



A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON TRAINING NEEDS OF FARMERS ABOUT MUSTARD PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract- This study was conducted in Haringtonganj block of Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh to know the training gap of mustard growing farmers during the agricultural year 2013-14. A sample of one hundred farmers was selected randomly from the list of 5 purposively selected villages for collection of primary data. A well structured and pretested interview schedule was used for data collection through personal interview. The findings indicate that the most preferred size of training group as expressed by the maximum respondents (35%) was 11-20. The data exposed that most of the respondents did not possess required knowledge concerning to the mustard production technology, especially plant protection measures, application and use of manures and fertilizers, field preparation etc., So, there is an urgent need to enhance the good communication and extension system and input service system to make the farmers aware about latest innovations.

Keywords- Mustard, Training gap, Production, Innovation.

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Introduction

Oilseed crops play a vital role in Indian agricultural economy occupying a share of 14 per cent among of agricultural products. Among different oilseed crops, rapeseed and mustard having prominence in Northern India ranks second after groundnut and contribute nearly 33 percent of the total oilseed production in the country. Now, the question is how to increase the production of mustard. There can be two possible approaches to enhance the production of mustard either by increasing the area under the crop and by increasing the productivity per unit area per unit time. Since the crop area expansion is not feasible anymore the only alternative is to adopt the better management practices through imparting need based training i.e. critical input for knowledge and skill up-gradation of mustard production. Training is an integral part of any development activity.

The training needs of small farmers in order of importance were plant protection, high yielding varieties of paddy, fertilizer application, seed treatment, storage, credit, nursery raising, transplanting, irrigation and water management and marketing [1]. The result shows that June-July and January-February were suitable periods of training for small and marginal farmers [2]. Out of 12 aspects of rapeseed cultivation practices, majority of respondents had high level of training need in 6 aspects of cultivation. Fertilizer management (2.33), seed treatment (2.56), pest management (2.69), disease management (2.53), water management (2.6) and marketing (2.4) were the important training need area where majority farmers had high level of training need. The factors like hard working, dignity of labour and affection for the land and genetically prevailing among them which are considered to be the fundamental assets of farmer. However, in spite of high social values prevailing in these communities, they have remained backward, underdeveloped or neglected due to the factor like lack of ambition, lack of initiative, inadequate land holding, limited needs and orthodox behaviour. Training has become an integral part of the entire system need to be equipped with latest knowledge, technology in agriculture for rural development. Thus, the present research was designed with the objective to find out first hand information about

training needs relation to agriculture [3]. The mustard growers needed training in the area of manures and fertilizers, pest and disease control improved varieties credit facilities and crop rotation with intercropping was most needed. Education emerged as an important factor affecting the training needs of mustard growers, implying that educated mustard growers needed less training than uneducated [4].

Research Methodology

The present study entitled "A critical analysis on training needs of farmers about mustard production technology" was undertaken during the agricultural years 2013-14. Out of 113 villages in Haringtonganj block of Faizabad district, 5 villages were selected randomly for this study. A sample size of 100 respondents was selected from the list of mustard growers through proportionate random sampling techniques and data collection was done with the help of semi structured and pre-tested interview schedule. Statistical analysis in the form of percentage, mean, standard deviation and correlation coefficient were performed to observe the relationship between different variables and training needs.

Result and Discussion

The findings and inferences drawn in respect to the specific objectives of the study on the basis of analysis of relative preference to venues, months, duration, size of the training group, methods and follow up activities as perceived by the mustard growers by using relevant statistical techniques. It has been observed that most of the farmers did not have more interest in the training programmes, hence motivational activities should be initiated among farmers with the help of quality input management. The training should be emphasized on plant protection measures application use of manures and fertilizers, post harvesting technology, seed production, harvesting and methods of sowing practices as these areas have emerged as important ones. Most of the training programmes should be provided in the month of August and September and at in both the months. The findings of this study have been divided and discussed into following subhead.

Table-1.1 Training needs of mustard growers in the main area

N=100

S.No.	Main area	Degree of training needs						Rank order
		MN (3)	N (2)	LN (1)	NN (0)	Total score	Mean score	
1.	Field preparation	59	29	9	3	244	2.44	I
2.	Method of sowing	21	63	15	1	204	2.04	V
3.	Use of manures and fertilizers	38	55	5	2	229	2.29	III
4.	Plant protection measures	49	71	6	2	239	2.39	II
5.	Harvesting	21	43	7	1	212	2.12	IV
6.	Post harvest technology	17	59	19	5	188	1.88	VI

MN=Most needed, N=Needed, LN=Least needed, NN=Not needed

The [Table-1.1] reveals that majority of the respondents showed field preparation as main training area as it is apparent from the mean score value (2.44) likewise, the training needs areas ranked in descending order were IInd plant protection measures (2.39), IIIrd use of manures and fertilizer (2.29), IVth harvesting (2.12),

Vth method of sowing (2.04) and VIth post harvest technology (1.88), respectively. Hence, the areas which got Ist, IInd and IIIrd rank orders may be considered as main important areas of training. Similar opinion were also put forward by Sharma et al. [4].

Table-1.2 Relative preferences proper venues for training:

N=100

S.No.	Venue	Degree of training needs					Rank order
		MP (2)	P (1)	NP (0)	Total score	Mean score	
1.	Village panchayat	73	22	5	168	1.68	I
2.	Village school	21	67	12	109	1.09	III
3.	Degree college	11	28	61	50	0.50	IV
4.	Block head quarter	8	19	73	35	0.35	VI
5.	Agriculture Univ. (NDUAT)	52	33	15	137	1.37	II
6.	Weekly rural market	6	22	72	34	0.34	VII
7.	Research farm	20	8	72	48	0.48	V

MP=Most prefer, P=Prefer, NP=Not prefer

It is clear from the [Table-1.2] that the venues of training indicated by the respondents in order of preference were village panchayat Ist (1.68), Agriculture University NDUAT IInd (1.37), Village school IIIrd (1.09), Degree college IVth (0.5), research farm Vth (0.48), Block head quarter VIth (0.5), and weekly rural market VIIth (0.4) in descending order. It may be said that the farmers preferred the near by venues for training.

The [Table-1.3] shows the months preferred by the mustard growers in which training needs to be organized. The data revealed that the months preferences for training in descending order as: August Ist (43%), September IInd (35%), October IIIrd (11%), July IVth (7%), June Vth (4%), May VIth (3%), respectively. Hence, August and September were most preferred months in which training should be organized for the mustard growers.

N=100

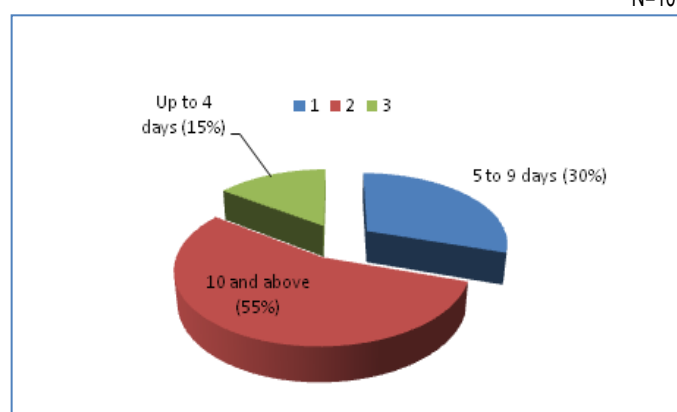
**Chart-2.1** Duration for training as preferred by the respondents:

Table-1.3 Relative preference of mustard growers for month of training:

N=100

S.No.	Month	Morning (2)	Noon (1)	Evening (0)	Respondents		
					No.	%age	RO
1.	January	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	February	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	March	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	April	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	May	-	2	1	3	3.00	VI
6.	June	2	1	1	4	4.00	V
7.	July	-	4	3	7	7.00	IV
8.	August	11	29	3	43	43.00	I
9.	September	14	14	7	35	35.00	II
10.	October	3	5	-	8	8.00	III
11.	November	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	December	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Pie [Chart-2.1] shows the preference of mustard growers for duration of training. It appears that the majority of mustard growers showed the days preferences for training i.e. 5 to 9 days (55%), followed by up to 4 days (30%) and 10 and above (15%), respectively.

N=100

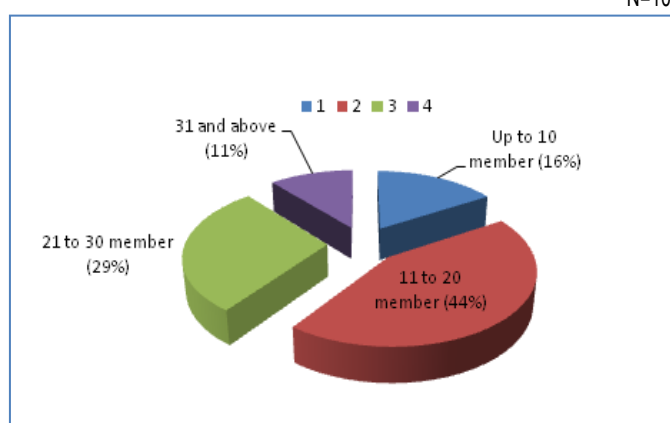


Chart-2.2 Preference of mustard growers for size of the training group

The data given in Pie [Chart-2.2] reveals that the most preferred size of training group expressed by the maximum respondents (44%) was 11-20; the next size of group in order of preferences was 21-30 members, which were preferred by 29% of the respondents.

Any training programme to be very effective must have optimum size of trainees. This provides equal opportunities to the participant to experience their learning. This might be the reason to prefer most the size of 11-20 members' trainees in

group by the respondents. Similar finding was observed in Castillo [5] who reported less than 25 trainees in a group.

N=100

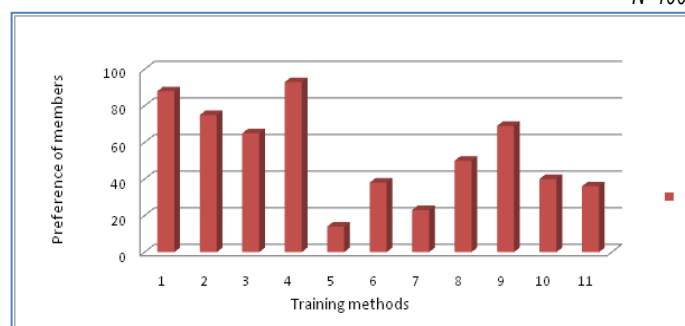


Chart-2.3 Preference of mustard growers for size of the training group:

1. Group discussion
2. Method of demonstration
3. Result demonstration
4. Training meeting
5. Scientists lecture on scientific mustard cultivation
6. Progressive mustard growers lecture
7. Successful mustard entrepreneurs lecture
8. Audio-visual aids
9. Farmers fair
10. Extension lecture
11. Crop competition on mustard

The above [Chart-2.3] shows the preferences of mustard growers for method of

training. The majority (93%) of respondents gave priority to training meeting. While (88%) for group discussion. The other methods in order to their preference were demonstration (75%), farmers fair (69%), result demonstration (65%), audio visuals aids (50%), extension literature (40%), progressive mustard grower lecture (38 %), crop competition (36 %), entrepreneur lectures (23 %), and scientists lecture and scientific mustard cultivation (14 %), respectively. The use of training meeting and group discussion enables the respondents to see, hear and do in a better way for maximum economic gain.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study It has been observed that most of the farmers did not have more interest in the training programmes, hence motivational activities should be initiated among farmers with the help of quality input management. The training should be emphasized on plant protection measures application use of manures and fertilizers, post harvesting technology, seed production, harvesting and methods of sowing practices as these areas have emerged as important ones. Most of the training programmes should be provided in the month of August and September and at in both the months. Most of the mustard growers preferred the training at village panchayat and agriculture university N.D.U.A. & T., so the training should be provided at village panchayat and university level. Training meeting and mustard product competition have emerged as best methods of training. Hence, these methods may be mostly utilized by training organizers. The follow up activities like contacting the trainees at regular intervals. Photography of every activity for future evidences and trainers regular visit, were most emphasized by the respondents. Hence, these follow up activities should be considered while planning any training programme. Mostly the respondents have little awareness about training institutions and training programmes. Therefore, there is a need of giving more information to the farmers about training institutes, organization along with their training schedules. So, there is an urgent need to enhance the good communication and extension system and input service system to make the farmers aware about latest innovations. In accordance of study area it may be conclude that most of the training programmes should provided in both the month of August and September and nearer from the residing area of mustard grower. Researcher found that training meeting and group discussion and method demonstration has emerged as best methods of training hence, these methods may be mostly utilized by training organizers for the better understanding of the mustard grower. There is a need of giving more information to the farmers about training institutes, organization along with their training schedules to fulfill the knowledge gap among them.

Conflict of Interest: None declared

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