

PERCEPTION OF GROUNDNUT GROWERS ABOUT USEFULNESS OF SEED VILLAGE SCHEME

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ABSTRACT

The Study was conducted in Pavagada taluk of Tumkur district based on highest area under Groundnut and implementation of seed village scheme .Three compact areas with 50 farmers from each, 40 farmers were randomly selected making a total sample of 120. Hundred per cent of farmers perceived as more useful about compact area approach to identify the areas/villages and training at different stages of crop for three days. Great majority of farmers perceived as useful on assistance for a period of two years (90.83%), followed by identification of new compact area after two years (84.17%), and farmers can take up programme independently after two years (81.67%). Majority of farmers perceived as less useful on assistance for seed storage bin (64.17%) and supply of seeds at 50 per cent of cost for half acre/farmer (55.83%). Out of nine characteristics considered, only six exhibited positive and significant relationship with their perception about usefulness of seed village scheme. It is inferred that seeds and seed storage bin need to be supplied at free of cost and also consider the personal characteristics of the farmer for effective implementation of the scheme.

INTRODUCTION

Seed is the most important and crucial agricultural input which holds the key for the farm productivity and profitability. Quality seeds can largely determine the success of modern farming as other inputs and management practices come into play after the germination and the establishment of the seedlings. Hence, the success of 'Farm Front' can be largely counted upon the rapidity with which enough quantity of quality seeds of high yielding varieties are multiplied and made available to the farmers on time for sowing purposes (Venkatarreddy, 1996).

Despite implementation of organized seed programme since mid 60's the seed replacement rate has only reached the level of 15 per cent. Remaining 85 per cent of the seeds used are farm saved. To up grade the quality of farm saved seeds the seed village scheme was implemented. In Karnataka, groundnut is the premeir oil seed crop grown in an area of 1.20 M.ha. with a production of 0.89MT. The availability of seeds during the sowing season is the major constraint. Therefore, this crop is included in the scheme. The effectiveness of such scheme for quality

improvement of seed can only seen in the eyes of farmers by considering how they are perceiving. Hence, to determine the status of pre-set seed village scheme in terms of its utility for the groundnut at the study was undertaken with following objectives.

1. To ascertain the perception of groundnut growers about usefulness of seed village scheme
2. To find out the relationship between characteristics of groundnut growers with their perception about usefulness of seed village scheme.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Tumkur district. Out of 10 taluks, Pavagada taluk was purposively selected based on highest area under groundnut. Hence, the seed village scheme was implemented by the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. In the taluk, three compact areas with 50 groundnut growers were purposively selected and from each 40 farmers was selected randomly making a total sample of 120. A scale developed by Sawant (2001) with slight modification was used for measuring in the perception of groundnut growers about usefulness

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of seed village scheme. The data was collected with the help pre-tested interview schedule. Analysis was carried out by using appropriate statistical tests.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It could be observed from Table 1 that 57.50 per cent farmers perceived seed village scheme as more useful, where as sizeable number

Table 1. Distribution of Groundnut growers according to their usefulness perception

N = 120		
Level of perception	Number	Percentage
Less useful	12	10.00
Useful	39	32.50
More useful	69	57.50

of farmers (32.50%) perceived it as useful and negligible percent (10.00) of farmers had perceived less useful. The findings thus revealed that there is not much difficulty to achieve the desired perception and it needs some attention of the concerned agency to improve the prevailing situation. Sawant. (2001) were partially in agreement with the above findings.

The results presented in the Table 2 revealed that hundred per cent of groundnut growers perceived as more useful about compact

Table 2. Perception of groundnut growers about usefulness of seed village scheme.

Seed growers perception	N = 120					
	More useful		Useful		Less useful	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Compact area to identify the Villages	120	100.00	-	-	-	-
Supply of seeds at 50% cost for half an acre/famer	11	9.17	42	35.00	67	55.83
25-33% assistance for seed Storage bin	15	12.50	28	23.33	77	64.17
Assistance for a period of two years	109	90.83	11	9.17	-	-
After two years farmers can take up the programme independently	98	81.67	22	18.33	-	-
Identify the new compact area after two years	101	84.17	19	15.83	-	-
Monitoring by the seed division	71	59.17	49	40.83	-	-
Training on seed - post harvest practices for three days at different crop stages						
a) At the time of sowing	120	100.00	-	-	-	-
b) During flowering stage	120	100.00	-	-	-	-
c) After harvest & at the time of processing	120	100.00	-	-	-	-

area approach to identify the villages, one training at the time of sowing, second training during flower initiation stage and third training after harvest and at the time of processing. It indicates the farmers were relatively satisfied with these aspects. The possible reason for this finding was the growers were identified in compact area, training was given for three days at different crop stages which includes sowing to post harvest techniques.

Great majority of farmers perceived as useful an aspects viz., assistance for period of two years (90.83%) followed by identification of new compact area after two years (84.17%), farmers can take up programme independently after two years (81.67%) and monitoring by seed division (59.17%). The farmers might have felt that assistance for period of two years, identification of new compact areas after two years and monitoring by the seed division of the concerned department was useful. In addition, they might have felt that sufficient knowledge was acquired on quality seed production aspects by that time .Majority of farmers perceived as less useful on assistance for seed storage bin (64.17%) and supply of seeds at 50 per cent

Table 3. Relationship between characteristics of groundnut growers with their level of usefulness perception

Characteristics	Correlation coefficient (r)
Age	0.109
Educational status	0.345**
Land holding	0.316**
Farming experience	0.149
Social participation	0.352**
Mass media exposure	0.087
Economic motivation	0.412**
Innovativeness	0.382**
Decision making ability	0.211*

cost for half acre / farmer (55.83%) it could be due to the fact that farmers felt that supply of seed and seed storage bins should be at free of cost. Because, the Government of Karnataka is supplying seeds at 75 per cent subsidized rates at the time of sowing.

It is seen from the Table. 2 that age, farming experience and mass media exposure were not significantly related with perception about usefulness of seed village scheme. From this it could be inferred that farmers belonging to different age groups, different years of farming experience and different levels of mass media

exposure perceived seed village scheme as equally useful. This finding is in conformity with the finding of Kale and Khupse (1982). Educational status, landholding, social participation, economic motivation, innovativeness and decision making ability exhibited positive and significant relationship with their perception about usefulness of seed village scheme. The farmer with higher educational status, larger size of land holding, greater social participation, economically motivated to earn more profits, earliest in adoption of farm technology and higher level of decision making ability perceived seed village scheme as more useful than the other farmers. Similar findings were also reported by Balasubramanian and Perumal (1989), Dikle *et al* (1992) and Padmaiah and Ansari (1997).

It could be concluded from the findings of the study that the seed village scheme created good opportunity for the groundnut growers to improve the quality and quantity of groundnut seed production. Further, for effective implementation of the scheme the seeds and seed storage bins should be supplied at free of cost and the personal characteristics of the farmers need to be considered.

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