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Training need identification of APMC and field level women labourers involved in post-harvest activities of dry chilli: A comparative study in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

India is the largest agricultural dependent country wherein, the culturally diverse population still depends on 'agriculture' and for them it is not merely a business but is the "True Culture of India". In Indian agriculture, women play multiple roles right from sowing to harvesting. She also plays crucial role in post-harvesting operations. Women are therefore key contributors in agricultural production. Training need identification of APMC and field level women labourers involved in post-harvest activities of dry chilli – A comparative study in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. A total of 120 respondents were selected for the study (60 respondents from Karnataka and 60 respondents from Andhra Pradesh). The data was collected through personal interview method with the help of pre-structured interview schedule. Statistical tools *viz.*, frequency, percentages, were used to analyze the data. The results in the study indicated that none of the respondents from both the states attended training programmes. Large majority of the women labourers from APMCs and field level expressed that they need training programme to improve income. Field level women labourers expressed they need training to improve yields and whereas APMC women labourers said that, they need training programmes on value addition to dry chilli to prepare chilli products. Training programmes should be designed in such a that, everyone should feel comfortable to attend the programme and it should be 2-3 days within village or nearby village. By planning appropriate training programmes to field level/APMC women labourers will enhance better participation in post-harvest activities of dry chilli.

Keywords: training needs, field level women labourers, APMC women labourers, dry chilli, post-harvest activities

Introduction

India is the largest agricultural dependent country wherein, the culturally diverse population still depends on 'agriculture' and for them it is not merely a business but is the "True Culture of India". Demographically, agriculture is the largest economic field and plays a significant role in India's entire socio-economic structure. In Indian agriculture, women play multiple roles right from sowing to harvesting. She also plays crucial role in post-harvesting operations. Women are therefore key contributors in agricultural production. They work as paid & unpaid labourers, cultivators, managers of certain aspects of agricultural production by way of labour supervision and participation in post-harvest operations.

Dry chilli production in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

Chilli is one of India's most popular commercial crops and it is being cultivated in almost all states and in union territories. Andhra Pradesh stands first and Karnataka stands second in position in area of chilli cultivation. These two states together contribute 14.00 per cent of the country's production (Patil and Nagnur 2015).

Andhra Pradesh is known for its spicy Guntur chilli which exports premium quality chilli and is in a high demand around the world for its extreme spiciness. The main trading place for Guntur chilli is called "Guntur Mirchi Yard" (Guntur APMC) in Andhra Pradesh which is Asia's largest dried red chilli market. Byadagi chilli of Karnataka is equally famous as that of Guntur but this variety is prized for its colour rather than spiciness. Both these chillies have been assigned the geographical indication tags. Guntur chilli is registered as under Registration and Protection Act, 1999. Byadgi chilli has been accorded Geographical Indication in February 2011. Both these markets are vibrant and chilli yards are full of activities especially those

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dealing with post-harvest activities both at field level and at the chilli markets (APMCs). Hence efforts are made to study training needs of women in post-harvest activities of dry chilli among APMC and field level women labourers.

Objective

To identify the training needs of field level and APMC women labourers involved in post-harvest activities of dry chilli

Methodology

The present study was conducted in Haveri district of Karnataka and Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. For this study three chilli cultivating villages namely Guthla, Agadi and Devihosur from Haveri taluka of Haveri district and three villages namely Rytunagar, Nadigadda and Dondapadu were selected from Vinukonda taluka of Guntur district were selected. From each selected village 10 women labourers involved in post-harvest activities of dry chilli at field level were randomly selected. Whereas 30 Guntur APMC women labourers and 30 Byadgi APMC women labourers were selected. Thus a total of 120 women labourers were selected for the study (60 respondents from Karnataka and 60 respondents from Andhra Pradesh). The data was collected through personal interview method with the help of pre-structured interview schedule. Statistical tools *viz.*, frequency, percentages were used to analyze the data.

Results and discussion

Training need assessment helps in planning appropriate training programmes for women labourers involved in post-harvest activities of dry chilli. In the present study, it was found that none of the women labourers attended any training programmes in post-harvest activities of dry chilli

The training need identification of APMC women labourers

The training needs expressed presented in Table 2 showed that more than half (53.33%) of Byadgi APMC and Guntur APMC (60.00%) women labourers indicated need for training on income generating activities. Only 10.00 per cent from Byadgi APMC and 06.66 per cent from Guntur APMC labourers expressed the need for training on value addition to dry chilli to prepare chilli products. Only 03.33 per cent

Guntur APMC labourers expressed the need indicated the need for training on post-harvest technologies.

Some of the respondents needed training on processing of dry chilli. Training in processing aspect helps them to prepare dry chilli products like (Red chilli pickle/chilli sause/chilli flakes). By adding value to chilli women can earn more money by using their time efficiently during off season thereby, they may earn for their livelihood. Few field level labourers expressed the training need on chilli crop production and post-harvesting for better yields and for better price. Due to lack of extension contact, APMC labourers and field level labourers have no idea about what to learn, where to learn and how to learn.

The training needs identification of field level women labourers

The training needs of field level women labourers as indicated in Table 3 depict that nearly half (46.66%) of Haveri district and 36.66 per cent from Guntur district respondents expressed the need for training on income generating activities. Whereas only 10.00 per cent from Haveri and 13.33 per cent from Guntur expressed the need for training on improvement of chilli yield. Only one respondent (03.33%) from Haveri and two respondents (06.66 %) from Guntur told about need for training on Post-harvest technologies of dry chilli. Need for training on (06.33%) said to get training on marketing of dry chilli and (03.33%) expressed the need training on processing of dry chilli and post-harvest technology. Training on value addition to dry chilli was needed by only one (03.33 %) respondent from Haveri district. Only two respondents from Haveri district felt the need for training on Marketing of dry chilli. It was observed that, APMC labourers and field level labourers expressed the need to receive training on income generating activities. The reason might be the respondents selected for the study were wage labourers and their income was very low and not enough to meet all the requirements. So they felt that they could earn additional income from other activities if they could get training in non-farm based activities. Moreover they do not have farm work all round the year. So they work to take up income generating activities during slack season. The findings were similar to Uplap *et al.* (2010) [6], Rahman *et al.* (2010) [5], and Humayera *et al.* (2003) [11].

Table 1: Trainings attended by Filed level and APMC women labourers

n = 120		
Sl. No	Categories	No of trainings attended
1	Guntur APMC women labourers	-
2	Byadgi APMC women labourers	-
3	Guntur district Field level women labourers	-
4	Haveri district Field level women labourers	-

Table 2: Training need identification of APMC women labourers

n = 60				
Sl. No.	Topics for training	Byadgi APMC (n ₁ =30)	Guntur APMC (n ₂ =30)	Total (n=60)
		F (%)	F (%)	F (%)
1	Value addition to dry chilli to prepare chilli products	03 (10.00)	02 (06.66)	05 (08.33)
2	Income generating activities	16 (53.33)	18 (60.00)	34 (56.66)
3	Post - harvest technologies of dry chilli	-	01 (03.33)	01 (01.67)

Table 3: Training need identification of field level women labourers

Sl. No.	Topics for training	n = 60		
		Haveri (n ₁ =30) F (%)	Guntur (n ₂ =30) F (%)	Total (n=60) F (%)
1	Value addition to dry chilli to prepare chilli products	01 (03.33)	-	01 (01.66)
2	Marketing of dry chilli	02 (06.66)	-	02 (03.33)
3	Training to improve yield	03 (10.00)	04 (13.33)	07 (11.66)
4	Post-harvest technologies of dry chilli	01 (03.33)	02 (06.66)	03 (05.00)
5	Income generating activities	14 (46.66)	11 (36.66)	25 (41.66)

Conclusion

Training need assessment helps in planning appropriate training programmes for women labourers involved in post-harvest activities of dry chilli. In the present study, it was found that none of the women labourers attended any training programmes in post-harvest activities of dry chilli. It could be because of illiteracy and lack of extension participation. It can be concluded from the findings of the study that most of the women labourers from the states wanted training to improve their income. Field level women labourers expressed they need training to improve yields and whereas APMC women labourers said that, they need training programmes on value addition to dry chilli to prepare chilli products. Training programmes should be designed in such a that, everyone should feel comfortable to attend the programme and it should be 2-3 days within village or nearby village. By planning appropriate training programmes to field level/APMC women labourers will enhance better participation in post-harvest activities of dry chilli.

Implications

- 1 KVKs and developmental departments need to educate the women labourers on these aspects to improve their knowledge level.
- 2 All the respondents have not attended any kind of training programmes. There is a need to train APMC women labourers and field level women labourers in management of post-harvest activities in their respective domains. Off campus extension activities should be designed to improve their knowledge and participation in post-harvest activities.
- 3 As women labourers were involved in many post-harvest activities, policy makers should consider ways of providing programmes and technologies that minimize the amount of time and effort involved in domestic tasks and women can perform post-harvesting activities in a better way.
- 4 Drudgery reducing technologies can be taken up for research to reduce the burden of post-harvest activities and health problems.
- 5 Exposure visits to women labourers can help to know about advanced technologies such as vacuum packaging, mechanical drying and such other technologies.

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