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Impact of KVK training on improving socio-economic status of paddy growers in Southern India

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Abstract

Paddy plays a critical role in global nutrition, with over half of the world's population relying on it as a staple food. The focus on India, the second-largest global producer of paddy, and specifically the Cuddalore district, sheds light on the transformative impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) initiatives on the socio-economic status of paddy growers. To know the impact of the KVK Training programme among KVK Vridhachalam trained paddy growers, the study was conducted in the Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu. 150 Paddy growers were selected as respondents from 15 Paddy growing villages by employing simple random sampling techniques. Results reveal significant positive changes, including a 19.17% increase in income, enhanced mechanization, formation of Farmer Producer Organizations, seed production adoption, and the initiation of direct marketing and value addition. These findings underline the multifaceted benefits of KVK training in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving the livelihoods of paddy growers. The study contributes valuable insights for future agricultural development strategies, emphasizing the need for continued support for initiatives like KVK.

Keywords: KVK training, paddy, impact, socio-economic status

Introduction

Over half of the world's population consumes paddy as a staple food, providing more than 20 percent of all calories consumed globally, especially in Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and Latin America. In terms of global production, paddy is grown in more than 100 countries, with 90 percent of its production coming from Asian countries (Fukagawa & Ziska, 2019) ^[4]. India is the second-largest producer of paddy after China. For the year 2022-23, the country's official paddy production for the year stood at 135.54 million tonnes (Mt) and the production of paddy has increased at a CAGR of (4.00%) from 2019 to 2023 (GOI, 2023) ^[5]. The major paddy-producing states in India are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, paddy is grown in all districts exclusively in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, etc. Cuddalore district stands fourth in area and production of paddy cultivation in Tamil Nadu district. In recent years, the socio-economic status of paddy growers in this region has undergone a significant transformation, largely attributed to the implementation of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) initiatives. A vital initiative of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) aims to transfer technology by creating a dedicated and energetic human resource for the country's agricultural development (Chauhan, 2016) ^[3]. The KVKs in India are primarily responsible for improving the capacity of farmers and other stakeholders. KVKs are

required to organize a wide range of trainings for various stakeholders in addition to implementing on-farm testing and Frontline demonstrations. The KVK Cuddalore has been organising various training programmes for the paddy growers of the Cuddalore district. However, there hasn't been any study conducted to discover the effect of the training programme on the paddy growers. Therefore, a study Impact of KVK Training was conducted with the objective of determining on Improved socioeconomic status of KVK-trained paddy growers in the Cuddalore district.

Methodology

KVK, Vridhachalam is located in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu and used to implement all the KVK interventions in this district only as per the ICAR guidelines. Hence, Cuddalore district was selected for this study. In addition to that, Paddy is being cultivated in more than 1.35 Lakh Ha in the Cuddalore district and KVK has also organizing various Paddy-related trainings since its inception. The study's major goal was to assess the impact of KVK training on paddy growers. Farmers who participated in a paddy-related training course between 2018 and 2020 were chosen as a sample for this study. A list of trainees from the Srimushnam, Bhuvanagiri, and Vridhachalam blocks was compiled with the assistance of KVK for the purpose of selecting respondents. By employing Simple random sampling technique 10 respondents were selected from each village and five

villages were chosen from each block so each block contains 50 respondents. In total, 150 respondents were selected from three blocks by applying simple random sampling technique.

Impact refers to the overall effect of the training programme. In this study Impact of KVK interventions can be measured using 10 particulars and by using these particulars respondents were asked to narrate one by one particulars that how much they have increased before and after training for each particular by giving exact number before and after and it can be measured using percentage analysis using mean score value of before and after training based on scale developed by (Biswas, Sarkar, & Goswami, 2008)^[2]

Results and Discussion

Impact measurement is the process of undertaking how the interventions or programmes or project has affected the lives of those it was intended to help. It is important to collect data on project outcomes and made both quantitative and qualitative analysis to undertake the programme impact. Impact of KVK training in paddy cultivation tries to measure significant long-term changes happened among the paddy growers. Accordingly, the results are presented in Table.1

It could be observed from the Table 1. that, significant “income increased” observed as impact of KVK training programme. 19.17 percent change in income observed among the respondents as result of KVK training interventions in paddy cultivation. This might be due to increased adoption and increased yield in paddy cultivation over the period. Hence, Income increased observed as one of the key impacts of training programme. This finding is in line with the findings of (Bamne, Badodiya, & Bihare, 2023)^[1], who also reported that, significant income increased due to impact of KVK training programme.

Similarly due to the KVK training interventions, 42.73 percent change observed in “manpower saving through mechanization” an impact. This might be due to introduction of labour-saving equipment’s namely: cono weeder, transplanter, and combined harvester in paddy cultivation through KVK training programme. Because of the effect of KVK training, majority of the respondents adopted complete farm mechanization in paddy cultivation which ultimately saved the manpower in paddy cultivation. The report draws get support from the findings of (L. Singh, Uchoi, & Das, 2023)^[8]

In all KVK paddy related trainings, the importance and

“formation of Farmer Producer Organizations” was emphasised significant change (93.33%) was observed among paddy growers and majority of them became member of Veera Narayanan paddy framer producer company which established near Melbhuvanagiri block of Cuddalore district.

Importance of “Seed production” and adoption of certified seed in paddy cultivation was given more emphasis in all KVK training programme. In addition to that KVK, Virdhachalam itself promoted farmers participating seed production programme which encouraged the paddy growers to start seed production. Hence, becoming seed producers due to KVK training intervention was observed as key impact. And this finding is in line with the findings of (Nag, Srivastava, & Behera, 2015)^[6]

Similarly, paddy growers started “direct marketing” of their paddy produce due to the intervention of KVK. Because of the FPO and KVK support, majority of the farmers started direct marketing of paddy and avoided middle man.

Likewise, Paddy farmers recognized for their “higher yield” and following their practice/ knowledge by nearby farmers were also observed as key impact of KVK training programme with percent change of 97.87 percent and 131.62 percent respectively. This might be due to fact that KVK trained farmers made to get higher yield and recognized at district level which ultimately encouraged the nearby farmer to practice similar technologies for getting higher yield in paddy. Hence, these interventions were recorded in the study. And this results draws support from the findings of (N. K. Singh, Kumar, Hasan, & Kumar, 2018)^[9]

Significant percent of the respondents started “value addition” in paddy due to KVK training programme. The home scientist in KVK made to demonstrate the possible value-added products in paddy for the benefit of the trainees. Modern Paddy mill and value addition mechanism have also been established in Cuddalore district which together influenced the paddy growers to start value addition in paddy produce. Ans the results were inline with the findings of (Soumya & Podikunju, 2017)^[10]

Paddy growers who earned significant income in paddy cultivation invested considerable income in “children’s education and constructed new houses”. This may be due to the indirect impact of KVK training programme. The finding get supports from the findings of (Sharma, Choudhary, & Tandon, 2019)^[7] who also reported that due to KVK intervention there was significant increase in high income and economic return of the farmers

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their Percentage change in mean score Impact of KVK Training on Paddy growers

(n=150)

S. No	Impact indicators	Mean score		Mean difference	Percent change in mean score
		Before	After		
1	Income increased	30393.33	36220.00	5826.67	19.17
2	Manpower saving through mechanization	7.05	4.05	3.00	42.73
3	FPO membership	0.45	0.87	0.42	93.33
4	Seed producers	0.30	0.67	0.37	123.33
5	Direct marketing	0.13	0.29	0.16	123.07
6	Paddy framers recognized due to higher productivity	7.14	14.13	6.99	97.89
7	Following your knowledge/practice by nearby farmers	2.34	5.42	3.08	131.62
8	Value addition	0.09	0.18	0.09	100.00
9	Expenditure for children’s education	39260.00	87133.33	47873.33	121.93
10	Newly constructed house	0.47	0.73	0.26	55.31

Conclusion

The results presented in the study highlight noteworthy improvements, including a 19.17% increase in income, significant manpower savings through mechanization, the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations, and the adoption of seed production practices. These outcomes not only validate the efficacy of KVK training but also emphasize its role in fostering socio-economic development, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing the overall well-being of paddy growers in the Cuddalore district. The study serves as a valuable reference for future agricultural development strategies and underscores the importance of continued support for initiatives like KVK in advancing the livelihoods of farmers.

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