

Original Research Article

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## A Study on Training Need Assessment of Coconut Growers

Madhusmita Sahoo\* and Guru Prasad Satapathy

Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, Institute of Agricultural Sciences,  
SOA University, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

\*Corresponding author

### ABSTRACT

#### Keywords

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The present study was conducted during the year 2019-20 in Gop block of Puri district with following objectives: to know the socio-economic profile of the respondents, to identified the training need areas of coconut growers and to collect the opinion and suggestion of coconut growers with respect to place, time, duration and method of training. The study reveals that in Puri district majority (58.9%) coconut growers belong to nuclear family with better socio-economic condition. Majority (85.5%) of the respondents are preferring the institution for training as their venue instead of holding it in the village. As regards to the training need to the respondents, the training on disease and pest management was required by majority (100%) of the respondents. The study also reveals that for better and effective development of the farmers as regards to their knowledge and skill enhancement the developmental department and technological institutions should jointly plan.

### Introduction

Training plays a vital role for capacity building in farming community. It helps in enriching the knowledge along with enhancement of essential skill required in performing certain practices in specific crop cultivation. The skills required by a coconut cultivator need to be supplemented with additional skills in order to increase the yield of nuts (Patil, 2011). Government provide better support to the coconut growing farmers to improve their income, to reduce the risk involved in cultivation, implementation of quality agricultural practices and finally enhancing the income of coconut grower in

business mode. Training is a source of information, advice and influence in the decision making process. Training helps in enhancement of knowledge, improvement of skill, interaction with experts and build confidence (Hashemi, 2012). Keeping this in view, the present study was conducted to know the training need areas of coconut growers in Gop block of Puri district of the state of Odisha with following objectives that include to know the socio- economic profile of the respondents. To identified the training need areas of coconut growers. To collect the opinion and suggestion of coconut growers with respect to place, time, duration and method of training.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study was conducted during the year 2019-20 to assess the training need of coconut growers and to study the personal and socio-economic profile, irrigation needs, opinion and suggestion of coconut growers with respect to place, time, duration and method of training.

Three villages from Gop block of Puri districts namely Siripur, Anasara and Junei were selected purposively where the DBT-RBC project was operated by OUAT. The respondent was selected on random sampling technique of coconut growers were selected for the study. The total sampling was 180 from the three villages (60 from each village).

The areas of training need that were consider of the study: land preparation, seed rate, selection of quality seeds, nursery management, age of the seedling, spacing, manures and fertilizer of the management, intercropping, weed management, pest management, disease management that includes preventive, cultural, mechanical, biological and indigenous harvesting and marketing. In addition to that the suggestion and opinion was collected with regards to place of training (village level, Panchayat level, district level, KVKs), time of training (April-May, June-July, September-October, December-January), duration of training (one day, two days, five days, one week), method of training (lecture, lecture +discussion, lecture + discussion + method demonstration, lecture + discussion + method demonstration + field visit). The personal and socio economic characteristic considered were age (young, middle, old), educational qualification (illiterate, middle English, high school, graduate), family size (nuclear, semi-nuclear, joint), land holding (small, large),

farming operation (little, medium, high), extent of exposure (localite, semi-cosmopolite, cosmopolite)

With respect to the area of training the respondents were collect in an interview schedule on three-point scale like very important, important and not important. The data was analyse by assigning three, two and one score respectively. Mean score of each training area were calculated by using the formula sum of the terms divided by number of terms.

## **Results and Discussion**

The data presented in table 1, shows that majority (46.7%) of coconut growers belongs to middle aged category followed by (28.9%) and (24.4%) old aged category and young aged category respectively. Usually the middle aged coconut growers are highly enthusiastic, having more responsibility and have more work efficiency than the younger and older one. With respect to education level of coconut growers (47.8%) studied upto high school and followed by middle English, graduation, above graduation level and illiterate. The interesting information that has been collected is that very negligible percentage of people was illiterate.

Majority (58.9%) of coconut growers belong to nuclear family type followed by (27.8%), (13.3%) belongs to semi nuclear and joint family respectively. This may be due to awareness of family planning, to provide better education to their children and to have a better standard of living.

As regards to the land holding it is cleared from the table 1, (57.8%) belongs to small farmers and (42.2%) belongs to large farmers.

**Table.1** Personal and socio-economic profile

Sl no.	Particulars	Characteristics	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Age	Young	44	24.4
		Middle	84	46.7
		old	52	28.9
2	Educational qualification	Illiterate	16	8.9
		Middle English	34	18.9
		High school	86	47.8
		Graduation	26	14.4
		Above	18	10
3	Family size	Nuclear	106	58.9
		Semi- nuclear	50	27.8
		Joint	24	13.3
4	Land holding	Small	104	57.8
		Large	76	42.2
5	Farming operation	Little	54	30
		Medium	76	42.2
		High	50	27.8
6	Extent of exposure	Localite	122	67.8
		Semi-cosmopolite	44	24.4
		cosmopolite	14	7.8

**Table.2** Areas of irrigation needs

Sl.No	Areas	Very important	Important	Not important
1	Land preparation	18	48	118
2	Seed management	134	34	12
3	Nursery management	116	72	22
4	Age of plant	22	70	88
5	Spacing	24	62	94
6	Manure and fertilizer	132	28	20
7	Intercropping	90	58	32
8	Water management	158	14	8
9	Pest management	180	0	0
10	Disease management	180	0	0
11	Harvesting time	0	0	90
12	marketing	74	58	48
	mean	173.53	68.30	95.07

**Table.3** Opinion on irrigation management

Sl. No	Particulars	Characteristic	No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
1	Place of training	Village	12	6.7
		Panchayat	14	7.8
		Districts	0	0
		KVK	154	85.5
2	Time of training	April,may	92	51.1
		June, july	50	27.8
		September, october	18	10
		December,january	20	11.1
3	Duration of training	1 day	46	25.6
		2 days	134	74.4
		5 days	0	0
		One week	0	0
4	Method of training	Lecture	0	0
		Lecture + discussion	77	42.8
		Lecture+ discussion+ method demonstration	63	35
		Lecture + discussion+ method demonstration+ field visit	40	22.2

With respect to the farming experience or operation farmers are almost equal experienced in different category and they are having evenly distributed. This situation may be because of the exposure and their involvement in coconut cultivation.

Further, (67.8%) of the farmers have localite exposure followed by (24.4%) cosmopolite exposure and (7.8%) semi-cosmopolite exposure. This could be due to majority of the respondent possessing their exposure at their localite level due to coconut cultivation is very popular in those areas. With regards to the training needs of coconut growers (Table

2) among several needs, majority of coconut growers expressed their needs with respect to disease management and pest management. That were the major training areas with high mean score of (173.53) followed by (95.07) and (68.30).

Disease and pest management are the major area where the training are very important as expressed by majority of the respondent i.e: cent %.

The results presented in table 3 shows that the opinion of coconut growers towards place, time, duration and method of training with

respect to place of training KVK/RRS was the place opted by majority (85.56%) of the respondents followed by panchayat and village (7.78%), (5.56%) respectively. The probable reason for selection of KVK or RRV case as a place for training might be due to KVK equate with full training facility technically sound and well qualified faculty and comfortable accommodation facility for staying for the participants in the training period. April to June for the suitable training time as opted by cent% of the coconut growers. With regards to duration of training 2 days are the ideal duration as opted by majority of the respondents (74.44%) followed by one day (25.56%). This could be due to non availability of labourers farmers always get engaged in one or other farming activities. Agricultural practices should be taken up at right time in order to avoid future consequences otherwise this may lead to so many problems. This is the reason for which they have opted for short duration training programme rather than long duration.

It is concluded from the study that majority of the coconut growers expressed that training needs regarding disease management and pest management followed by water management, selection of quality planting material, manures and fertiliser management and for duration and month place of training and 2 days duration training programme in the month of April to July. The venue has been opted as KVK/RRS and a combination of training programme has been chosen by the majority of the farmers because they develop confidence through the combination of training along with visit and exposures.

Hence, the policy makers and administrators have to make a suitable provision for intensive training programme for coconut growers as per the training needs of the coconut growers. Therefore, the developmental departments and extension organisations involve in the rural development and extension activities should plan for suitable training programme to have effectiveness of the training and its use by the coconut growers with ultimate objective of their enhancement of income.

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