

## Professional Groupwise Knowledge Utilization by Agricultural Graduates in Their Own/Others' Farms\*

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The study revealed that the Agricultural Graduates hailed from Agricultural families utilize their knowledge more both in their own and in others' farms. The level of utilization of knowledge in others' farms by the Deputy Agricultural Officers group was medium. The knowledge utilization differs significantly between their own farm to others farms.

Most of the personnel trained in Agriculture take up occupations in extension, research, education and administration in the State Department of Agriculture, Commercial Banks, Co-operative and private organisations. It is felt that there is a big gap between knowledge acquired and that utilized by the agricultural graduates in the field of their employment. In the case of graduates doing farming, the difference between the knowledge utilized in their own farms and that in others' farms is also wide.

Evans (1968) stated that agricultural graduates possessed good knowledge of the qualities and traits of a successful farmer. Kahlon (1972) concluded that in the case of certain farm practices the involvement of the agricultural graduates settled at the farms was more than those in service and those pursuing higher studies. So a study was conducted to find out how far agricultural graduates have utilized their knowledge

in their own/others' farms after graduation and the difference in knowledge utilization between the two, if any.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted among 335 agricultural graduates who have graduated from Coimbatore and Madurai Agricultural Colleges during the years 1970 to 1974. The knowledge utilized by the graduates was studied based on the knowledge imparted to them in the college through the courses offered in various subjects. The topics were selected from the syllabus based on the judges' opinion and incorporated in the questionnaire. The utilization of knowledge was measured on a three point continuum for all the selected topics to each of the respondent. The knowledge utilization score when added for all the selected items formed the total score for each respondent. Based on the total score, they were grouped as low, medium and High utilizers with respect to

\* Part of the M.Sc. (Ag.) thesis of the first author submitted to Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.

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their knowledge. The data were collected through mailed questionnaire. The respondents were grouped based on the post they held at the time of data collection, viz. Deputy Agricultural Officers, Research Assistants, Bank employees, Co-operative and private organisation employees, Farm Managers and graduate farmers. The data were processed using relevant statistical tests.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Utilizers and non-utilizers of knowledge in their own farms:** The utilizers and non-utilizers of knowledge after graduation in their farms were delineated and among the utilizers the levels of utilization was assessed. Of the 335 respondent, 225 (67.16 per cent) stated that they had utilized their knowledge and 110 (32.84 per cent) stated that they did not utilize their knowledge in their own farms. The level of knowledge utilization within each professional group as given in Table I indicated that

it was medium in each group as the maximum percentage of respondents was in medium level category.

**Levels of knowledge utilization by different professional groups in their farm (Table I):** The data in Table I reveal that among the Deputy Agricultural Officers, 70.27 per cent belonged to medium level category, 29.73 per cent to high level category and none to low category. In the case of Farm Managers, about 66 per cent were medium level utilizers and the rest high level utilizers. With regard to other professional groups, 82.76 per cent of Research Assistants, 77.42 per cent of Bank employees, 88.89 per cent of Co-operative and private organisation employees and 57.14 per cent of farming group belonged to medium level category in respect of their knowledge utilization. It is interesting to note that even among graduate farmers, a majority (57.14 per cent) belonged to medium level category.

TABLE I. Level of knowledge utilized after graduation in their own farms  
(n = 225)

Professional Groups	Level of knowledge utilization						Total	%
	Low		Medium		High			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Deputy Agricultural Officers	—	—	78	70.7	33	29.73	111	100.00
Research Assistants	1	1.72	48	82.76	9	15.52	58	100.00
Bank employees	1	3.23	24	77.42	6	19.35	31	100.00
Co-operative and Private Organisation employees	—	—	8	88.89	1	11.11	9	100.00
Farm Managers	—	—	6	66.67	3	33.33	9	100.00
Graduate Farmers	—	—	4	57.14	3	42.86	7	100.00

TABLE II. Level of knowledge utilization in others' farms

(n = 316)

Professional Group	Level of knowledge utilization						Total	%
	Low		Medium		High			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
Deputy Agricultural Officers	4	2.66	127	84.67	19	12.67	150	100.00
Research Assistants	11	12.79	70	81.39	5	5.81	86	100.00
Bank employees	2	4.16	40	83.34	6	12.50	48	100.00
Co-operative and Private Organisation employees	1	4.76	17	80.95	3	14.29	21	100.00
Farm Managers	—	—	11	100.00	—	—	11	100.00

It can be stated that leave facilities and proximity to their own farms have helped the Government employees to visit their farms more frequently and to give the knowledge to their parents or those who are in charge of the farms. Moreover, the field experience they had acquired in their jobs would have also contributed to greater utilization of knowledge in their own farms. Besides, Government employees get comparatively lower than those in other organisations such as banks, Co-operatives and private agencies. This might have motivated them to take more interest in their farms and to get better yields utilizing their Knowledge and experience. In general, except for one in each from banks, co-operatives and private organisations all others were medium and high level knowledge utilizers in their own farms.

**Utilization and non-utilization of knowledge in others' farms:** The utilizers and non-utilizers of knowledge in others' farms were grouped and among

the utilizers, their levels of utilization was assessed. Of the 328 employee respondents, 316 (96.35 per cent) stated that they had utilized their knowledge in others' farms and only a few (3.65 per cent) stated that they had not utilized their knowledge in others' farms. The level of utilization of knowledge in others' farms by the agricultural graduates are given in Table II.

Levels of knowledge utilized by different professional groups in others' farms (Table II): Data from Table II show that 100 per cent of Farm Managers were medium utilizers. Majority of Deputy Agricultural Officers (84.67 per cent) were medium level of utilizers and only 12.67 per cent of them were high level of utilizers. A similar trend was noticed in the case of bank, co-operative and private organisation employees also. Since all these graduates were engaged in extension work, they might have behaved more or less in the same manner as far as their knowledge utilization was concerned.

TABLE III. Difference in knowledge utilization in own farm and in others, farms

Professional groups	Knowledge utilization Mean score as a graduate		Difference in mean	't' value
	In his farm	In others' farm		
Deputy Agricultural Officers	121.97	179.09	- 57.12	-6.0580**
Research Assistants	101.24	158.32	- 57.08	-3.7449**
Bank employees	95.74	158.15	- 62.41	-4.4471**
Co-operatives and Private Organisation employees	68.95	176.42	-107.47	- 6.4976**
Farm Managers	138.27	188.09	- 49.82	-1.9348NS

\*\* = Significant at 0.01 level

NS = Not significant

It can be concluded that all the agricultural graduates employed for serving the public utilized their knowledge well in others' farms satisfying the expectations out of them.

Difference between the knowledge utilization in their own and in others' farms: With a view to find out whether there was any difference between the knowledge utilization in their own farms and that in others' farms by different professional groups the mean scores of these two were subjected to 't' test and the results are given in Table III. In the case of Deputy Agricultural Officers, Research Assistants, bank, co-operatives and private organisation employees, knowledge utilization in their own farms and in others' farms differed highly significantly. Knowledge utilization is higher in others' farms. But in the case of Farm Managers the difference between their knowledge utilization in their own farms and that in others' farms was not-significant. When the graduates are employed in extension or research to help other farmers, they devote major portion of their time and extending their knowledge to the far-

mers and so could not devote much to their own farms.

Agricultural graduates hailing from farming families utilize their knowledge more both in others' and in their own farms. So students from farming families may be given more preference in admission to agricultural colleges so that after graduation they would be useful to their parents and other farmers. Inservice training will help the agricultural graduates to equip with latest knowledge and innovations. This will help them a long way in utilizing their knowledge more efficiently. In the school curriculum itself Agricultural subjects could be included, so that the rural youth could utilize their knowledge of agriculture in their farms and home gardens.

#### REFERENCE

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