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Ashutosh Sharma
Ph.D. Scholar, Department of
Extension Education, College of
Agriculture Jawaharlal Nehru
Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya,
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
India.

NK Khare
Professor & Head, Department
of Extension Education, College
of Agriculture Jawaharlal Nehru
Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya,
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
India.

Constraints faced by the Farmers friends of Madhya Pradesh in participation in different activities agricultural technology management agency (ATMA)

Ashutosh Sharma and NK Khare

Abstract

The present study was carried out during 2016-17 in the tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh state. This study was conducted in randomly selected 600 villages of four purposively selected blocks i.e. Mandla, Nainpur located in Mandla district similarly Dindori, Mehandwani located in Dindori district. The aim of this study to know the constraints in participation in the activities of ATMA. A total of 300 farmer friends were selected randomly as respondents. The data collection was done by the use of interview schedule through personal interview. Data were analyzed with help of suitable statistical tools. Highest percentage of respondents were of the opinion that unavailability of inputs at the farmers doorstep, in case of Dindori the highest percentage of respondents were of the opinion that voice of extension personnel's have been often neglected. The most important suggestions given by the respondents of Mandla were opinion that timely release of funds and approval of activity plans, in case of Dindori the highest percentage of respondents were suggested that regular contact should be made among farmers and ATMA officers to overcome the constraints for increasing the participation of farmers in different activities of ATMA.

Keywords: ATMA, Constraints and Suggestions, Participation, Farmer friends

1. Introduction

The strong agricultural research and education systems coupled with appropriate extension support have helped in achieving the food sufficiency to meet the increasing food demands despite growing population.

The scheme 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' aims at making extension system farmer driven and farmer accountable by disseminating technology to farmers through new institutional arrangements viz. Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at district level to operationalize the extension reforms on a participatory mode. The key features of reforms are Encouraging multi-agency extension strategies involving public private extension service providers. Ensuring an integrated, broad based extension delivery mechanism consistent with farming system approach with a focus on bottom up planning process. Adopting group approach to extension in line with the identified needs and requirements of the farmers in the form of CIGs & FIGs and consolidate them as farmers producer organisations. Facilitating convergence of farmer centric programmes in planning, execution and implementation. Addressing gender concerns by mobilizing farm women into groups and providing training to them.

Material and Methods

The present study was carried out during 2016-17 in the tribal district of Madhya Pradesh. Mandla and Dindori district were selected. Out of total blocks in the districts, 2 blocks selected from each district purposively because maximum number of farmer friend are living in this block as compared to other blocks and proximity to Agriculture University and transfer of technology center. (2 villages = 1 farmer friend) total 150 villages were selected from each block, thus total 600 villages were selected randomly on the basis of maximum availability of respondents in the villages. From selected block (1 block = 150 villages =75 farmer friend) 75 respondents were selected randomly from each selected villages. Thus, the total 300 farmer friends were considered as respondent for this study. Respondents were interviewed through personal interview. Prior to interview, respondents were taken in to confidence by revealing the actual purpose of the study and full care was taken in to consideration to develop good

Correspondence
Ashutosh Sharma
Ph.D. Scholar, Department of
Extension Education, College of
Agriculture Jawaharlal Nehru
Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya,
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh,
India.

rapport with them. For the data collection well designed and pre-tested interview scheduled were used. Collected data were analyzed by the help of various statistical tools i.e. frequency,

percentage, mean and standard deviation, etc.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Constraints faced by the respondents in participation of ATMA activities

S. No.	Constraints	Mandla			Dindori		
		f	%	Rank	f	%	Rank
1.	Inadequate financial support under the ATMA programme	65	43.33	VII	99	66.00	II
2.	Un-timely release of fund	95	63.33	II	84	56.00	III
3.	Lack of delegation of power to the block level functionaries	74	49.33	IV	69	46.00	VI
4.	Voice of extension personnel's have been often neglected	82	54.66	III	104	69.33	I
5.	Unavailability of inputs at the farmers doorstep	102	68.00	I	70	46.66	V
6.	Farmers showing lack of interest in attending farm school	62	41.33	VIII	72	48.00	IV
7.	Political hindrance affecting the selection of beneficiaries	56	37.33	IX	54	36.00	X
8.	No guidelines for block action plans	72	48.00	V	50	33.33	XI
9.	Few demonstration on farming system research	70	46.66	VI	23	15.33	XVI
10.	Few training on improved technologies to farmers	40	26.66	XIII	58	38.66	VIII
11.	Few exposure visit	30	20.00	XVI	40	26.66	XIII
12.	No training programme on ICT	42	28.00	XII	59	39.33	VII
13.	Poor education system of farmers	32	21.33	XV	20	13.33	XVII
14.	Poor financial condition	28	18.66	XVII	28	18.66	XV
15.	Lack of credibility of farmer friend among villages	49	32.66	XI	55	36.66	IX
16.	Less availability of suitable subject material	34	22.66	XIV	30	20.00	XIV
17.	Too many similar programme under each scheme	54	36.00	X	41	27.33	XII

Multiple responses were taken to ascertain the problems faced by the respondents in participation of different ATMA activities those are given as shown in Table 1. Among several constraints, the highest percentage of respondents (68%) were of the opinion that Unavailability of inputs at the farmers doorstep was the major constraints ranked Ist, followed by un-timely release of fund (63.33%) IInd in ranked, voice of extension personnel's have been often neglected (54.66%) third in ranked, lack of delegation of power to the block level functionaries (49.33%) IVth in ranked and no guidelines for block action plans (48.00%) in Vth in ranked.

The other constraints were 46.66 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that few demonstrations on farming system research VIth in ranked, inadequate financial support under the ATMA programme (43.33%) VIIth in ranked, farmers showing lack of interest in attending farm school (41.33%) VIIIth in ranked, political hindrance affecting the selection of beneficiaries (37.33%) IXth in ranked, too many similar programmes under each scheme (36%) Xth in ranked, lack of credibility of farmer friend among villages (32.66%) XIth in ranked, no training programme on ICT (28%) XIIth in ranked, few training on improved technologies to farmers (26.66%) XIIIth in ranked, less availability of suitable subject material (22.66%) XIVth in ranked, poor education system of farmers (21.33%) XVth in ranked, few exposure visit (20%) XVIth in ranked and poor financial condition (18.66%) XVIIth

in ranked.

In case of Dindori the highest percentage of respondents (69.33%) were of the opinion that voice of extension personnel's have been often neglected was the major constraints ranked Ist, followed by inadequate financial support under the ATMA programme (66%) IInd in ranked, un-timely release of fund (56%) IIIrd in ranked, farmers showing lack of interest in attending farm school (48%) IVth in ranked and unavailability of inputs at the farmer's doorstep (46.66%) Vth in ranked.

The other constraints were 46 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that lack of delegation of power to the block level functionaries VIth in ranked, no training programme on ICT (39.33%) VIIth in ranked, few training on improved technologies to farmers (38.66%) VIIIth in ranked, lack of credibility of farmer friend among villages (36.66%) IXth in ranked, political hindrance affecting the selection of beneficiaries (36%) Xth in ranked, no guidelines for block action plans (33.33%) XIth in ranked, too many similar programme under each scheme (27.33%) XIIth in ranked, few exposure visit (26.66%) XIIIth in ranked, less availability of suitable subject material (20%) XIVth in ranked, poor financial condition (18.66%) XVth in ranked, few demonstrations on farming system research (15.33%) XVIth in ranked and poor education system of farmers (13.33%) XVIIth in ranked.

Table 2: Suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints for effective participation in ATMA activities

S. No.	Suggestions	Mandla			Dindori		
		f	%	Rank	f	%	Rank
1.	Activities should start before commencement	69	46.00	IV	71	48.00	II
2.	Transportation facility should be provided	72	48.00	II	62	41.33	III
3.	Simplify the excess bureaucracy	51	34.00	VII	50	33.33	VII
4.	Conducting of ATMA meeting regularly	32	21.33	IX	48	32.00	VIII
5.	Action plans to be prepared with the convergence of farmers members also	54	36.00	VI	59	39.33	V
6.	Regular contact should be made among farmers and ATMA officers	70	46.66	III	76	50.66	I
7.	Provision of reward to member of ATMA committees for participating meeting	56	37.33	V	60	40.00	IV
8.	Preference should be given to women's	40	26.66	VIII	32	21.33	X
9.	Programme should be organized in right time	30	20.00	X	42	28.00	IX
10.	Timely release of funds and approval of activity plans	79	52.66	I	56	37.33	VI

As regards to suggestion given by the respondents to overcome the constraints in participation of different ATMA activities, the findings are presented in the Table 2. The data revealed that the majority of the respondents (52.66%) were of the opinion that timely release of funds and approval of activity plans, transportation facility should be provided (48%) and regular contact should be made among farmers and ATMA officers (46.66%).

The other suggestions were 46 per cent of the respondents were of the opinion that activities should start before commencement, provision of reward to member of ATMA committees for participating meeting (37.33%), action plans to be prepared with the convergence of farmers members also (36%), simplify the excess bureaucracy (34%), preference should be given to women's (26.66%), conducting of ATMA meeting regularly (21.33%) and programme should be organized in right time (20%).

In case of Dindori the highest percentage of respondents (50.66%) were suggested that regular contact should be made among farmers and ATMA officers, activities should start before commencement (48%), transportation facility should be provided (41.33%), provision of reward to member of ATMA committees for participating meeting (40%), action plans to be prepared with the convergence of farmers members also (39.33%), timely release of funds and approval of activity plans (37.33%), simplify the excess bureaucracy (33.33%), conducting of ATMA meeting regularly (32%), programme should be organized in right time (28%) and preference should be given to women's (21.33%).

Conclusion

From the above research works it can be concluded that the highest percentage of respondents were of the opinion that unavailability of inputs at the farmers doorstep, followed by un-timely release of fund, voice of extension personnel's have been often neglected. In case of Dindori the highest percentage of respondents were of the opinion that voice of extension personnel's have been often neglected, followed by inadequate financial support under the ATMA, un-timely release of fund were reported as major three important constraints in the participation of respondents in various ATMA activities. Regarding suggestions given by the respondents of Mandla were opinion that timely release of funds and approval of activity plans, followed by transportation facility should be provided and regular contact should be made among farmers and ATMA officers. In case of Dindori the highest percentage of respondents were suggested that regular contact should be made among farmers and ATMA officers, followed by activities should start before commencement, transportation facility should be provided

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