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To study the role of ICT on Knowledge level of respondents towards government agricultural policies

¹Nikita Singh Chouhan, ²Dr. YK Singh and ³DP Rai

¹ Research Scholar, MGCGV, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, India

²Associate Professor & Head, Department of Technology Transfer, MGCGV, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, India

³Professor & Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, MGCGV, Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh, India

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Corresponding Author: Nikita Singh Chouhan

Abstract

The present study was conducted to investigate the knowledge level of respondents towards government agricultural policies in Katni and Panna districts of M.P. Total 360 respondents from 4 blocks in Katni districts, Katni & Rithi has been selected and Panna district, Shahnagar & Pawai has been selected for study. The study shows that ranks wise knowledge of respondents about role of ICTs for government agricultural policies based on their mean scores. The highest-rated statement emphasizing "Do you know about subsidy associated with schemes?" (Rank I) following closely is "Do you know about (internet, Wikipedia) ICT?" (Rank II), "Do you know about online complaining features through app or portal?" (Rank III).

Keywords: ICT, knowledge level, government agricultural policies

Introduction

Information and communication technology sometimes known as ICT, is the collective term for all technologies used to manipulate and transmit information. The term "information and communication technology" refers to a broad range of technological resources and instruments used to create, transfer, store, share, and exchange information. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has been considered as a tool that can be used to achieve development goals in developing countries. These technologies may help to fight against illiteracy, disease, unemployment, poverty, agriculture and other development problems. Agriculture plays a vital role in the society and the economy of the country. Nowadays, more and more new advanced technologies are used for agricultural development such as satellites, the Internet, mobile phone and social media. The use of the technologies divides in both developed and developing nations. It can be used to improve agricultural information and farming methods with transformational development. In India around 70% of population earns its livelihood from agriculture. According to census 2011, 68.9 percent (83.30crore) population is still rural.

Information and communication Technology (ICTs) includes technologies such as desktop and laptop, Computer, Software and peripheral connection to be intended to fulfill information processing and communication functions. ICTs are emerging as an important tool for the development of societies and have driving forces in the economic worldwide. ICT are no more confined to assist high research and development. The new

technologies have made significant improvement in the lifestyle and the efficiency levels in all sectors of economy. The positive impact of ICTs is most visible in service sector, where the efficiency levels have gone very high.

Whenever policies are designed they put many measures on observation as the work division of policy section formulation of policy and strategy aim for agricultural development in a long-way perspective. Policy formulation agency should use tools like rural development practices, agricultural extension, economic protection and agricultural subsidies.

Materials and Methods

Research design

The term "research design" refers to the overall strategy or plan for conducting study. It describes the methods and procedures for data collection and analysis. A well-designed research study helps to ensure that the research objectives are met and that the results are valid and reliable. The research design followed to conduct the present study was "Descriptive research design", since it aims to obtain information to systematically describe a phenomenon, situation, or population.

Selection of districts and blocks

For making the study more concise two districts viz; Katni and Panna were selected purposely. Katni districts having 7 blocks which are as follows; Katni, Rithi, Barwara, Barhi, Vijayraghvargarh, Bahoriband, Dhimarkheda and Panna district have 9 blocks which are as follows; Panna, Ajaygarh, Pawai, Amanganj, Gunour, Shahnagar, Raipura,

Devendranagar, Simaria. Out of these blocks two were selected randomly. In Katni districts, Katni & Rithi has been selected and Panna district, Shahnagar & Pawai has been selected for study.

Three villages were selected from each of the selected blocks following a random sampling procedure. From each village, 30 farmers were selected randomly for the present study. Hence, the total number of selected respondents was 360 farmers.

The respondents were categorized into three groups on the basis of mean and standard deviation of total scores. These were high knowledge, medium and low knowledge.

S. No.	Knowledge level	Score
1.	Low	Less than (Mean-SD)
2.	Medium	From (Mean – SD) to (Mean + SD)
3.	High	Above (Mean + SD)

Data collection and analysis

The data was collected through personal interview methods with the help of pre tested interview schedule and prepared

questionnaire. To calculate the data suitable statistical tools were used.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their overall knowledge about role of ICT towards government agricultural policies.

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percent
1.	Low (up to 15)	56	15.55
2.	Medium (15 to 25)	229	63.61
3.	High (above 25)	75	20.84
	Total	360	100.00

Mean= 20.01, SD= 5.38

The table 1 show that the maximum of respondents 63.61% had medium level of knowledge about vegetable cultivation followed by 20.84% high level of knowledge and 15.55% of the respondents had low level of knowledge regarding ICT roles towards government agricultural policies.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge about role of ICT towards government agricultural policies

Sl. No.	Questions	Knowledge						Mean score	Rank
		Complete		Partial		No			
		f	%	f	%	f	%		
1.	Do you know about (internet, Wikipedia) ICT?	261	72.45	87	24.22	12	3.33	1.69	II
2.	Do you know about agriculture app?	25	6.89	138	38.33	197	54.78	0.52	XV
3.	Do you know about eligibility criterion to apply for agriculture policies?	104	28.89	132	36.77	124	34.34	0.94	XI
4.	Do you know about online registration?	232	64.44	118	32.78	10	2.78	1.61	IV
5.	Do you know about online complaining features through app or portal?	233	64.77	124	34.45	3	0.78	1.63	III
6.	Do you have knowledge about e – uparjan portal?	20	5.56	107	29.67	233	64.67	0.40	XVI
7.	Do you have knowledge about MSP?	192	53.33	144	40.00	24	6.67	1.44	IX
8.	Do you know about grain selling procedure through e – uparjanportal?	5	1.33	92	25.56	263	73.11	0.28	XVII
9.	Do you know about PM Samman nidhi ?	4	1.11	54	15.00	302	83.89	0.17	XVIII
10.	Do you know about funding criterion of PMSNY?	39	10.78	181	50.33	140	38.89	0.71	XIII
11.	Do you know about common service centre (CSC)?	0	0.00	39	10.78	321	89.22	0.10	XIX
12.	Do you have bank account?	104	28.89	221	61.44	35	9.67	1.19	X
13.	Do you know about active agriculture policies in your area/village?	246	68.33	85	23.56	29	8.11	1.60	V
14.	Do you know about subsidy associated with schemes?	278	77.22	78	21.67	4	1.11	1.76	I
15.	Do you know about PM Krishi sinchai yojana?	5	1.33	20	5.56	335	93.11	0.08	XX
16.	Do you have knowledge about irrigation equipment provided under PMKSY?	175	48.66	178	49.45	7	1.89	1.46	VIII
17.	Do you know about MIS & MIF (micro irrigation fund) by NABARD?	190	52.78	153	42.55	17	4.67	1.48	VII
18.	Do you know about land limit (05 hac.) of beneficiary under which he get subsidy?	53	14.67	157	43.66	150	41.67	0.73	XII
19.	Do you know about ‘jal – sanchay’ & ‘jal – sinchan’?	4	1.11	195	54.22	161	44.67	0.56	XIV
20.	Do you know about central or state sponsored schemes?	210	58.33	142	39.34	8	2.33	1.56	VI

The table 2 show ranks wise knowledge of respondents about role of ICTs for government agricultural policies based on their mean scores. the highest-rated statement emphasizing “Do you know about subsidy associated with schemes?” (Rank I) following closely is “Do you know about (internet, Wikipedia) ICT?” (Rank II), “Do you know about online complaining features through app or portal?” (Rank III) and “Do you know about online registration?” (Rank IV) “Do you know about active agriculture policies in your area/village?” (Rank V), highlighting the positive impact of ICT on farming knowledge. “Do you know about central or state sponsored schemes?” (Rank VI) and “Do you know about MIS & MIF (micro irrigation fund) by NABARD?” (Rank VII). However, “Do you have knowledge about irrigation equipment provided under

PMKSY?” (Rank VIII), “Do you have knowledge about MSP?” (Rank IX), “Do you have bank account?” (Rank X), “Do you know about eligibility criterion to apply for agriculture policies?” (Rank XI), “Do you know about land limit (05 hac.) of beneficiary under which he get subsidy?” (Rank XII) and “Do you know about funding criterion of PMSNY?” (Rank XIII). “Do you know about ‘jal – sanchay’ & ‘jal – sinchan’?” (Rank XIV), “Do you know about agriculture app?” (Rank XV), “Do you have knowledge about e – uparjanportal?” (Rank XVI), “Do you know about grain selling procedure through e – uparjanportal?” (Rank XVII), “Do you know about PM Samman nidhi?” (Rank XVIII), “Do you know about common service centre (CSC)?” (Rank XIX) and “Do you know about PM Krishi sinchai yojana?” (Rank XX).

Conclusion

The study conducted show ranks wise knowledge of respondents about role of ICTs for government agricultural policies based on their mean scores. the highest-rated statement emphasizing “Do you know about subsidy associated with schemes?” (Rank I) following closely is “Do you know about (internet, Wikipedia) ICT?” (Rank II), “Do you know about online complaining features through app or portal?” (Rank III).

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