

CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED BY RESEARCHERS IN THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOUR OF SUGARCANE TECHNOLOGIES

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Abstract

Information related to agriculture has reached the explosion stage and it keeps on proliferating at a faster rate and is changing at every point of time. Information form is complex in agriculture development process because the information has to pass through different systems viz. research, extension and eventually to the clients. Though there are many factors responsible for the technological and production gaps, the farmers' ignorance and lack of knowledge and skill of the modern agricultural technology and its possibility and potential have become crucial and are impeding the agricultural progress. This intern is due to weak information system and lack of effective linkages between the different systems. Among the 102 sugarcane cultivating countries in the world, India occupies first position with respect to area and production of sugar. Sugarcane occupies an important place in the Indian agricultural economy. The past experience of the extension system revealed that the communication of agricultural information was inefficient and ineffective, leading to an increased gap between innovation in the lab and the adoption in the fields by the farmers. Therefore, the information management behaviour of personnel in these three systems gains significance. This calls for the study of information management behaviour of researchers engaged in development of sugarcane technologies. Hence, it was felt very much necessary to study the constraints faced by sugarcane scientists in the information management behaviour.

Key words: Information management, sugarcane technologies, agricultural information, communication, etc.

1. Introduction

Information related to agriculture has reached the explosion stage and it keeps on proliferating at a faster rate and is changing at every point of time. Information form is complex in agriculture development process because the information has to pass through different systems viz. research, extension and eventually to the clients. Though there are many factors responsible for the technological and production gaps, the farmers' ignorance and lack of knowledge and skill of the modern agricultural technology and its possibility and potential become crucial and are impeding the agricultural progress. This intern is due to weak information system and lack of effective linkages between the different systems. Among the 102 sugarcane cultivating countries in the world, India occupies first position with respect to area and production of sugar. Thus, sugarcane occupies an important place in the Indian agricultural economy. The

past experience of the extension system revealed that the communication of agricultural information was ineffective, leading to an increased gap between innovation in the lab and the adoption in the fields by the farmers. This calls for the study of information management behaviour of scientists engaged in development of sugarcane technologies. Hence, it is felt very much necessary to take up a study on constraints faced by sugarcane researchers in the information management behaviour.

2. Methodology

This study was conducted in Cuddalore district of Tamilnadu. It was decided to select the scientists working at sugarcane research station located at Cuddalore and scientists working at Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University. It was decided to select the scientists in the cadre of professor who are involved in the generation of sugarcane technologies. Accordingly, the available ten researchers from sugarcane research station, Cuddalore and 50 researchers from Faculty of Agriculture, Annamalai University were selected based on simple random sampling. Thus, 60 researchers are the sample for the study. Information management behaviour is the degree to which the researchers are able to acquire process and disseminate the information related to sugarcane technology. This referred to the aggregate of information acquisition, information processing and information dissemination of sugarcane researchers.

3. Results and discussion

The results on the constraints perceived by researchers in information management behaviour are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1
Constraints Encountered by the Researchers in the Information Management Behaviour

Sl. No.	Constraints	No. of Respondents	Per cent	Rank
1.	More concentration on research activities	57	95.00	I
2.	Lack of adequate chance for attending trainings / seminars / workshops	55	91.67	II
3.	Lack of direct contact with extensionists and farmers	54	90.00	III
4.	Inadequate feedback	53	88.33	IV
5.	Lack of sufficient funds	52	86.67	V
6.	Lack of training in the use of communication techniques	51	85.00	VI
7.	Lack of rapport and interaction with scientists of other sugarcane research stations	50	83.33	VII
8.	Lack of modern electronic equipment	49	81.67	VIII
9.	Lack of adequate time to listen to agricultural programmes, to view agricultural programmes on TV and to read newspapers	48	80.00	IX
10.	Lack of opportunities to participate in farm radio and TV	47	78.33	X

	programmes			
11.	Difficulty in preparing important points from for research papers, journals and books	46	76.67	XI
12.	Lack of co-operation and co-ordination among researchers	45	75.00	XII
13.	Lack of encouragement from superiors	44	73.33	XIII
14.	Lack of personal interest and aptitude	42	70.00	XIV
15.	Lack of incentives and rewards	40	66.67	XV

An examination of data in Table 1 brings to focus certain salient constraints faced by the scientists in information management behaviour. It is interesting to note that more concentration on research activities (91.67 per cent) has emerged as the most important problem closely followed by lack of adequate chance for attending trainings / seminars/ workshops (91.67 per cent). This finding derives support from the findings of Manitkaur (2003). Lack of direct contact (90 per cent) with extensionists and farmers, inadequate feedback (88.33 per cent) lack of sufficient funds (86.67 per cent), lack of training in the use of communication techniques (85 per cent), lack of rapport and interaction with the scientists of other sugarcane research stations (83.33 per cent) and lack of modern electronic storage equipment (81.67 per cent). These constraints encountered by the researchers in their information management behaviour might have influenced their dissemination behaviour irrespective of trainings received, their social participation and urban contact. These findings are in line with that of Arunmozhi Devi (2004).

Lack of adequate time to listen to agricultural programmes to view agricultural programmes on TV (80 per cent) and to read newspapers (80 per cent), difficulty in preparing important points from research papers, journals and books (76.67 per cent), lack of opportunities to participate in farm radio and TV programmes, lack of co-operation and co-ordination among and within researchers (75.67 per cent), lack of encouragement from superiors (73.33 per cent), lack of incentives and rewards (66.67 per cent) and lack of personal interest and aptitude (70 per cent) were the other major constraints expressed by them. These findings are in line with that of Sambhi Reddy (1997).

The most important constraint encountered by the researchers in the process of information management is more concentration on research activities. This finding is in line with the findings of Vijayabhinanda (2017). The reason might be due to the fact that some posts of researchers were kept vacant for a long period. The researchers were assigned with additional responsibilities thereby their concentration on research activities might have got increased. Hence, they were unable to contact the extensionists and farmers to acquire the technological information for processing and dissemination of information. Lack of adequate opportunity for attending trainings seminars/workshops, etc. was another important constraint reported by the researchers. Presently, few of the researchers are deputed for attending trainings / seminars / workshops. Participation in training / seminars / workshops helps the researchers for acquiring the latest development in their respective fields of specialization thereby leading to better information management. Lack of direct contact with extensionists and farmers was another constraint expressed by the respondents in information management. Researchers might have perceived that having

direct contact with extensionists and farmers enabled them to have first hand information on the farmers' needs and problems in sugarcane. Inadequate feedback was another claimed constraint encountered by the respondents in information management. It is known fact that without sufficient feedback, researchers cannot conduct location specific and need based research. The other constraints enlisted should also be given due importance by the concerned personnel so to improve the information management behaviour of researchers. These findings are in line with that of Judith (2013).

4. Conclusion

More concentration on research activities (95 per cent), lack of adequate opportunity for attending training/seminar/ workshop (91.67 per cent), lack of direct contact with extensionists and farmers (90 per cent), inadequate feedback (88.33 per cent) and lack of sufficient funds (86.67 per cent) were the major constraints encountered by the researchers in their information management behaviour. Constraints expressed by the researchers for information management behaviour may be attended in phased manner so as to provide intended information to the intended audience at the right time.

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