in agriculture is not provided timely. Major suggestions given by the ATMA beneficiary tribal farmers were; the demonstrations should be supplied in enough numbers and with larger unit areas, Information on value addition in agriculture should be provided.

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