Biosciences, Biotechnology Research Asia Vol. **3**(2), 425-427 (2005)

BETTER FULFILLMENT OF THE TRAINING NEEDS TO TRIBAL FARMERS: PROBLEMS AND SUGGESTIVE MEASURES FOR SOYBEAN CULTIVATION

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(Received: September 09, 2005; Accepted: December 12, 2005)

ABSTRACT

India has one of the largest concentration of tribal population in the world. According to the 2001 census, the scheduled tribal population was 24.53 percent of the total population. In India, Central India (Madhya Pradesh) has one state, which have highest number scheduled tribal and contributed 18.54 according to census 2001. The tribes lives mostly in hills and dense forest areas, which are not easily accessible. They are mainly backward, poor, illeterate and indebted. The present studies cover the basic point by identification of problems and suggest ways and means for better fullfilment of the training needs by the tribal farmers. Above all the basic aim was to make suggestions to narrow down the gab between tribal and non-tribal people.

The data reveal that cent percent of the tribal farmers reported, that they never get any type of training. This indicates towards a very serious problem of communication gap. About 99% of the farmers told that they have less contact with the extension workers. This also implies that something went wrong with the extension functionaries. Lack of proper guidance and non-availability of inputs were expressed by the 88.89 and 76.69 farmers respectively. On the basis of results of the survey some of the suggestive measures are presented.

Key words: Tribal farmers, Scheduled tribes, Soybean cultivation.

INTRODUCTION

India is a country with great diversity in all respect. One of the diversity reflects from largest concentration of tribal population in the world. It is evident from 2001 census the scheduled tribal population was 24.53 percent of the total population. In India the largest concentration of tribal population is situated in M.P. which contributes about 18.54 of the total population.

The tribes live mostly in hills and dense forest areas, which are not easily accessible. They are mainly backward, poor, illiterate and indebted. Un-economic shifting cultivation and exploitation of forest products characterized their backwardness and productivity of crops insufficient to meet the basic needs of their life. For a long time these people have been in isolation because of the forest and hilly tracts where there was a complete absence of communication, education and other technological development. These people have their own culture, way of life, sources of livelihood and political organization, social values and religious beliefs that are quite different from other sections of the other community in the country. In view of these conditions both the central and state governments have been allotting the sources for their social and economic development.

The main approach undertaken in the agricultural development programme was the scientific knowledge and technical advances for increasing agriculture production. In the green revaluation period, the use of high yielding varieties, substantial use of fertilizers, pesticides and improved implements were introduced. Development of doubel and multiple cropping for

irrigated areas, cultivation, short and medium duration varieties in place of long duration varieties was introduced. It was observed that, to feed the growing population, their is need to produce more than what is produced today. This will be possible only when there is constant flow of agricultural technology of the farm people especially to the small and poor farmers and those who are staying in the interior places should be constantly fed with latest farm technology.

The farmers are consumers of farm technologies. They adopt it in their farming system at micro and macro levels. They must be constantly fed with the recent technology. This is only possible when a strong linkage have been developed between farmers, researchers and extension workers.

With such background the agriculture practices of these tribals are also backward and not properly align with the modern technologies. Most of the recent technological development could not reach to these people because of their socio-economic condition and other reasons. The present studies cover the basic point of identification of problems and suggest ways and means for better fulfillment of the training needs by the tribal farmers. Above all the basic aim was to make suggestions to narrow down the gap between tribal and non-tribal people.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The majority of the tribal farmers, which are the major soybean growers, are not adopting new and developed technologies. Most of the recent technological development would not reach these poeple because of adequate communication facilities. There is a paucity of knowledge of the tribal farmers about agricultural technology, its rate of adoption. The tribal farmers need to be trained about scientific farming. One of the base to impart new knowledge and skill to the farmers is to have a training make the person more informed and abreast of the new technology.

Training of farmer has assumed further importance and urgency in the context of the high yielding varieties and improved practices in agriculture and allied fields. Training is effective and purposeful if it is based on and synchronized with the local needs and requirements. This study was taken up with view to access the problems and suggest ways for better fulfillment of training needs of tribal farmers.

The various points under study were taken as never received any type of training, less contact with extension workers, lack of proper guidance, non-availability of inputs, problems of irrigation, economic problem. It has been measured by asking the question through a stipulated proforma. The area of study was one block (Nateran) of Vidisha district of Central India (Madhya Pradesh). From the block 45 tribal dominated villages were selected for the study. In each village 15 number of farmers were selected for personal interview in Simple Random Sampling format.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problems faced by the tribal farmers

The data collected from the farmers were summarized and presented in a graphical presentation in Fig. 1 is evident from the figure that cent percent of the tribal farmers reported that they never get any type of training. This indicates towards a very serious problem of communication gap. After independence, it was observed that this kind of situation in an agrarian country like India, is very bad. Lot of programmes run by the Center and State Government and other Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in the area of training to the farmers, but at a grossroots level the results are zero. About 99% of the farmers told that they have less contact with the extension workers. This also implies that something went wrong with the extension functionaries.

Lack of proper guidance and non-availability of inputs were expressed by the 88.89 and 76.69 farmers respectively. Similarly, problems of irrigation and money were counted as major problems by the farmers and share 90 and 81.11%. The situation is align with the information generated as per Verma, Sanjeev (1999). It reveals that the socio-economic condition is a major reason for non-adoption of the new technologies by the tribal farmers.

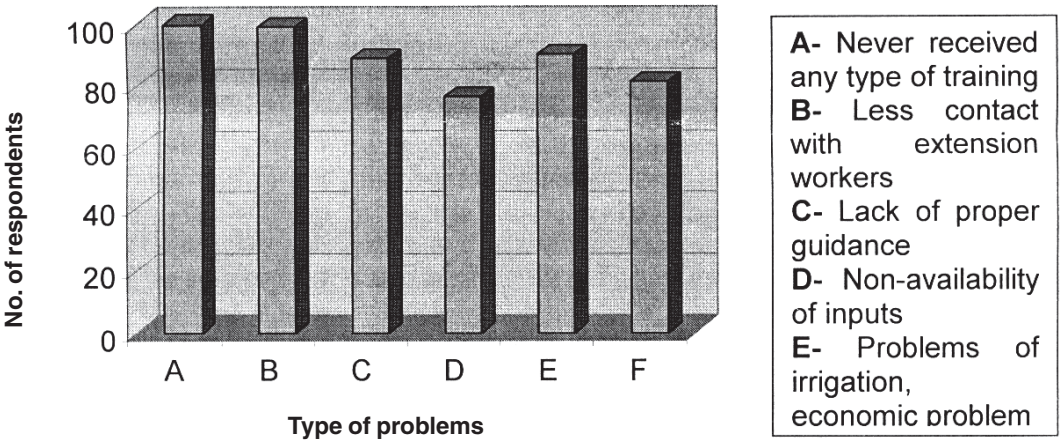

Fig. - 1 : Problems felt by the farmers

Suggestion for better fulfillment of training needs

While dealing with the outcome of the tribal farmer's responces there are lot of suggestions arises, some of the important suggestions are given as follows:

- The training programme for tribal farmers to be supported strongly by the every media.
- Besides using vertical communication approach the field extension service should also utilize local talent of farming community and through horizontal communication, constantly try to share the know-how.
- All programmes related with trainings should be provided atleast one month before the season starts.
- Each training programme should be tailored with credit facilities and supply of inputs in time to time, so that farmers can utilize full knowledge.
- More application of lacture method should be avoided for providing training to the tribal farmers and more emphasis should be given to learning by doing method.
- More field demonstration should also be applied for providing training to the tribal farmers to clear the doubt from the minds of the farmers and convince them about the superior performance of new technology.
- Continuous guidance should be provided to the farmers when they start to practice new technology on their farms.
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra should be established to provide and organize training for tribal farmers only and voluntary organization should also be engaged to provide training to the tribal farmers with regard to improve agricultural technology.

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