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Correlational analysis of personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological characteristics of participant farmers with the impact of ICAR farmer first programme

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Abstract

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched an initiative known as the Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) in the year 2016-17, to move beyond production and productivity, prioritize smallholder agriculture, and address the complex, diverse, and risk-prone realities of the majority of farmers. An experiment entitled "Impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme on participant farmers" was conducted at Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, Post Graduate Institute, MPKV, Rahuri, during 2021-22. An ex-post facto research design was used for this research. The study was conducted purposively in two adopted villages (Chinchvihire and Kangar) of ICAR Farmer First Programme of MPKV, Rahuri in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Total 300 respondents 150 respondents from each villages interviewed for the present study. This investigation aims to analyze the correlational analysis of personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological characteristics of participant farmers with the impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. In investigated result revealed that out of ten independent variables, like education, land holding, social participation, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation all these variables establish positive and significant relationship at 0.05 per cent level of significance with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST programme while other variables like annual income source of information and attitude towards ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme establish positive and significant relationship at 0.01 per cent level of significance and age had positive and non-significant correlation with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme.

Keywords: ICAR farmer FIRST programme, impact, correlation analysis, participant farmers

Introduction

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched an initiative known as the Farmer FIRST Programme (FFP) in the year 2016-17. The project entitled ICAR Farmer FIRST is an ICAR initiative to move beyond the production and productivity and to privilege the complex, diverse and risk prone realities of majority of the farmers through enhancing farmers-scientists interface. This necessitates the amalgamation/integration, development and refinement of modern technology from research institutions with knowledge and wisdom of farmers. This process not only enhances the use of appropriate technology capacity of the farmers, but also provides the feedback to the scientists to refine and fine tune it to local setting. The basic concept is that the farmer is in a central role for research problem identification, prioritization, conduct of experiments and its management in farmers' field conditions. In essence, the FFP brings farmers and scientists together in one platform to understand the requirement of Indian agriculture in modern age. This programme was started in the year 2016-17 at MPKV, Rahuri in two project villages of Ahmednagar district. This investigation study Coefficient of correlation was used to find out relationship between personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological characteristics of participant farmers with the impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme.

Methodology

The study was carried out in western region of Maharashtra state. The ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme is implemented by MPKV, Rahuri in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Therefore Ahmednagar district selected purposively for the study. An ex-post-facto research design of social research was used for the present study. Total 300 participant farmers, 150 from each village that is Chinchvihire and Kangar of Rahuri tahsil of Ahmednagar district

were selected. The selected participant farmers were personally interviewed with help of structured interview schedule. The collected data were then analyzed and findings emerged out of the investigation and conclusion drawn there upon. The data is tabulated and analysed using appropriate statistical tools i.e., mean, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage). Coefficient of correlation was used to find out relationship between personal, socio-economic, communicational and psychological characteristics of participant farmers and impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme.

Result and Discussion

The relationship between the personal, socioeconomic, communicational, and psychological characteristics of participant farmers and impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme was examined using a correlation test.

Table 1: Relationship between selected characteristics and impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficients (r)
1	Age	0.101 ^{NS}
2	Education	0.141*
3	Annual income	0.210**
4	Size of land holding	0.146*
5	Social participation	0.117*
6	Sources of information	0.230**
7	Risk orientation	0.147*
8	Economic motivation	0.168*
9	Scientific orientation	0.135*
10	Attitude	0.236**

*= Significant at 0.05 level of probability;

** = Significant at 0.01 level of probability;

NS= Non-Significant

The data on relationship between selected independent variables of respondents with their impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme is presented in Table 1.

Age with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that age was non significantly related with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. The probable reason might be that there is no influence of age on the impact of ICAR FFP.

Similar finding has been reported by Ninama *et al.* (2016) [6], Kokate (2020) [3] and Thakare (2021) [9].

Education with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

It has been apparent from the data presented in Table 1 that education had positive and significant relationship with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. As education of the respondents increased there was positive increase in impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. The participant farmers with good educational background had knowledge of technology of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme, improved crop production technologies, therefore, they might have reaped more benefits from ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme.

The finding is in conformity with the findings of Ninama *et al.* (2016) [6], Supe *et al.* (2017) [8], Patil (2019) [7], Thakare (2021) [9] and Gadmale (2023) [2].

Annual income with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

It has been seen from Table 1 that annual income had

positive and highly significant relationship with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. It could be concluded that, as annual income of the respondents increased with the impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme.

The finding is in close conformity with the findings of Ninama *et al.* (2016) [6] and Thakare (2021) [9].

Size of land holding with impact of ICAR Farmer First Programme

The data revealed that, the size of land holding had positive and highly significant relationship with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. The probable reason could be that farmers with medium to large land holdings were consistently poised to reap the benefits of new technologies and programmes due to their superior financial conditions and greater risk-taking abilities.

Similar finding has been reported by Ninama *et al.* (2016) [6] and Supe *et al.* (2017) [8].

Social participation with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

Further, it was observed that there exists a positive and statistically significant relationship between social participation and the impact of the ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. The respondents who engage in greater social participation tend to have increased exposure to various sources of information during their interactions. This enhanced exposure aids them in acquiring a greater amount of information.

The finding is supported by findings of Supe *et al.* (2017) [8], Kokate (2020) [3] and Manjeet (2019) [5].

Sources of information with impact of ICAR Farmer First Programme

A positive and significant relationship between the respondents sources of information and impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme was observed. The respondents who had more contact with university scientists, extension personnel, field staff whatsapp group of ICAR FFP and mass media sources for information were found to be benefited.

The finding is supported by the finding of Deokate (2018) [10] and Kokate (2020) [3].

Risk orientation with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

It was found that there was positive and significant relationship between the respondents risk orientation and impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. The probable reason might be that the respondents might have overcome the risk while participating in interventions under ICA FFP.

The finding is supported by findings of Kumar *et al.* (2019) [4], Ninama *et al.* (2016) [6] and Supe *et al.* (2017) [8].

Economic motivation with impact of ICAR Farmer First Programme

The data presented in Table 1 reported that economic motivation of the respondents had positive and significant relationship with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. Every farmer wants to maximize his profit by adopting different technologies. Under ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme these respondents have adopted several interventions. Therefore, farmers with high economic motivation took advantage of it for better economic returns through increased production.

The finding is in line with findings of Kumar *et al.* (2019)^[4], Supe *et al.* (2017)^[8] and Manjeet (2019)^[5].

Scientific orientation with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

The data reported that scientific orientation of the respondents had positive and significant relationship with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. This is due to the reason that frequent trainings of the respondents on scientific cultivation, exposure visits, frontline demonstrations and regular advisory have increased their scientific orientation.

The finding is in line with findings of Kumar *et al.* (2019)^[4] and Manjeet (2019)^[5].

Attitude with impact of the of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme

It has been observed from the data presented in Table 1 that attitude had positive and significant relationship with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme. The respondents with favourable attitude towards ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme had taken benefit from the interventions. Therefore attitude had significant relationship.

Conclusion

Impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme was calculated on the basis of change in average yield, change in average gross monetary return and change in net income. There is high source of information, favourable and highly favourable attitude of participant farmers towards ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme etc. So this investigation observed that independent variables like education, land holding, social participation, economic motivation, risk orientation, scientific orientation all these variables establish positive and significant relationship at 0.05 per cent level of significance with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST programme while other variables like annual income, source of information and attitude towards ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme establish positive and significant relationship at 0.01 per cent level of significance and age had positive and non-significant correlation with impact of ICAR Farmer FIRST Programme.

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