

Review Article

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**Perception of Farmers towards Field Trip (Shivar pheri) of
Dr. PDKV Akola**

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On the eve of University foundation day i.e. 20th October, every year three days field trip (Shivar Pheri) is organized at mega level by Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola. During these 3 days all the scientists remain present on their respective field, to disseminate the information about agriculture and to deliver the information about university developed technology. A dialogue between farmers and scientist helps to nullify the barricades in adoption of innovative technologies because individual or face to face method are probably most used extension method in whole university. After this field visit at the end of day, there is an interface programme between scientist and farmers, where farmers asked the queries about the field visit or problems faced by them in their farm. Likewise, taking in consideration the huge response of farmers from 11 district of Vidarbha, it is decided to make the analysis of the field trip, so that it would be feasible to increase the effectiveness of the programme.

Introduction

The field trip is one of the many instructional techniques that classroom teachers have used in their instructional programme. The exact origin of the field trip is not known (Mccaslin, 1970). According to (Kinder, 1950) Herodotus and Xenophan, Greek peripatetic teachers, who traveled abroad to gain their knowledge of peoples and land, were among the earliest field trip.

During field trip the extension agents meet the farmers, giving the farmers both information and advice. The atmosphere of meeting is usually informal and relaxed, and the farmers

are able to benefit from agent individual attention. Learning is very much an individual process and although group methods enables the agent to reach a greater number of farmers.

Field trip enables to give specific advice or information to the farmers built up knowledge of the area, and kind of problems which farmers face, permit him to explain a new recommended practice or follow up and observe results to date as well as arouse general interest among the farmers and stimulate their involvement in extension activities. Good field trip provides participants with firsthand experience related to topic or concept being discussed in programme. They

provide unique opportunities for learning that are not available within four walls of classroom (Anonymous, 2017) considering all benefits of field trip and response of farmers, it was thought appropriate to conduct study on farmers perception towards field trip (Shivarpheri) inspired to conduct study.

Materials and Methods

The data was gathered by questionnaire collected from randomly selected samples from 107 farmers for post trip analysis organized by Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola during 2016 for further analysis according to different objectives.

Results and Discussion

Source of information about field trip

As per the data given in Table 1, illustrated that highest number of farmers (43.93 per cent) knew information regarding organization of field trip from news paper followed by 22.43 per cent farmers know about organization of field trip by the university (toll free helpline of university and SMS service). While very meager percentage of farmers i.e. 8.41 and 3.74 per cent farmers get information by krishi doot, friends and others, respectively.

Mode of expenses for participation in field trip

Amongst the farmers, who participated in field trip, analysis done for mode of expenses over travel fair for participation in field trip.

The data given in Table 2 reveals that major proportion of farmers i.e. 86.92 per cent participated by their own expenses, while only 13.08 per cent farmers participated by the expenses of various agencies of government or NGO's.

Frequency of visit to field trip organized by University

As mentioned earlier, field visit is organized every year by the university on the eve of university foundation day i.e. 20th October. The data illustrated in Table 3 indicated that 52.34 per cent farmers participated for the first time in field trip, while 17.76 per cent farmers participated twice followed by 8.41, 7.48, and 6.54 per cent farmers participated thrice, four, five and more than five times respectively. Repeated participation might be due to good exposure of information and farmers wants to upgrade their knowledge in arena of agriculture.

Intention of visit to field trip

The data given in Table 4 revealed that, there are various intensions of participants, who attended field visit such as to acquire knowledge about new crop varieties /technologies were highest (43.93 per cent), followed by 50 farmers, who visited university field visit to acquire knowledge about agro based subsidiary occupation. While very meager proportion of farmers such as 7.48 and 6.44 per cent visited field trip to see university and visit along with friends, respectively.

Information perceived to be relevant by the farmers after visiting various centres

As per results obtained by questionnaire which are explained in Table 5, illustrated that highest percentage of farmers perceived relevant information from Senior Research Scientist(SRS) cotton, SRS oilseed, SRS puses, SRS sorghum and horticulture department were 64.49,53.27,47.66,45.79 and 42.06 per cent, respectively. It is too obvious because cropping pattern of Vidarbha mainly cotton +pulses, cotton +black gram, cotton +green gram, cotton +pigeonpea in oilseed crop groundnut, safflower and horticultural

crops like lemon, mandarins guava and custard apple. Hence the highest percentage of farmers perceived relevant information in respect of their crop husbandry. Followed by departments were animal husbandry and dairy science, dry land research project, farm implements i.e. 38.32, 34.58 and 31.78 per cent, respectively. Because devoid of cropping pattern all most all farmers have subsidiary enterprise with farming is dairy, which is followed by dry land farming pattern considering the constraints of irrigation on large area of Vidarbha, which is followed by farm equipments because utility of farm equipment is need of the day due to labour problem. While meager per cent of relevant information obtained from AICRP on citrus fruit, exhibition of Dr PDSK and watershed were 19.63, 17.76 and 10.28 per cent, respectively as perceived by farmers.

Change in knowledge after participation in field trip

The data given in Table 6 indicate that, the change in knowledge of farmers after participation in field trip. Among the participant farmers experienced for change in knowledge due to participation in field trip i.e. 41.12 per cent farmers reported that their knowledge is upgrade by 61 to 80 per cent. While 30.84 and 19.63 per cent of farmers committed that they experienced the change in knowledge due to participation in field trip of universities above 80 per cent and 41-60 per cent respectively. While some farmers noted 6.54 and 1.87 percent change in knowledge of 21 to 40 per cent and up to 20 per cent of farmers, respectively.

Meeting of objectives after visit to field trip

The data explored in Table 7 reveals that to what extent farmers were satisfied to meet objectives after visit to field trip. In all, highest percentage of farmers experienced the

objective of visit to field trip is completely met (79.44 per cent) due to participation in field trip, while 15.89 per cent farmers felt that the objective were met to some extent and very few farmers quoted that the visit of university trip is not fulfilled (4.67 per cent).

Perception of farmers towards benefit of knowledge gain in own farming

The data given in Table 8 indicated that percentage adoption of university developed varieties /technologies amongst the farmers, who participated in field trip of university. The conclusion of results, indicates that 60.75 per cent farmers adopted university developed technologies. While 39.25 per cent farmers are not using, technologies of university.

Adoption of University developed varieties / technologies

The data explored in Table 9, reveals that the adoption of university developed technologies by the farmers. With respect to cotton, results show that lesser number of farmers adopted conventional cotton varieties such as 12.84, 10.7 and 10.7 per cent, respectively, who cultivated AKH-081, AKA -5 and AKA-7. It is obvious because now days farmers are growing genetically modified crop (Bt cotton) rather than arboreum varieties of cotton. This results justified by the results of (Sadashivappa, 2017), who reported bt cotton adoption by the farmers over conventional cotton hybrids to save expense over pest control and to obtain higher yield.

In respect of pulses results obtained were 20.33, 25.68, 27.82 per cent farmers adopt university varieties, for cultivation of green gram, black gram, and pigeon pea and gram, respectively. And promising results obtained due high yielding performance of pulses varieties Adoption of university varieties for cultivation of sorghum, results indicate that

7.49, 10.7 and 17.12 per cent farmers cultivated varieties CSH –30, SPH 333 and SPH -1635. The decline in adoption of sorghum varieties might be due to decreased interest in growing sorghum. Because longer duration of crop does not facilitate to take crop during Rabi. This decreases cropping intensity and income ultimately. Which increased the popularity some other cropping pattern?

Adoption of university varieties in respect of groundnut in promising, because the popularity of TAG -24 variety of groundnut 73.83 per cent farmers adopted the variety. While 28.89 per cent farmers adopted AK 303 variety of ground nut.

In respect of horticulture crops results indicate

that the 22.47 per cent farmers grow onion AKOLA Safed and 9.63 per cent farmers grow bean variety Dipali.

Farmer to farmer extension about University developed technologies

The results given in Table 10 indicate that farmers to farmer extension about university developed technologies is done by participating farmers in the field i.e. parallel spread of technology. The inference of result entails 32.71 per cent farmers done extension of university developed technologies within 11 to 15 farmers. While 22.43 per cent farmers disseminate the information about university developed technologies with more than 15 farmers.

Table.1 Source of information about field trip (n=107)

Sr. No	Source of Information	Number	Percentage
1	University	23	21.50
2	State Department of Agriculture	24	22.43
3	News paper	47	43.93
4	Krishi Doots	09	08.41
5	Friends & others	04	03.74
	Total	107	100

Table.2 Mode of expenses for participation in field trip

Sr. No	Mode of Expenses	Number	Percentage
1	By own expenses	93	86.92
2	By Govt. Expenses	14	13.08
	Total	107	100

Table.3 Frequency of visit to field trip organized by University

Sr. No	Frequency of visit	Number	Percentage
1	First Time	56	52.34
2	Two times	19	17.76
3	Three times	09	8.41
4	Four times	08	7.48
5	Five Times	08	7.48
6	More than Five Times	07	6.54
	Total	107	100

Table.4 Intention of visit to field trip

Sr. No	Intention of Visit	Number	Percentage
1	To acquire knowledge about new crop varieties / technologies	47	43.93
2	To acquire knowledge about agro-based subsidiary occupation	50	46.73
3	To see the University	07	6.54
4	To visit along with friends	03	2.80
	Total	107	100

Table.5 Information perceived to be relevant by the farmers after visiting various centres

Sr. No.	Name of Center	Frequency	Percentage*
1.	Senior Research Scientist, Cotton	69	64.49
2.	Senior Research Scientist, Oilseed	57	53.27
3.	Senior Research Scientist, Pulses	51	47.66
4.	Senior Research Scientist, Sorghum	49	45.79
5.	Horticulture Department	45	42.06
6.	AHDS (Animal Exhibition)	41	38.32
7.	Dry land Research Project	37	34.58
8.	Farm Implements Exhibition	34	31.78
9.	Nagarjuna Medicinal Plants Garden	27	25.23
10.	AICRP on citrus fruit	21	19.63
11.	Exhibition Dr. PDSK	19	17.76
12.	Water Shed	11	10.28

* Sum of percentage is more than 100 due to multiple responses

Table.6 Change in Knowledge after participation in field trip

Sr. No	Change in Knowledge	Number	Percentage
1	Up to 20%	02	1.87
2	21% to 40%	07	6.54
3	41% to 60%	33	30.84
4	61% to 80%	44	41.12
5	Above 80 %	21	19.63
	Total	107	100

Table.7 Meeting of objective after visit to field trip

Sr. No	Meeting of objective	Number	Percentage
1	Completely met	85	79.44
2	Met to some extent	17	15.89
3	Not met	05	4.67
	Total	107	100

Table.8 Perception of farmers towards benefit of knowledge gain in own farming

Sr. No	Benefit of Knowledge	Number	Percentage
1	Yes	103	96.26
2	No	04	3.74
	Total	107	100

Table.9 Adoption of University developed varieties / technologies

Sr. No	Adoption	Number	Percentage
1	Yes	65	60.75
2	No	42	39.25
	Total	107	100

Table.10 Farmer to farmer extension about University developed technologies

Sr. No	Farmer to farmer extension	Number	Percentage
1	Up to 5 farmers	19	17.76
2	6 to 10 farmers	29	27.10
3	11 to 15 farmers	35	32.71
4	Above 15 farmers	24	22.43
	Total	107	100

Table.11 Adoption of University developed technologies by the farmers

Sr. No.	Crop variety / Technology	Frequency	Percentage*
1.	Cotton		
1.1	AKH – 081	12	12.84
1.2	AKA – 5	10	10.7
1.3	AKA – 7	10	10.7
1.4	AKA – 8	09	9.63
2.	Pulses		
2.1	Mung (Green Gold)	19	20.33
2.2	Udid (TAU - 1)	24	25.68
2.3	Tur (TARA)	26	27.82
2.4	Gram (Jaki - 9218)	77	82.39
3.	Sorghum		
3.1	CHS - 30	07	7.49
3.2	SPH - 388	10	10.7
3.3	SPH -1635	16	17.12
4.	Oil seeds		
4.1	Groundnut (TAG - 24)	69	73.83
4.2	Groundnut (AK - 303)	27	28.89
5.	Horticultural Crops		
5.1	Onion Safed	21	22.47
5.2	Bean Dipali	09	9.63

* Sum of percentage is more than 100 due to multiple responses

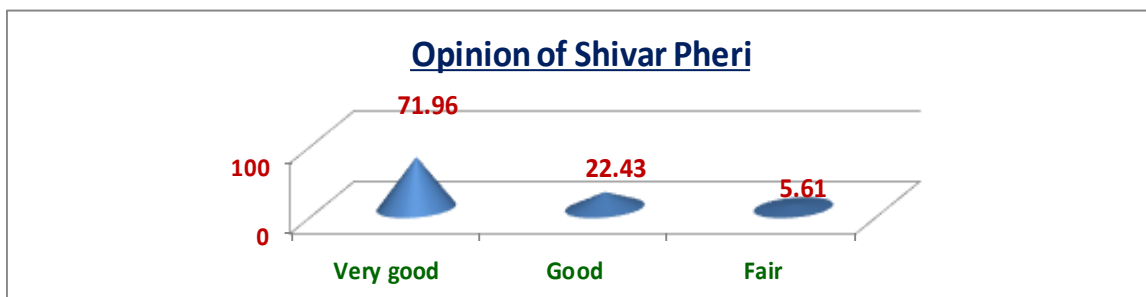
Table.12 Benefit due to adoption of university developed technologies

Sr. No.	Crop variety / Technology	Frequency	Percentage*
1.	Increase in crop yield due to adoption on soil water and conservation practices	27	28.89
2.	Time and money saving due to farm implements	24	25.68
3.	Gain knowledge to identify insect pest and their control	20	21.4
4.	Increase in yield of cotton crop	17	18.19
5.	Able to control wilting in tur crop	14	14.98
6.	Increase in milk production, saving of feed and fodder due to silage making and azola feeding to milch animals	11	11.77
7.	Able to take crop in summer due to adoption of University developed technologies	09	9.63
8.	Harvested Soybean 15 q/acre	06	6.42
9.	Increase in yield of crops due to trainings received from University	04	4.28

* Sum of percentage is more than 100 due to multiple responses

Table.13 Opinion toward organization of field trip-2016

Sr. No	Opinion toward organization	Number	Percentage
1	Very good	77	71.96
2	Good	24	22.43
3	Fair	06	5.61
	Total	107	100



Meager per cent of farmers 27.1 per cent shared technologies of university within 6 to 10 farmers and 17.76 per cent sharing is done up to 5 farmers (Table 11).

Benefit due to adoption of University developed technologies

The results obtained from Table 12, indicates benefit due to adoption of university

developed technologies. Such as increase in crop reported (28.89 per cent) due to farmers adoption of soil water and conservation practices, followed by saving in time and money due to use of farm implements, reported 25.68 per cent farmers. Gain in knowledge to identify insect pest and their control is noticed by 21.4 per cent followed by increase in yield of cotton (18.19 per cent), which is followed by control in wilt of tur

crop (14.98 per cent) and increase in milk production, saving of feed fodder due to silage making and azola feeding to milch animals (11.77 per cent). While some farmers experienced benefit due to adoption of university developed technologies, they able to take crop in summer were 9.63 per cent as well as some farmers benefitted by university developed technologies, which made them possible to harvest soybean crop 15 qui/ha were 6.42 per cent. While 4.28 per cent farmers reported increase in yield of crop due to training received from university.

Benefit due to adoption of University Developed Technologies

The data given in Table 13 indicate that opinion of farmers about organization of field trip. The higher proportion of farmers 71.96 per cent notified very good opinion toward organization of field trip. Followed by 22.43

per cent realized that organization of field trip was good. While only 5.61 per cent farmers coated fair remark for organization field trip.

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