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EVALUATION OF KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA TRAINING PROGRAMME ON MUSHROOM CULTIVATION

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Dewas districts of Madhya Pradesh during the year 2013-14 to 2015-16 with the objective to work out the impact of mushroom trainings on knowledge and adoption. Training programme is generally conducted with a goal that the participants after being trained will translate the acquired knowledge and skill into action. Ninty trainees were imparted training on mushroom farming by conducting 5 vocational on campus training programmes. In order to evaluate these training programmes, the present study was undertaken to assess the gain in knowledge of the participants and adoption status of the enterprise of the mushroom to enhance the entrepreneurship in mushroom farming. It was showed from data that maximum number of the trainees belong to middle age group (61.11 %), having education up to middle (47.78%) and primary (28.89%). The maximum weighted number achieved 2.51 and minimum 1.82 by spawn production techniques and management of spent mushroom, respectively. Results revealed that most of the beneficiaries were found to be satisfied with the many aspects of training *viz*., training programs, course content and time and duration, facilities and overall use fullness of training.

Key words : Mushroom cultivation, training, evaluation of training.

Introduction

Skill training is defined as an action – oriented way of training in which the activity is performed. Thus, skill training may be considered as detailed step of illustration of performance of a component related to the job by involving the process of doing and practicing for behavior changes of the workers. To find out the success of any training programme a periodic appraisal and evaluation of what is being done is essential, so that suitable changes can be made to make training programme more effective. The Farm Science Centre known as Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVKs) are functional in various districts of India for imparting vocational training to different clientele groups. The vocational training programmes taken into account all methods and means which result in to skill development in rural youth in the areas of their interest (Lal and Tondon, 2011).

The main aim of KVK is to develop entrepreneurship amongst the rural people especially the farmers, farm-women, rural youth and the entrepreneurs in different areas of agriculture, poultry farming, dairying, horticulture, agro-forestry, bee-keeping and home science for enhancing productivity, increasing income and employment for the welfare of human beings. Mushroom farming can play a significant role to eradicate malnutrition, alleviate poverty and create employment opportunity for educated unemployed youth. In this context, there is a wide spread agreement among agricultural scientists to the importance of adoption of mushroom farming as subsidiary occupation in rural areas. Cultivation of edible mushrooms is one of the most economically viable processes for the bioconversion of lingo-cellulosic wastes (Cohen *et al*., 2002).

Mushroom growing is one agricultural activity in which women can play a vital role without sacrificing their household responsibilities (Biswas *et al*., 2012). Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dewas is imparting trainings in mushroom cultivation to the farmers, farm women and rural youth. During 2013-14 to 2015-16, five such vocational training programmes were organized regarding mushroom farming in which 90 farmers participated. In order to

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evaluate the outcome of these training programmes, a study was conducted to assess the socio economic profile of the trainee, gain in knowledge and adoption status of the enterprise in mushroom farming among the rural farmers of the dewas district.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh state. A Performa was developed comprising general information, background of participants such as age, education, occupation, family size etc. Age, education, family type, membership of society, farming experience and extension media contact were selected as a independent variables, while dependent variable of this was gain in knowledge of the trainees. Respondents were personally contacted who had taken training on mushroom cultivation. Thorough training on various aspects of oyster mushroom cultivation were given which included the mushroom cultivation techniques, spawn production techniques, insect & pest management, mushroom preservation & processing, management of spent mushroom and preparation of various recipes of mushroom etc. Skill demo and video show on mushroom production were arranged to the participants.

For the evaluation of training, these components systematically incorporated in the interview schedule. Responses of the respondents were recorded in the 3 point continuum scale such as very important (VI), Important (I) and Non Important (NI) by assigning scores 3, 2 and 1, respectively (Sanjeev and Singh, 2010). The results were calculated as weighted scores for each minor component.

$$\text{Weighted Score (WS)} = \frac{(\text{No. of VI}\times 3) + (\text{No. of I}\times 2) + (\text{No. of NI}\times 1)}{\text{Total No. of (VI + I + NI)}}$$

Weighted scores were ranked within each discipline. Based on the rankings, the component that sought maximum attention under each thrust area was determined. The data were also depicted in the form of percentage of farmers giving response in very important category in each component.

Perception of the beneficiaries were also studied through six aspects of trainings viz., resource persons, course content, time and duration, practical activities, facilities and overall usefulness of the training programs.

Results and Discussion

The data showed in table 1 that maximum number of the trainees belong to middle age group (61.11 %), having education up to middle (47.78%) and primary (28.89%). The trainees were predominantly from rural background and more than 50 per cent belonged to nucleus family. The subsidiary occupation of mushroom farming attracted persons from farming background as the inputs required for its cultivation are readily available at their farms e.g. wheat straw and fertilizers etc. Approximately seventy seven per cent farmers belonged to marginal and small categories. As mushroom farming enterprise does not require arable land so the respondents from marginal land holding and landless category wanted to adopt this enterprise to augment their family income. These results were in line with the findings of the Rachna *et al*. (2013).

Table 1 : Socio economic profile of the trainees.

S. no.	Variable	Frequency	Percentage
1.	**Age**		
	Young (18-25)	26	28.89
	Middle (25-45)	55	61.11
	Old (above 45)	9	10.00
2.	**Education**		
	Illiterate	8	8.89
	Primary	26	28.89
	Middle	43	47.78
	Matriculate	10	11.11
	Higher secondary	3	3.33
	Graduation and above	0	0.00
3.	**Family type**		
	Nucleus	48	53.33
	Joint	42	46.67
4.	**Farm size**		
	Landless	17	18.89
	Marginal (< 1 ha)	42	46.67
	Small (1-2 ha)	27	30.00
	Semi medium (2-4 ha)	4	4.44
	Medium (4-10 ha)	0	0.00
	Large (> 10 ha)	0	0.00

The data presented in table 2 indicates the rankings given by the farmers to different components based on weighted scores was, spawn production techniques (I), preparation of various recipes of mushroom (II), Insect & pest management (III), Mushroom cultivation techniques (IV), Mushroom preservation & processing (V) and Management of spent mushroom (VI). The maximum weighted number achieved 2.51 and minimum

Table 2 : Impact of Mushroom cultivation training on knowledge.

S. no.	Trust Area	Very Important	Important	Not Important	W S	Rank
1.	Mushroom cultivation techniques	36(40)	38(42)	16(18)	2.22	IV
2.	Spawn production techniques	55(61)	26(29)	9(10)	2.51	I
3.	Insect & pest management	41(46)	32(35)	17(19)	2.27	III
4.	Mushroom preservation & processing	31(34)	40(45)	19(21)	2.13	V
5.	Management of spent mushroom	26(29)	22(24)	42(47)	1.82	VI
6.	Preparation of various recipes of mushroom	35(39)	47(52)	8(9)	2.30	II

Table 3 : Perception of trainees regarding specific aspects of mushroom training of KVK,

S. no.	Training Aspects	High	Medium	Low	W S
1	Resource persons	46(51)	34(38)	10(11)	2.40
2	Course content	51(57)	26(29)	13(14)	2.42
3	Time & Duration	61(68)	18(20)	11(12)	2.56
4	Practical Activities	39(43)	26(29)	25(28)	2.16
5	Facilities	56(62)	28(31)	16(18)	2.67
6	Overall use fullness of training	66(73)	17(19)	7(8)	2.66

1.82 by spawn production techniques and management of spent mushroom, respectively. About 61% farmers were of the opinion that spawn production techniques is most important because non-availability of quality spawn is the major constraints and it is the basic input of the mushroom production technology. Similarly, 52% farmers given importance to preparation of various recipes of mushroom because this was the new concept for trainees and small scale entrepreneurship to be set up for the value added products of mushroom without such component mushroom entrepreneurship cannot be boosted up. Similarly, farmers given importance to Insect & pest management (46%) followed by Mushroom cultivation techniques (40%), Mushroom preservation & processing (34%) and Management of spent mushroom (29%). These findings are in line with the Korade (2003) and Singh *et al*. (2013).

Perception of the trainees were studied through five aspects of trainings *viz*., resource persons, course content, time and duration, practical activities, facilities and overall usefulness of the training programs. Results in table 3 revealed that most of the beneficiaries were found to be satisfied with the many aspects of training *viz*., training programs, course content and time and duration, facilities and overall use fullness of training. In case of practical activities, majority of the trainees were not found to be satisfied. Regarding overall usefulness of training programs and facilities, were observed to be more satisfied (weighted score 2.67 and 2.66), but lowest weight score found in practical activities *i.e.* 2.16.

Results showed that high satisfaction was observed among 73 per cent trainees overall usefulness of training, 68 per cent for time & duration, 62 per cent for facilities in krishi vigyan kendra, 57 per cent course content, 51 per cent resource persons and 51 per cent practical activities by the trainee participants (table 3). It was also found that satisfaction to some extent was observed for resource persons (38%), facilities (32%), course content and practical activities (29%), time & duration (20%) and overall use fullness of training (19%) where as only few percent of participant's *i.e.* practical activities (28%), facilities (18%), course content (14%), time & duration (12%), resource persons (10%), overall use fullness of training (2.2%) was not satisfied during training programme.

Conclusion

The present study was undertaken to assess the gain in knowledge of the participants and adoption status of the enterprise of the mushroom to enhance the entrepreneurship in mushroom farming. It is found that maximum weighted number achieved 2.51 and minimum 1.82 by spawn production techniques and management of spent mushroom, respectively. Results revealed that most of the beneficiaries were found to be satisfied with the many aspects of training *viz*., training programs, course content and time and duration, facilities and overall use fullness of training.

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