

methods C. D. ( $P=0.05$ ) was worked out and presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Superiority of different extension methods

Treatments	Mean score	S. E. of means	CD ( $P=0.05$ )
A. Individual contact	11.1		
B. Flash cards with lecture alone	9.9	0.464	0.95
C. Tape recorded speech	9.9		
D. Lecture alone	9.2		

per cent) through individual contact, lecture with flash cards (40 per cent), tape recorded speech (40 per cent) and lecture alone (30 per cent).

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#### REFERENCE

This showed that individual contact is superior than other extension methods. The adoption was high (60

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### Characteristics of Applicants for the Correspondence Course on Intensive Vegetable Cultivation

In the last two decades agricultural technology has changed considerably from conventional method to a modern one, from the use of local seed to the adoption of high yielding varieties. The technological changes have opened new vistas for the Indian Farming Community. Among the various inputs required to be supplied to the farmers for increasing agricultural production, know'edge in put stems as the most

important to be provided. Agricultural Universities have been charged with the responsibility of providing this much-needed input either directly to the farmers, whenever possible or through the extension agency.

In one of the attempts to provide the knowledge-input, the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has for the first time among all the Agricultural Univer-



sities in South India, started the Correspondence Courses for all those interested in farming during 1974. The primary objective of the course is to impart scientific knowledge and latest techniques to the participants of the course on scientific Agriculture. One of the courses commenced during 1974 was on "Intensive Vegetable Cultivation." Publicity about the Correspondence Course was given both in the press *viz.* Dinamani and Daily Thanthi and announcements through the All India Radio, Trichy and Coimbatore.

People from all over Tamil Nadu had applied for this course. There were 95 applicants taken into consideration for this analysis. The district-wise particulars are furnished in the following table.

Among the various districts in the state, Coimbatore district stands first by scoring 22 per cent, while Thanjavur and Madurai districts stood second and third respectively. There was no applicant from Pudukkottai district (Table 1).

Table 1. District wise distribution of applicants

District	No. of persons applied	Percentage in relation to the total number of persons applied
1	2	3
Coimbatore	21	22.1
Thanjavur	14	14.7
Madurai	10	10.5
Ramnad	7	7.4
Salem	6	6.3
South Arcot	6	6.3
Tirunelveli	6	6.3
Chingleput	5	5.3
Madras	5	5.3
North Arcot	5	5.3
Trichy	4	4.2
Dharmapuri	3	3.2
The Nilgiris	2	2.1
Kanyakumari	1	1.0
Pudukkottai	—	—
Total:	95	100.0



It is obvious to note that more than 50 per cent of farmers were from young age group while 38.9 per cent of the middle age group stood next followed by 7.4 per cent in old age group (Table 2).

Table 2. Age group of applicants

S. No.	Age group	No.	Percentage
1.	Young (below 30 years)	51	53.7
2.	Middle (31-45 years)	37	38.9
3.	Old (Above 45 years)	7	7.4
Total:		95	100.0

Next, the educational qualifications of the applicants were examined and the following table will illustrate a clear picture.

Table 3. Educational level of the applicants

S. No.	Particulars of education	No.	Percentage
1.	2.	3.	4
1.	Elementary (I-V Std.)	—	—
2.	Higher Elementary (VI-VIII Std.)	17	17.9
3.	S.S.L.C.	34	35.8
4.	P.U.C. & Intermediate	19	20.0
5.	Graduates and Diploma holders	25	26.3
Total:		95	100.0

It was observed that 46.3 per cent of the applicants were possessing collegiate education of whom 26.3 per cent were graduates. The persons who completed high school education were 35.8 per cent. The farmers with higher elementary education were only 17.9 per cent. There was no applicant below the level of higher elementary education.

The occupation of the individual applicant was gone through in detail and the particulars are furnished in table 4.

Table 4. Occupation of applicants

S. No.	Occupation	No.	Percentage
1.	Agricultural	68	71.6
2.	Others	27	28.4
Total:		95	100.0

It was evident that 71.6 per cent of applicants' primary occupation was agriculture while 28.4 per cent of the applicants were government employees, businessmen etc. Among the 28.4 per cent engaged other than in agriculture as their primary pursuit, 2 per cent had agriculture as their secondary occupation.

The size of the lands of the applicants was also considered and in the table 5 particulars are furnished.



Table 5. Farm size of applicants

S. No.	Size	No.	Percentage
1.	No land	5	5.3
2.	Small (5.00 acres and less)	35	36.8
3.	Medium (5.01-10 acres)	28	29.4
4.	Large (Above 10 acres)	27	28.5
Total		95	100.0

Majority of them have had land ranging from 1 to 30 acres. The persons without any land were negligible i.e. 5.3 per cent.

Progressiveness of applicants, is are furnished in Table 6.

Table 6. Progressiveness of applicant

S. No.	Progressiveness	No.	Percentage
1.	Adopter of improved practices	67	70.6
2.	Non-adopter of improved practices.	28	29.4
Total:		95	100.0

In regard to progressiveness, majority of them, 70.6 per cent of the

applicants, were already progressive and were cultivating high yielding varieties in their holdings.

To say in a nut-shell, applicants who belonged to Coimbatore, Thanjavur and Madurai districts seemed to have been much interested in the correspondence course on Intensive Vegetable Cultivation. Further the young and middle age group and those who are possessing educational qualification of S.S.L.C. and above, who have agriculture as their primary occupation with medium to large holdings and who are already progressive are the applicants of the correspondence course on intensive vegetable cultivation.

The authors are grateful to the Directorate of Extension Education for having given the necessary data for this analysis.

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