

Original Research Article

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Level of Awareness of Gram Panchayat Members about Agricultural Development Programmes in Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

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The present study was undertaken with the specific objective to know the level of awareness of Gram Panchayat Members in agricultural development in Uttar Pradesh. From the present study, it was concluded that the maximum number of respondent (60%) were found having medium level of awareness about agriculture development programmes followed by high level (22.5%) and low level (17.5%), respectively.

Introduction

The elected members of Gram Panchayat are formal leaders and accepted by the local people. Gram Panchayat members play important role in village developmental activities. India's ever increasing population has to be fed by increased food production. Improved agriculture production technologies should be employed or adopted in rural areas of farming. Government runs many agricultural development programmes to enhance the growth in agricultural production.

These programmes should reach to the bottom of the farmers' field in villages, that's why to spread and adopt the agricultural development programmes they should firstly be adopted by Gram Panchayat members the ultimate leaders of villagers so that villagers will follow their leaders. Considering the role of elected representatives in case of Panchayati Raj especially Gram Panchayat members, every facet of development work is in the hands of these representatives. This has laid more and more responsibility on the shoulders of leaders to lead and to lead by their

followers. Gram Panchayat members as the representatives of the people are expected to know the details of the various agricultural development programmes undertaken by government authority. This enables those (Gram Panchayat Members) in motivating and guiding their followers particularly in agricultural development. Taking into consideration the role of Gram Panchayat members there are certain expectations from their followers. Members who are aware and had detailed knowledge about agricultural development programmes should naturally work better for the people; it helps in fulfill the expectations of the people. Hence it is important to search the awareness level of gram panchayat members about agricultural development with the following objective: To study the level of awareness of Gram Panchayat Members about agricultural development programmes.

Materials and Methods

Sampling plan of the study

The study was conducted in Azamgarh and Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh. Two blocks were selected randomly from each of the selected districts. Thus a total of four blocks were selected. Namely, Mehnagar and Koilsa blocks from Azamgarh district and Daurala and Mawana blocks from Meerut district. For selecting the sample Gram Panchayats, a list of all the Gram Panchayats in the selected blocks, procured from the blocks headquarters. Thus, the total 20 Gram Panchayats (5 from each block) were selected randomly. For selecting the gram panchayat members, a list of members from 20 selected gram panchayats were prepared with the help of gram panchayat secretary. All the members of selected 20 gram panchayats were included in the sample. Finally, total 200 gram panchayat members were selected for the present study from all 20 gram panchayats.

Tools and techniques of data collection

A pre-tested structured interview schedule was prepared. Data was collected by personal interview method.

Statistical tools used

The respondents were asked to mention their awareness regarding fifteen agricultural development programmes on a three point continuum viz., fully aware, partially aware and unaware. The responses of the members were regarded. The scores 2, 1 and 0 were assigned for fully aware, partially aware and unaware, respectively.

The maximum and minimum score for individual was 30 and 15, respectively. Total scores were summed to get awareness score of individual respondent. The awareness of GPMs was framed on the basis of mean and standard deviation.

Results and Discussion

Awareness level of gram panchayat members about agricultural development programmes

The table 1 showed the awareness level of GPMs about different agricultural development programmes that PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana having highest score with ranked I followed by Kisan Credit Card ranked II, Vermin Compost Yojana ranked III, Kisan Call Centre ranked IV, Soil Health Card ranked V, Solar Pump Yojana ranked VI, Schemes of Sugarcane ranked VII, Livestock Insurance Scheme ranked VIII, National Food Security Mission ranked IX, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sichai Yojana ranked X, Paramparagat krishi Vikash Yojana ranked XI, National Horticulture Mission ranked XII, Mukhya Mantri

Table.1 Showing Awareness level of gram panchayat members about agricultural programmes (N=200)

S.No.	Agriculture Related Programmes	Awareness level			Total Score	Rank Order
		Fully Aware	Partially Aware	Unaware		
1	Kisan Call Centre	105	52	43	262	IV
2	Kisan Credit Card	128	19	53	275	II
3	Soil Health Card	98	55	47	251	V
4	Pradhan Mantri kisan Sichai Yojana	92	42	66	226	X
5	Paramparagat Krishi Vikash Yojana	88	30	82	206	XI
6	Gramin Bhandaran Yojana	55	63	82	173	XIV
7	Livestock Insurance Scheme	100	38	62	238	VIII
8	PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana	195	05	00	395	I
9	Solar Pump Yojana	97	56	47	250	VI
10	National Food Security Mission	89	52	59	230	IX
11	National Horticulture Mission	77	45	78	199	XII
12	Sub Mission on Agriculture Mechanization	67	22	111	156	XV
13	Vermin Compost Yojana	110	45	45	265	III
14	Mukhya Mantri Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana	78	22	100	178	XIII
15	Schemes of Sugarcane	105	30	65	240	VII

Table.2 Showing the overall level of awareness of GPMs members (N=200)

S. No.	Categories	Respondents	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Low (up to 18)	35	17.50
2.	Medium (19-24)	120	60.00
3.	High (25 and above)	45	22.50
	Total	200	100

Min=20.12, S.D. =3.49

Krishak Durghatna Kalyan Yojana ranked XIII, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana ranked XIV and Sub Mission on Agriculture Mechanization ranked XV, respectively.

Overall level of awareness of Gram Panchayat Members about agricultural development programmes

It is apparent from the table 2 that the

maximum numbers of respondents (60 %) were found having medium level of awareness about agriculture development programmes followed by high level (22.5%) and low level (17.5%) of awareness.

This finding is in line with the observation made by the finding of Deshpande *et al.*, (2013) and Singh *et al.*, (2019).

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