

Original Research Article

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Evaluation of Value Addition on Tomato Training Programme Conducted by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Farm Science Centers) in Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu, India

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ABSTRACT

Krishi Vigyan Kendras or Farm Science Centres have been established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in all districts of Tamil Nadu. The trust areas of KVKs are refinement and demonstration of technologies, and training of farmers, farm women, rural youth and extension functionaries. Imparting trainings in agriculture and allied fields for the rural youth is one of its mandates. Effective training is considered as an important factor in determining the efficiency of an organization which depends upon the capability of its trainees. For training evaluation to be truly effective, the training and development itself must be appropriate for the person and the situation. Even though evaluation is listed at the last phase, evaluation actually happens during all the phases. It is used during the training process to evaluate the training process itself. Value addition in agriculture predominantly offers a means to increase, rejuvenate and stabilize farm income. The results exemplified the effectiveness of tomato value addition training in terms of content of the training programme, time allotted for the course, quality of the material provided, instructors knowledge about the subject, illustration by practical examples, mode of presentation, communication skills, and interaction of the trainer with the trainee. Moreover, the findings of the study conclude education level, innovativeness and attitude towards value addition are contributing factors for improving the positive impact of training.

Keywords

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Value addition, Training, Content and Evaluation

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Introduction

India faces the most challenging task of transferring the fast emerging agricultural technologies to sustain the increase in farm productivity and economic viability of farming. A variety of extension programmes are implemented for creating awareness, educating and motivating the Agripreneur, farmwomen and youth to adopt and manage the new agricultural technology in the fields

and homes. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institutes, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) extension system and line departments are involved in transfer of technology. The department of Agriculture and Cooperation under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the state departments of Agriculture are primarily responsible for the transfer of technology to the farmers, farm women and rural youth. National agricultural extension systems

worldwide, including India, have undergone major changes during the past two or more decades (Swanson, 2008). In 1998, the government extension system of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture switched to Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), a decentralized model of extension as a part of the World Bank–financed National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) (Singh *et al.*, 2006). The ICAR is responsible for agriculture research and education through its institutions and 45 state agricultural universities (SAUs), one central agricultural university and four deemed universities. It also operates an extension system by itself called “first line extension system”. The ICAR in 1973 appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr Mohan Singh Mehta for formulating the institutional design of KVKs for providing training in agriculture and allied vocations for the rural youth with emphasis on ‘learning by doing’ for generating self employment. The first KVK was established in 1974 at Pondicherry under the administrative control of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Totally 695 KVKs were set up at district headquarters all over India for providing different services to the Agripreneur, farm women and youth. In Tamil Nadu 14 KVKs have been established so far under the control of the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), Coimbatore, India. In this paper we have made an attempt to evaluate the benefits of training programmes to the farm women of Cuddalore.

Training can be stated as the methods which are imparted to the trainee in fulfilling the Krishi Vigyan Kendras goals. Krishi Vigyan Kendras invest huge amounts for training. Krishi Vigyan Kendras involving in the evaluation of training effectiveness are not only responsible for what the trainees learn but they need to see that the knowledge which the trainee gained is being applicable in their

work performance. Training and its regular evaluation would definitely make a Centre to stand in the attention in achieving the objectives.

Kirkpatrick (1996) who writes, “*Reaction may best be considered as how well the trainees liked a particular training program*”. This involves in testing the trainees capabilities to perform learned skills while on the field. Primary purpose of training is to improve results by having the trainees learn new skills and knowledge and then actually applying them to the field. It suggested that analysis and evaluation of the trainings organised by the KVKs should be conducted to identify the constraints and impacts (Anonymous, 2002). Agricultural education and research systems in India have not paid due attention to programme evaluation. This study, therefore, seeks to evaluate the outcome and effectiveness of tomato value addition training programmes conducted by the KVKs in terms of content of the training programme, time allotted for the course, quality of the material provided, instructors knowledge about the subject, illustration by practical examples, mode of presentation, communication skills, and interaction of the trainer with the trainee.

Materials and Methods

Evaluation research is the form of applied social science. Field of evaluation research is the application of scientific methods to measure the implementation and impacts of a programme for decision-making purpose (Rutman, 1984). The purpose of evaluation helps in identifying the key evaluation questions, on the basis of which appropriate form of evaluation, appropriate model of evaluation and design of research can be selected (Peshin *et al.*, 2009). Commonly, two main types of evaluation, based on the purpose of evaluation, are formative and summative valuation (Scriven, 1967). Formative

evaluation reports to the programme by identifying shortcomings and their remedies, whereas summative evaluation reports about the outcomes/impacts of the programme (Scriven, 1991). The effectiveness of such initiatives has increasingly attracted attention of academics, researchers, planners and decision makers. The interview schedule was developed based on the extensive review of the value addition training contents of KVK (Table 1). The face-to-face interviews were conducted by using a structured questionnaire. The desired outcome or result that will improve the performance of the trainee. The level of performance the learners must be able to do to create the impact. The knowledge and skills they need to learn in order to perform. The Krishi vigyan Kendra assesses its training methods and develops a stout and effective practice. The survey was conducted on a sample of 60 farm women attended the value addition training programme. This has filled by the trainees after the completion of value addition course of tomato during the training program.

Results and Discussion

It measures the effectiveness of the training program. Evaluation is an essential part of any training programme and it helping to ensure the objectives are met, used to identify the problems and weakness so they can be rectified, it provide information to aid further development.

The general details of the samples for conducting evaluation are given in Table 2. It is evident from the data that only farm women attend the value addition on tomato training programmes. The ability of an individual to perform certain tasks is generally associated with their chronological age and experience in performing a particular task. This is considered as one of the variables in this study and the data collected is presented in Table 2,

it is evident that nearly (79.41 %) of the trainees was middle age group and the remaining came under old (17.65 %) and young age (2.94 %) categories. The educational status of the respondents revealed that a majority of them came under Middle school (70.59 %) and followed by secondary level (17.65 %), primary level (8.82 %) and college level (2.94%).

It could be observed that 72.06 per cent of the respondents had farming and business as their occupation and of the respondents 22.06 per cent had farming and Agril. labour. The rest (5.88%) had farming and service as their subsidiary occupation. It could be seen from the Table 2 that a majority (52.94%) of the respondents were found to be distributed in medium income upto Rs. 40,000/-. The respondents had low level (41.18 %) of annual income and 5.88 per cent of the respondents had annual income was high of above Rs. 40,000/-.

An analysis of the training undergone revealed that 79.41 per cent of the respondents belonged to high category and remaining belonged to medium category (20.59 %) and no one is under low category. The reason might be due to the availability of Krishi Vigyan Kendra training centers and the high level of exposure and interest among the farm women. The quality of being novel and the originality of introducing new ideas is known as innovativeness. The distribution of farm women according to their level of innovativeness reveal that 69.12 per cent of the respondents had medium level of innovativeness followed by high (22.06 %) and low (8.82 %) level of innovativeness.

The reactions with respect to the trainers, subject matter, physical facilities and teaching materials were studied. A majority of the trainees, 57.14 per cent in value addition considered the training content of the course is

Excellent (Table 3). Majority of trainees (75.00 % for value addition) were satisfied with the quality of the material provided is excellent and 60.71 per cent of the respondents in value addition expressed that

the practical examples was excellent. Majority of trainees (57.14 % for value addition) were satisfied with the presentation methods is good.

Table.1 Sampling plan for the study

Name of course	Name of KVK	Number of trained farm women
Value addition of Tomato	Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Vridhachalam	68

Table.2 Distribution of respondents according to the Profile (n=68)

S. No.	Name of the variable	Category	Number	Per cent
1	Age	Young	2	2.94
		Middle aged	54	79.41
		Old	12	17.65
		Total	68	100.00
2	Education	Illiterate	0	0.00
		Primary level	6	8.82
		Middle level	48	70.59
		Secondary level	12	17.65
		Collegiate level	2	2.94
		Total	68	100.00
3	Trainee occupation	Farming as Sole occupation	0	0.00
		Farming + Agrl.labour	15	22.06
		Farming + Business	49	72.06
		Farming + Service	4	5.88
		Total	68	100.00
4	Annual income	Low(Below 20,000)	28	41.18
		Medium(Above 20,000-upto 40,000)	36	52.94
		High(Above 40,000)	4	5.88
		Total	68	100.00
5	Trainings Undergone	Low (4-5 Scores)	0	0.00
		Medium (6-7 Scores)	14	20.59
		High (8-10 Scores)	54	79.41
		Total	68	100.00
6	Innovativeness	Low	6	8.82
		Medium	47	69.12
		High	15	22.06
		Total	68	100.00

Table.3 Effectiveness of the trainees

S.No	Contents	Excellent	Very good	Good	Poor	Very poor	
1.	Content of the course	Frequency	32	24	0	0	0
		Percentage	57.14	42.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Time allotted for the course	Frequency	22	26	8	0	0
		Percentage	39.29	46.43	14.29	0.00	0.00
3.	Quality of the material provided	Frequency	42	14	0	0	0
		Percentage	75.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Instructors knowledge about the subject	Frequency	35	21	0	0	0
		Percentage	62.5	37.5	0	0	0
5.	Illustration by practical examples	Frequency	34	22	0	0	0
		Percentage	60.71	39.29	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Presentation methods	Frequency	5	19	32	0	0
		Percentage	8.93	33.93	57.14	0.00	0.00
7.	Communication skills	Frequency	18	14	24	0	0
		Percentage	32.14	25.00	42.86	0.00	0.00
8.	Questions handling	Frequency	7	9	23	17	0
		Percentage	12.50	16.07	41.07	30.36	0.00
9.	Interaction of the trainer with the trainees	Frequency	13	14	29	0	0
		Percentage	23.21	25.00	51.79	0.00	0.00

Effectiveness of training

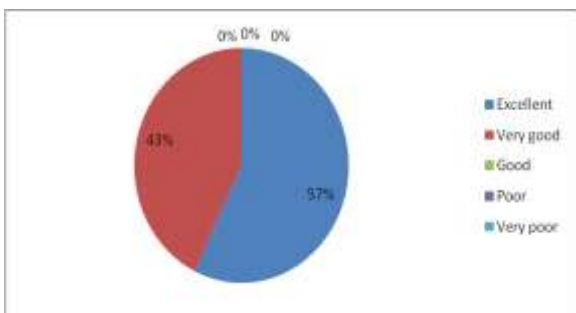


Figure 1: Content of the course

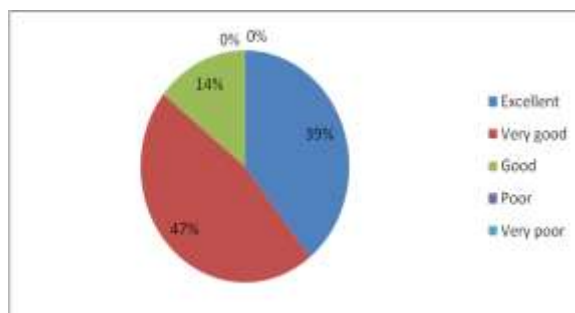


Figure 2: Time allotted for the course

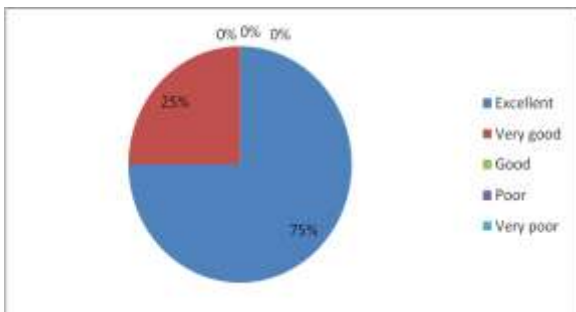


Figure 3: Quality of the material provided

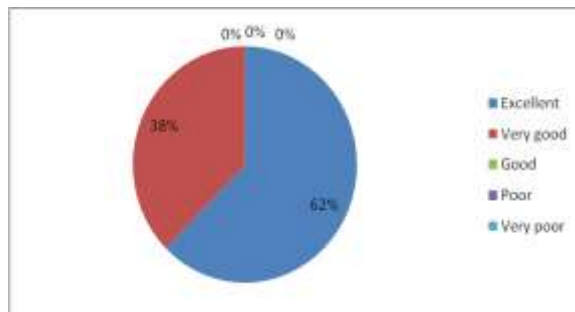


Figure 4: Instructors knowledge about the subject

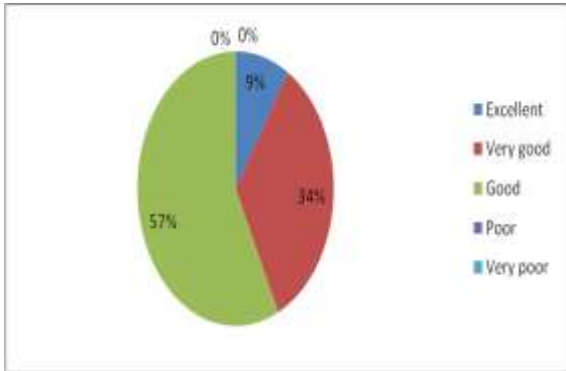


Figure 5: Presentation methods

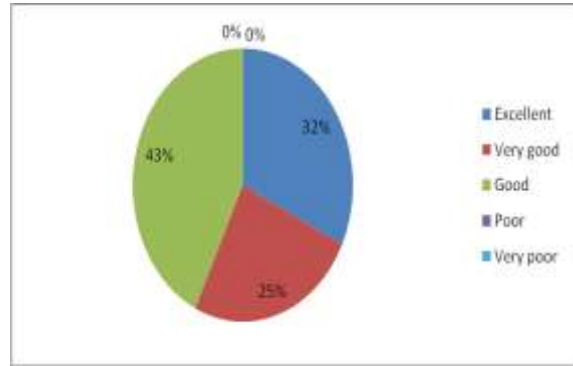


Figure 6: Communication skills

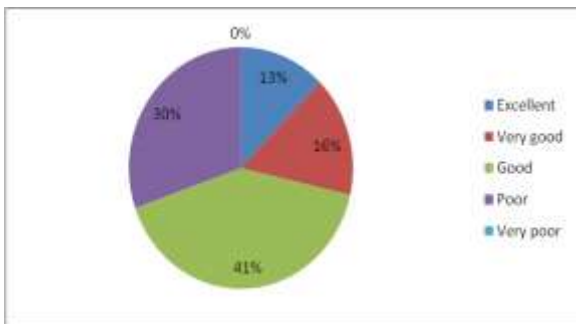


Figure 7: Questions handling

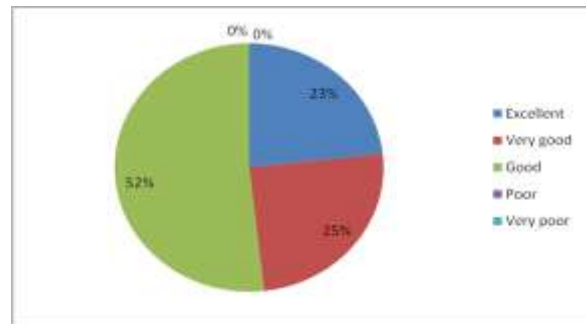


Figure 8: Interaction of the trainer with the trainees

In conclusion the result clearly indicates that the KVKs are realising the objectives of the training programmes in terms of achieving desired outcomes and impacts. The results of the study show that majority of the trainees were satisfied with the training provided by the KVK and has resulted in significant effectiveness of the trainees. Specifically, the study examines the vital issues on what aspect the State Government needs work and invest to be further reinforcing human resource development as a strategy for improving value addition in agriculture. Results from this research study also revealed that training environment is favorable, material provided was excellent, training offered a mix of pedagogical and technological experience to deliver effective solutions and the learning phase is evaluated. Hence, the research showed that the evaluation of training to the

farm women has been positive and valuable sign. The outcome implied that the government effort to improve the farm women performance and potential through the training intervention had been meaningful as this initiative had not only brought positive impact to the farm women themselves but, to a larger extent, had indirectly contributed to the economy of the country.

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