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Knowledge level of package and practices of paddy among the FRAs beneficial tribal farmers of South Gujarat

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Abstract
India is the home to large number of indigenous people, who are still untouched by the lifestyle of the modern world. In India tribal constitute 8.61 per cent of the total population of the country, numbering 104.28 million and cover about 15 per cent of the country's area. These were also known as the Adivasi's in the country, which are still dependent on haunting, agriculture and fishing. The majority of beneficial tribal farmers belonged to medium to low level of knowledge regarding towards different recommended practices of paddy crop. Majority of beneficial tribal farmers had correct knowledge regarding recommended variety, followed by recommended stage of crop for harvesting, recommended pesticide for rice gundhi bug and recommended spacing in main field.

Keywords: Knowledge, FRAs beneficial tribal farmers, paddy

Introduction
India is the home to large number of indigenous people, who are still untouched by the lifestyle of the modern world. Tribes, also known as aboriginal communities/indigenous people/Adivasis/Janjatis/Scheduled Tribes, are residing in forests since time immemorial. In India tribes constitute around 8.61 per cent of the total population of the country, numbering 104.28 million (Anon., 2011) [1] and cover about 15 per cent of the country's area. They were also known as the Adivasi's in India, which are still dependent on haunting, agriculture and fishing. Tribals have been living in the forest ecology and that has shaped their life and the society they presently have. Most of them live in close proximity of forest and depend on the forest for their livelihood and sustenance. Their entire existence evolves around the forest as they evolve in these woodlands and extract prerequisites like clean water, air, food, medicines, shelter and even recreational retreats from these forests. The tribals get food from the forests by shifting or settled cultivation, apart from picking varieties of edible and herbal roots, tubers, creepers, fruits, leaves. Along with that, tribals extract varieties of minor forest produce (MFP), which includes fodder and grasses, raw materials like bamboo canes and leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and several forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, and honey.

Methodology
The present research work was carried out on Forest Right Act (FRA) tribal beneficiaries of South Gujarat during 2019-2021. An ex-post facto research design was used in the present investigation. The present study was conducted in seven districts of South Gujarat purposively, a list of all beneficial tribal farmers of Forest Right Act (FRA), 2006 were collected from the District Forest Office of respective forest divisions of South Gujarat. The proportionate random sampling method was used for selection of 315 beneficial tribal farmers from 65 villages of 21 talukas of three districts of South Gujarat for the present investigation. A questioner were prepared and informations collected and analysis the data by using slandered statistical tools.

Results and Discussion
The data regarding knowledge level of package and practices of paddy among the FRAs beneficial tribal farmers were analyzed and 57.15 per cent of the respondent paddy growers belonged to medium level of knowledge category about recommended practices of paddy

cultivation whereas, 24.44 per cent and 18.41 per cent of the respondent paddy growers belonged to low and high levels of knowledge, respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of beneficial tribal farmers according to their knowledge regarding overall recommended practices of paddy cultivation

(n=315)

Sr. No.	Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	77	24.44
2.	Medium	180	57.15
3.	High	58	18.41
Total		315	100.00

In general, data showed that the majority (81.59 per cent) of beneficial tribal farmers belonged to medium to low level of knowledge regarding towards different recommended practices of paddy crop.

Table 2: Distribution of the beneficial tribal farmers according to their level of knowledge regarding individual recommended practices of paddy cultivation

(n=315)

Sr. No.	Recommended practices of paddy cultivation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Recommended Green manure crop	200	63.49
2	Recommended level of water at puddling	186	59.05
3	Recommended variety	271	86.03
4	Recommended area of nursery for one hectare	236	74.92
5	Recommended size of seedbed	183	58.10
6	Recommended time of seed sowing in seedbed	198	62.86
7	Recommended seed rate	249	79.05
8	Recommended chemical for seed treatment	173	54.92
9	Recommended age of seedling to be used	224	71.11
10	Recommended time of transplanting	221	70.16
11	Recommended spacing in main field	252	80.00
12	Recommended number of seedlings per hill	208	66.03
13	Recommended number of cartloads of FYM/ha	236	74.92
14	Recommended dosage of NPK	227	72.06
15	Recommended split application of nitrogen	126	40.00
16	Recommended level of water at tillering stage	173	54.92
17	Recommended level of water before harvesting	211	66.98
18	Recommended herbicide in nursery	126	40.00
19	Recommended herbicide in transplanted field	129	40.95
20	Recommended pesticide for BPH	246	78.10
21	Recommended pesticide for rice gundhi bug	261	82.86
22	Recommended pesticide for Bacterial blight	171	54.29
23	Recommended pesticide for rice blast	236	74.92
24	Recommended stage of crop for harvesting	268	85.08

The data in the table-2 unveiled that 86.03 per cent of beneficial tribal farmers had correct knowledge regarding recommended variety, followed by recommended stage of crop for harvesting (85.08 per cent), recommended pesticide for rice gundhi bug (82.86 per cent), recommended spacing in main field (80.00 per cent), recommended seed rate (79.05 per cent), recommended pesticide for brown plant hopper (BPH) (78.10 per cent), recommended area of nursery for one hectare (74.92 per cent), recommended number of cartloads of FYM /ha (74.92 per cent), recommended pesticide for rice blast (74.92 per cent), recommended dosage of NPK (72.06 per cent), recommended age of seedling to be used (71.11 per cent), recommended time of transplanting (70.16 per cent), recommended level of water before harvesting (66.98 per cent). 66.03 per cent of beneficial tribal farmers had correct knowledge regarding recommended number of seedlings per hill followed by recommended green manure crop (63.49 per cent), recommended time of seed sowing in seed bed (62.86 per cent), recommended level of water at puddling (59.05 per cent) and recommended size of seed bed (58.10 per cent). Further 54.92 per cent of the beneficial tribal farmers had correct knowledge about recommended chemical for seed treatment, followed by 54.92 per cent, 54.29 per cent, 40.95 per cent, 40.00 per cent and 40.00 per cent about recommended level of water at tillering stage, recommended pesticide for Bacteria blight, recommended herbicide in transplanted field, recommended split application of nitrogen and recommended herbicide in nursery, respectively. Furthermore, it can be revealed that majority of the respondent paddy growers (>60.00 per cent) have correct knowledge about 16 recommended practices of paddy cultivation out of 24 listed practices, the reason might be that paddy is an important crop grown by farmers in this region.

Conclusion

It can be concluded from the data the majority of the FRA beneficial tribal farmers belonged to the medium to low level of knowledge about different recommended practices of paddy crop. The correct knowledge regarding recommended variety, recommended stage of crop for harvesting and recommended pesticide for rice gundhi bug were found in recommended practices of paddy crop.

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