

Role Performance of the Deputy Agricultural Officers

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There was broad agreement among the Deputy Agricultural Officers, Block Development officers, District Agricultural Officers and Divisional Development Officers on the role of Deputy Agricultural officers. But there were some differences of perception on the actual role played by the Deputy Agricultural officers, mainly due to the unyielding nature of work and dual control of supervisor.

The department manual and various government orders issued from time to time have prescribed the roles to be played by Deputy Agricultural Officers (Dy. A. O.). District Agricultural Officers and Block Development Officers also prescribe various roles to the Deputy Agricultural Officers from time to time. In order to find out the role played by Dy. A. O. 'S, this study has been taken up.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the 374 Blocks Development Officers, 374 Deputy Agricultural Officers working in the headquarters, 43, District Agricultural Officers and 48 Divisional Development Officers in Tamil Nadu were the respondents for this study and they were administered with a well structured, mailed questionnaire to gather the data for the study. About 5% of the respondents were interviewed personally with a view to satisfy on the validity of the answers furnished by them.

The roles were grouped under six broad classification, planning, educational activities, supply and services, administration, supervising the staff and evaluation. The Dy. A. O. 'S and the Supervisory officers viz, Block Development Officers, District Agricultural Officers and the Divisional Development Officers, were requested to rank these roles in order of importance both under "Expected to be performed" and "actually performed". Adopting the scoring technique, the ranks were quantified and the mean score for each role expected to be performed and actually performed was worked out. The data thus gathered were processed and subjected to relevant statistical tests.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The responses obtained with regard to the roles expected to be performed by Deputy Agricultural Officers (Extension) as perceived by the supervisory Officers are given in Table I.

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Table I Roles perceived by supervisory officers

Roles	BDO		DDO		DAO		Kendals coefficient of correlation value (W)
	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank	
Planning	4.74	I	4.92	I	5.29	I	W=0.97 & S=153.5
Educational Activities	3.91	II	4.00	II	4.33	II	
Supply and Services	3.78	III	3.69	III	3.13	IV	
Administration	3.71	IV	3.30	IV	3.71	III	
Supervising the staff	3.69	V	3.15	V	2.81	V	
Evaluation	1.82	VI	2.00	VI	1.62	VI	

Of the six important roles identified by the supervisory officers as important, planning and educational activities were considered most important. The Block Development Officers and Divisional Development Officers who are the administrative controlling officers felt that supply and service and administration were also important. But the District Agricultural Officers

who are the technical controlling officers gave more importance to administration than to supply and services. Supervising the staff and evaluation were considered relatively less important.

The responses on the performance of different roles by the Dy. A. O. 'S. in the blocks are given in Table II.

Table II Roles actually performed.

Different Roles	BDO		DDO		DAO		Kendals coefficient of correlation value(W)
	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank	Mean score	Rank	
Planning	4.22	I	4.15	III	4.24	II	W=83 S=131.5
Educational activities	3.86	IV	3.08	V	2.95	IV	
Supply & Service	4.07	II	4.25	I	4.24	I	
Administration	3.99	III	4.15	II	4.04	III	
Supervising the staff	3.69	V	3.15	IV	2.95	V	
Evaluation	1.79	VI	1.77	VI	2.53	VI	

There was no agreement among the supervisory officers in their perception about the roles actually performed by the Dy. A. O. 'S. Block Development Officers and District Agricultural Officers agreed to some extent on all the roles except planning and supply and services. This may be attributed to the close association of these

supervisory officers with the Dy. A.O 'S. at field level.

Perumal (1976) reported that the majority of the supervisory officers have been found to be satisfied with the job performance of the Agricultural Extension Officers in Tamil Nadu.

Table III Self assessment of roles by Dy. A. O. 'S.

Roles	Roles perceived		Roles performed	
	A (Mean Score)	B (Rank)	A (Mean Score)	B (Rank)
Planning	4.39	I	4.02	II
Educational activities	4.03	II	3.96	III
Supply and Services	4.03	III	4.04	I
Administration	3.88	IV	3.95	IV
Supervising staff	3.78	V	3.78	V
Evaluation	2.09	VI	1.25	VI

The Dy. A.O.'S considered planning as the most important role to be played by them (Table III). But in actual performance supply and services are the most important role played by them. Planning and educational activities though given the 1st and 2nd rank in respect of roles perceived, were assigned 2nd and 3rd rank in respect of the roles actually performed. There was agreement in the perception and actual performance of other roles *viz.*, administration, supervising the staff and evaluation

Neither the Dy. A. O. 'S. nor the Block Development Officers gave any reason for the difference in perception and actual performance of some roles. But the Divisional Development Officers, and District Agricultural Officers felt

that unwieldy nature of work and dual control of supervision were the main reasons for the difference. Hence necessary steps should be taken to set right some of the important bottlenecks in the performance of different roles by the Dy. A. O. 'S. in the block. It is suggested that the educational activities of the extension staff can be strengthened in the blocks, simultaneously providing the necessary infrastructure for the supplies and services.

REFERENCES

- ANONYMOUS. 1961 MANUAL of Duties and Responsibilities of Extension Officers. (Agriculture), Government of Tamil Nadu (Mimeographed). Madras.
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