

A REVIEW ON IMPACT OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRAIN ENHANCING SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF FARMERS

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ABSTRACT

In Puducherry, the first KVK was founded in 1974. The KVK has increased to 731. KVKs are approved for use by Agricultural Universities, ICAR Institutes, relevant Government Departments, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) engaged in agriculture. The KVK initiative is fully funded by the Government of India. Through technology evaluation, improvement, and demonstrations, KVK, a crucial component of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), seeks to examine location-specific technology modules in agriculture and related sectors. As a knowledge and resource centre for agricultural technology, KVKs assist efforts from the public, corporate, and non-profit sectors aimed at enhancing the district's agricultural economy and serving as a conduit between farmers and the NARS.

KEYWORDS: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, National Agriculture Research System, Non-Government Organisation

Article History

Received: 03 Aug 2023 | Revised: 04 Aug 2023 | Accepted: 12 Aug 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the direction of Dr. Mohan Singh Mehta of the Seva Mandir in Udaipur, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) formed a high-level committee to assess the extension system in order to create an institutional framework for agricultural vocational training. The establishment of Farm Science Centers—now known as Krishi Vigyan Kendras—was suggested by this group(Rasul, 2021).KVK was established as a centre for agricultural extension by the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and its affiliated organisations at the district level. In Puducherry, the first KVK was founded in 1974(Srivastava, 2021).A crucial component of the National Agricultural Research System (NARS) is Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK). It denotes that it is a farm science centre that serves as a conduit between farmers and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) (Tiwari, 2020). The Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) serves as a vital agricultural extension center, connecting farmers with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and playing a crucial role in the National Agricultural Research System (NARS).

2. Role of Krishi Vigyan Kendra

Through trainings and FLDs, the KVKs contribute significantly to the dissemination of new agricultural technologies and the improvement of crop productivity(Aiswal *et al.*, 2015). The initial aim was to construct specialised institutions to offer

vocational education in agriculture and related fields at the pre- and post-matriculate levels (Subramanniyam and Shinoj, 2013). Adopting and upgrading technologies in accordance with the evolving demands of the farming community is crucial for the changing function of extension. The purpose of this essay is to describe how KVK is expanding its position to meet the evolving requirements of the farming community (Kumar *et al.*, 2020). About 81.52% of farmers claimed that information they obtained through various ICT methods proved to be helpful, and about 91.20% of farmers said that advisories shared with them helped them overcome issues they faced on time (Singh, 2020).

Because there are fewer flowers coming from Namakkal due to low output and a small area dedicated to growing them, there is a greater demand for flowers in the Namakkal market. Because of this, KVK, Namakkal has been implementing many OFT and FLD programmes in farmers' fields since 2008 in order to promote flower production (Bharathi *et al.*, 2019). The Technologies Assessment and Refinement (TAR) method tests new technologies on farms with farmers actively involved while KVK experts undertake a comprehensive investigation of the farm condition (Sahoo *et al.*, 2021). Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) actively contribute to agricultural technology dissemination, vocational education, and meeting evolving farming community requirements while utilizing ICT methods and innovative approaches like OFT, FLD, and TAR to enhance crop productivity and address agricultural challenges.

3. Training programmes running under KVK

After completing vocational training programmes and implementing the suggested strategies, the majority of the beneficiaries gained social, economic, and psychological empowerment. Their socio-economic standing was raised by the 14 vocational training programmes that KVK had organised (Rani and Mohapatra, 2021). The survey also showed that whereas 20% and 14% of respondents, respectively, gained knowledge after training at low and high levels, 66 percent of respondents learned about improved practises at the medium level (Kumbhare and Khonde, 2015). Before choosing any assistance for an extended training programme, it is important to consider how well the training aids will help the extension service achieve its primary objectives (Gupta and Dangi, 2013). The results showed that the majority of the trainees had opted for domestic vocational training. Approximately 58.33 percent of the trainees who received stitching training used the talent for personal use, and 41.66 percent used it to start a small home-based business in their village. Regarding postharvest training, 84.12% of respondents had implemented it at a self-sufficient level in their homes for self-consumption, and the remaining 15.87% had implemented it on a commercial level by forming Self Help Groups and boosting their family's income (Sharma and Tanwar, 2018). During the follow-up visits, the KVK provides any technical assistance that is required. The market for apparel is strong. The livelihoods of rural women have improved because to apparel manufacturing and embroidery, which also provides extra income and jobs, particularly for housewives (Veeranjaneyulu et al., 2014).

The vocational training programmes organized by KVKs have led to substantial social, economic, and psychological empowerment among beneficiaries, with positive impacts on their livelihoods, knowledge, and skill development, benefiting both personal and community levels.

4. How KVK Empowers Farmers

KVK Mobile App is a significant e-governance initiative undertaken by ICAR in compliance with the Government of India's Digital India programme. Since the KVK Mobile app's release, more than 14000 farmers have registered using this app with the KVKs to receive the information they need. By using this app as of June 2019, KVKs has responded to more than 500 questions from farmers (Pal et al., 2019).Only 42% of farmers who are not part of the FFS programme have a

good degree of expertise, compared to 57% of FFS farmers. The adoption rate was high (47%) compared to only 34% for Non-FFS Farmers (Rao *et al.*, 2012).Integrated farming systems, water management, fodder production, and technologies for soil and water conservation were the trainings that farmers most frequently requested, according to the data. They were followed by trainings on off-season vegetable cultivation, nursery management, and fruit crop cultivation. Training in small-scale preservation, processing, value addition, and rural craft were also in high demand as means of producing income and employment for rural women (Sharma *et al.*, 2010).

The KVK has provided training courses for technological advancements, which raise production, productivity, and income while also improving the financial situation of farmers. The growth of farm operations has also been regulated by economic development (Meena *et al.*, 2020).Farmers are losing interest in farming as a result of industrialization, such as the establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) close to villages, the government of Andhra Pradesh acquiring land, and real estate agents buying land from farmers, particularly in the Visakhapatnam region. Farmers are receiving lower prices, while middlemen are benefiting. Farmers need want training in agriculture and horticulture in order to obtain sustainable livelihoods, as well as advice about avoiding selling their land (Sridhar, 2015).The KVK Mobile App, along with various training programs and the Farmers' Field School (FFS) initiative, has significantly contributed to empowering farmers with knowledge and skills, fostering adoption of advanced agricultural technologies, addressing diverse agricultural challenges, and promoting sustainable livelihoods in the face of changing economic and industrial landscapes.

5. Communication technology used by the scientists in KVK

The regularity with which scientists use ICT technologies for agriculture Smart phones, the Internet, and WhatsApp with (x = 5.00) and Rank-I are the tools that KVK scientists use the most and the least. Farm Key, Mahadhan App, Agro Medix Agriculture App, and Agri Guru were not ICT tools that were utilised very regularly (Dashora and Henry, 2022). It may be inferred that the KVK scientists' use of ICT tools has a very specific goal and is for the benefit of the end users, or farmers (Dashora and Henry, 2022). The findings showed that the majority of KVK scientists frequently used Facebook (61.49%) and WhatsApp (91.93%) for entertainment purposes as well as to seek out and disseminate agricultural information, share success stories, communicate with other organisations, and solicit suggestions (James *et al.*, 2020). KVK scientists frequently use ICT tools like smartphones, the Internet, and WhatsApp, particularly Facebook and WhatsApp, for disseminating agricultural information, sharing success stories, communicating with other organizations, and seeking suggestions, highlighting their focus on benefiting farmers and end-users.

6. Behavioural change of farmers through KVK

The majority of respondents had a favourable view towards KVK and its operations, which is encouraging (Jiyawan et al., 2012). The level of understanding and acceptance of wheat production technology among trainees can significantly change as a result of KVK. In addition to management orientation, training and assistance provided to trainees have been key factors in influencing technical developments (Dubey and Srivastava, 2007). The farmers trained at KVK become more aware about the new technologies, invention as compared to not done training at Kvk (Singh *et al.*, 2015). When compared to respondents who weren't trainers, trainee respondents exhibited a high level of adoption. Farmers became more aware of the need to adopt a certain production technology connected to the maize crop thanks to KVK training programmes (Christopher *et al.*, 2018). The positive perception and impact of KVK operations are evident as respondents trained at KVK show increased awareness and adoption of new agricultural technologies compared to those who did not receive KVK training.

10. CONCLUSION

The aim of this paper is to describe Impact of Krishi Vigyan Kendra on the farmers. To that end introduction of KVK was analysed and described. It is noted that there are several impacts of KVK on the farmers in different aspects. The theories used were role of Kvk, training programmes running under Kvk, how Kvk empower farmers, communication technology used by the scientists of Kvk, behavioural changes of farmers through Kvk.Krishi Vigyan Kendra made a significant positive impact on raising farmers' levels of adoption of various agricultural production technology. KVK practises raised a lot of awareness and inspired other farmers to use the right agricultural technology. Kvk is really helping farmers to give them trainings, skills and empowering them by providing great knowledge about different crops, methods based on their needs.

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