Socio Economic and Psychological Characteristics with Learning Experience Level of Different Categories of Sugarcane Cultivators

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Abstract

Communication of agricultural information was inefficient and ineffective leading to an increase in the gap between innovation in the lab and the adoption in the fields by the farmers. Thus, there is a need to have more effective transfer of technology system. The most successful farming society is the one which receive the best information. As the society has become progressively more complex, information has assumed an increasingly important role in solving field problems. Materials based developments have now been replaced by information based developments. The job of the extension personnel in the present day situation is very complex and crucial for the accelation of transfer of farm information. The most important day of extension personnel is to acquire the farm information and to communicate the information to the farmers after treating the messages. Realizing the gap in research and accumulated felt needs at the grass root level, the present investigation was formulated as an attempt to study the socio economic and psychological characteristics with their learning experience of sugarcane growers. The crucial point in the process of teaching and learning is to enable learners to have an effective learning experience. The study was carried out in six villages from six blocks of Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. A total number of ten sugarcane technologies with technological units were selected for the study. The respondents were pre-stratified into marginal, small and big farmers consisting of 80 respondents in each category. Altogether, 240 respondents were selected from six villages using proportionate random sampling method. Out of fourteen independent variables, one variables viz., information source utilization (X_{13}) was to found to have positive and highly significant relationship with learning experience of all the three categories of respondent.

Introduction

The key to agricultural Development lies in the mind, heart and hands of the farmers. Communication of agricultural information was inefficient and ineffective leading to an increase in the gap between innovation in the lab and the adoption in the fields by the farmers. Thus, there is a need to have more effective transfer of technology system. The most successful farming society is the one which receive the best information. As the society has become progressively more complex, information has assumed an increasingly important role in solving field problems. Materials based developments have now been replaced by information based developments. The job of the extension personnel in the present day situation is very complex and crucial for the accelation of transfer of farm information.

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accumulated felt needs at the grass root level, the present investigation was formulated as an attempt to study the socio economic and psychological characteristics with their learning experience of sugarcane growers. The crucial point in the process of teaching and learning is to enable learners to have an effective learning experience. This is the criterion by which all teaching and learning must be judged. An effective learning experience is the one that results in a maximum of desirable changes in behavior on the part of the learners (Leagens, 1961). Therefore, effective learning experience can best be had in effective learning situation provided by a skillful instructor who knows what be wants, who has the materials to accomplish his goals and the skills to use them effectively (Reddy, 1987). In this way, the learning experience becomes an important dimension in increasing the knowledge and adoption levels of farmers.

Keywords: Socio economic and psychological characteristics of sugarcane growers cultivators.

Research Methodology

The study was carried out in six villages from six blocks of Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu. A total number of ten sugarcane technologies with technological units were selected for the study. The respondents were pre-stratified into marginal, small and big farmers consisting of 80 respondents in each category. Altogether, 240 respondents were selected from six villages using proportionate random sampling method. Fourteen independent variables and one dependent variables were dealt in this study. Data collection was done through a well constructed and pre-test interview schedule. The collected data were tabulated and analysed by using appropriate statistical tests.

Finding and Discussion:

The zero order correlation co-efficient (r) was worked out to study the relationship of the independent variables with the learning experience of marginal, small and big sugarcane cultivators and the result are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Zero order correlation of Socio Economic and Psychological Characteristics with learning experience level of different categories of sugarcane cultivators.

S.No.	Variables	'r' value		
		Marginal Farmers (N=80)	Small Farmers (N=80)	Big Farmers (N=80)
X1	Age	-0.160 NS	-0.614NS	-0.058NS
X2	Educational Status	0.166NS	0.014NS	0.098NS
X3	Occupational Status	0.228*	-0.064NS	0.111NS
X4	Area under sugarcane Cultivation	-0.026NS	-0.126NS	0.014NS
X5	Farming experience	-0.093NS	-0.028NS	0-.046NS
X6	Experience in sugarcane cultivation	0.075NS	-0.021NS	-0.046NS

X7	Annual income	-0.127NS	0.009NS	0.241*
X8	Social Participation	0.162NS*	-0.084NS	0.616**
X9	Extension Agency contact	0.022NS	0.385**	0.616**
X10	Decision making	-0.188NS	0.174NS	-0.198NS
X11	Mass media exposure	0.513**	0.177NS	0.489**
X12	Scientific orientation	0.047NS	-0.081NS	-0.021NS
X13	Information source utilization	0.578**	0.491**	0.485**
X14	Innovativeness	0.166NS	0.247**	0.054NS

* - significant at 5% level

** - significant at 1% level

NS – Non-significant

It could be seen from the Table 1 that out of fourteen independent variables, one variables viz., information source utilization (X_{13}) was to found to have positive and highly significant relationship with learning experience of all the three categories of respondent. Extension agency contact (X_9) was found to have positive and highly significant relationship with the learning experience of two categories of respondents namely small and big sugarcane cultivators. Mass media exposure (X_{11}) was also found to have positive and highly significant relationship with the learning experience level of the two categories namely marginal and big sugarcane cultivators.

Occupational status (X_3) was found to have positive and significant relationship with the learning experience level of the marginal sugarcane cultivators. Innovativeness (X_{14}) was also found to have positive and significant relationship with the learning experience level of the small sugarcane cultivators. Annual income (X_7) was found to have positive and significant relationship with the learning experience of the big sugarcane cultivators.

Information source utilization (X_{13}) was found to have positive and significant relationship with the learning experience level of all the three categories of sugarcane cultivators. All the three categories of farmers get information from different sources like personal locality, personal cosmopolite and mass media sources which might have provided the farmers with higher learning experience. Information source utilization might have exposed them to various information sources, culminating in the accumulation of understood information in the form of knowledge. As already discussed, the extension agency contact and mass media source might have provided the opportunity for the farmers to contact authenticated sources of information to learn. This was supported by the findings of Athimuthu (1990).

Occupational status (X_3) of the marginal farmers was found to be correlated positively and significantly with learning experience level. Farmers who practice other occupations along with agriculture would have had sources for greater income and which in turn would have enabled them to afford to use

various sources of information. Annual income (X_5) of the big farmers was found to have positive and significant relationship with their learning experience level. As big farmers could get more annual income, it might have enabled them to spend more money for utilizing various sources of information.

Innovativeness (X_6) was positively and significant related to learning experience of big sugarcane cultivators. The people with innovativeness may be much enthusiastic in learning the things and they would apply all the senses in their learning situation, which it might have resulted in better learning experience.

Hence, the null hypothesis (3, 4, 6), which status that there will be no relationship between the socio economic and psychological characteristics and learning experience of different categories of sugarcane cultivators is rejected.

Conclusion

Regarding the learning experience the marginal farmers who had agriculture as the main occupation with higher mass media exposure and information source utilization possessed higher level of learning experience, whereas the small farmers with higher extension agency contact, information source utilization and innovativeness possessed higher learning experience. In case of big farmers, the respondents with higher annual income, extension agency contact, mass media exposure and information source utilization were found to possess higher learning experience.

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