

considered for measuring rural poverty, it ignores the other components of poverty which determine the poverty level of the households. This study clearly confirms the superiority of the index based measure of estimating rural poverty.

Conclusion

Given the varied agro-ecological zones, socio-economic and cultural status, resource endowments and diversified food habits across the country, it is quite evident that no single indicator can measure poverty efficiently. The index method discussed above is mainly intended to identify the rural poor and to evaluate the real impact of development programmes especially at a time when the government's thrust is the eradication of poverty. In this context, it is important to use some yardstick like RQLI for assessing growth and plan performance. Hence it is certain that the RQLI presents the possibility of constructing valid and reliable micro as well as macro models of rural development, which will shed more light on the developmental processes of the country. RQLI can also be extended for data collected from secondary sources like NSS data to construct index at macro level in future.

Madras Agric. J., 85(10-12): 541 - 543 October - December 1998

<https://doi.org/10.29321/MAJ.10.A00794>

PREFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS TOWARDS CONTENT, METHODS, DURATION AND PLACE OF TRAINING PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

Selecting appropriate content, methods and providing suitable place, duration for trainees will lead to greater output among trainees. The Agricultural Officers preferred training contents on latest technologies and practical field problems, combination of methods - field trips + skill demonstration + discussion. 5 days training, TNAU and STAMIN as place of training by majority of the respondents.

KEY WORDS: Preference, Content, Methods, Duration, Place of training.

In the context of extension training an important condition, is that the supposedly high pay off and beneficial returns from such an undertaking can be secured only if it is designed and carried out effectively and efficiently. The curriculum is the "heart" of the training programme and training methods are the "arteries" and "veins"

Note :

For χ^2 , the following formula was used

$$\chi^2 = \frac{(ad - bc)^2}{(a + c)(b + d)(c + d)(a + b)}$$

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of the training system through which training messages reach the trainees and trainers receive concurrent feed back on the training programme from the trainees. The choice of appropriate training method is required to be guided by the level and background of trainees as well as by the training curriculum and the time available for

training. Developing curriculum based on the training needs, selection of appropriate methods of training, place and duration of training programme will bring desired outcome among trainees. Keeping this in view the present study was undertaken with the following objective.

1. To assess the preference of Agricultural Officers towards content, methods, duration and place of training programme.

METHODOLOGY

The sample unit selected for this study consisted of Agricultural Officers of the six agroclimatic zones who were working under Tamil Nadu Agricultural Development Project. The samples were drawn by proportionate random sampling method from six agroclimatic zones. In the content of training, there are five items of content and the respondents were asked to give a tick mark against which they prefer most suitable contents. Eleven methods of training were given to respondents and asked to indicate the suitable methods they preferred for the training programme and also five places given as venue for training where the Agricultural Officers wish to undergo their training. A well structured and pretested questionnaire was prepared. These questionnaires were mailed to 120 respondents. Ultimately those filled questionnaires received from 74 respondents were subjected to statistical analysis. Percentage analysis was used meaningfully to draw interpretation.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

I. Preferred contents for AOs training

In this study five contents were selected and the opinion of the respondents was obtained in

terms of their preference and suitability to their environment. The results are presented in the Table 1.

From the Table 1 it could be seen that majority of the respondents (68.92 per cent) preferred only two contents viz., message on latest technologies and practical field problem. About 66.00 per cent of respondents reported that the training content should be explained with theory and practical. The practical aspects of the subject matter should be well explained and each trainee should be given an opportunity to practice.

The results further revealed that only 50.00 per cent of the respondents preferred that the content of training should be location specific.

II. Preferred methods of AOs training :

The success of any training programme depends on a large extent on the methods employed to get things across. In this study 11 methods were selected and responses against these methods were obtained and presented in Table 2.

A perusal of the Table 2 reveals that out of 11 methods, field trip was preferred by 64.86 per cent of the respondents. About 56.75 per cent of the respondents preferred skill demonstration as an important method for use in training programme. Further nearly 45.94 and 49.54 per cent of the respondents preferred discussion and video teaching respectively. Least preferred methods were symposium, seminars and lectures.

The reason for preferring field trip, skill demonstration and discussion by most of the extension workers might be due to the possibility of engaging more sensory organs during the sessions. This would pave way for enhanced learning.

(n= 74)

Table 1. Preferred content for AOs training

Sl.No.	Contents	Number	Per cent
1.	Message on latest technologies	51	68.92
2.	Practical field problem should be dealt	51	68.92
3.	Explain on both theory and practical knowledge about subject matter	49	66.22
4.	Location specific message	37	50.00
5.	Clear and brief mes	29	38.18

Table 2. Preferred methods for AOs training

Sl.No.	Contents	Number	Per cent
1.	Field trip	48	64.86
2.	Skill demonstration	42	56.75
3.	Discussion	34	45.94
4.	Video teaching	30	40.54
5.	Study tour	25	33.78
6.	Synchronised slide show	13	17.57
7.	Slide show	12	16.21
8.	Panel discussion	10	13.51
9.	Seminar	9	12.16
10.	Lecture	6	8.10
11.	Symposium	1	1.35

It is therefore concluded that a combination of methods + field trips + skill demonstration + discussion should be employed during training sessions.

III. Duration of training preferred by AOs

Duration is an another important criterion for any training. It is highly essential to see that the duration of training is sufficient to deliver the contents of the training. This was assessed and reported in the following Table 3.

From the Table 3 it was found that change agents wanted to have different amount of duration for the training session. Nearly 65.00 per cent of the extension workers wanted that the duration of the training should be 5 days. Among the rest, 18.92 per cent wanted the duration to be more than 7 days and 16.22 per cent wanted only 2 days.

IV. Preferred venue for AOs training

The physical facilities and environment surroundings do affect the learning experiences of trainees. The place of training should have all

Table 3. Duration of training preferred by AOs
(n=74)

Sl.No.	Contents	Number	Per cent
1.	More than two days	48	64.86
2.	More than one week	14	18.92
3.	Two days	12	16.22

Table 4. Preferred venue for AOs training

Sl.No.	Contents	Number	Per cent
1.	TNAU	50	67.57
2.	STAMIN - Kudumianmalai	16	21.62
3.	KVKs	5	6.75
4.	JDA/ADA's Office	3	4.05

the training resources. Various institutes available in Tamil Nadu have varying facilities. The respondents' preference towards such institutes was obtained for the conduct of training so as to serve as venue for training.

It is found from the Table 4 that TNAU was the most preferred (67.56%) followed by STAMIN (21.62%). Both the institutes have required facilities as observed by the respondents in terms of equipment, physical facility, trainers etc. The least preferred place for AOs training as expressed by some of the respondents were KVKs followed by ADA and JDA's office.

CONCLUSION

It was concluded that majority of the respondents preferred training contents on latest technologies and practical field problem. Regarding methods of training, that a combination of methods - field trips + skill demonstration - discussion - should be employed during training sessions. It was concluded that majority of the respondents wanted that the duration of the training should be 5 days and TNAU and STAMIN as venue for training preferred by most of the respondents.

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(Received: Dec'97 Revised: Sep.'98)