

Opinion of Farmers on Krishimela

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Abstract

A study conducted on krishimela at Mandya district of Karnataka reveals that majority of farmers perceived krishimela as more useful and provided solutions to their agricultural problems to some extent. Further, 39.20% and 32.80% of farmers reported that news papers and TV were the source of information consulted by them to participate in krishimela and majority of them suggested for more publicity at village level about krishimela using banner and poster and in TV and news paper about krishimela to attract more number of participants to make krishimela more effective.

Key words : Farmers, Farm women, TV, News paper, Krishimela.

Krishimela has been recognized as an effective method having immense capabilities for disseminating information. It is an effective and integrated extension teaching method, providing participating learning experience. The purposes of organizing krishimela by agricultural university are to provide first hand information to farmers about the availability of technology useful to them, and to inform them about the on going research activities on various problems of farming. The krishimela is an annual feature of Zonal Agricultural Research Station, V. C. Farm, Mandya, Karnataka, it is being organized on a large scale in co-ordination with all the developmental departments, NGO's and farmers are invited to participate in it. Since "seeing is believing" farmers are actually shown, all the latest technology which is available for them in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. Here farming community is exposed to new farm technologies developed by ZARS. Along with transfer of technology, the krishimela also serves scientists as a source of obtaining direct feedback from farmers and from extension workers on local problems. With this background the present study was undertaken to know the opinion of farmers on krishimela and to know the sources of information to participate in krishimela by farmers; and to know the perception of farmers about usefulness of technologies demonstrated in krishimela and to ascertain the suggestions of farmers to make krishimela more effective.

Methods

The present study was conducted at Zonal Agricultural Research Station, V. C. Farm, Mandya, Karnataka. Two hundred and fifty farmers/farm women who have participated in krishimela were randomly selected as respondents for the study. Data were collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule specially designed for the study. The data were tabulated and analyzed.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 reveals that 76.40, 21.20 and 2.40% of farmers perceived krishimela as more useful, useful and less useful respectively. These findings are in line with the findings reported by Manjula et al. (1). The farmers/farm women were taken to all the demonstration and experimental plots, agricultural exhibition and given good opportunity to expose themselves to latest research developments in agriculture and allied subjects can be attributed to the findings

Table 1. Overall opinion of farmers on krishimela.

Opinion	No.	Per cent
More useful	191	76.40
Useful	53	21.20
Less useful	6	2.40
Total	250	100.00

Table 2. Farmers opinion on providing solutions to their agricultural problems in krishimela.

Opinion	No.	Per cent
To greater extent	105	42.00
To some extent	142	56.80
Not at all	3	1.20
Total	250	100.00

of present study.

Table 2 indicates that 56.80, 42.00 and 1.20% farmers opined that krishimela provided solutions to their agricultural problems to some extent, to greater extent and not at all respectively. There are no reported studies available on the findings of the present study. The problems and solutions in agriculture are location specific.

Further, all the researches in Zonal Agricultural Research Station are not based on the field problems of farmers may be attributed to the findings of present study.

Table 3 shows that 39.20 and 32.80% of farmers reported that news paper and television were the source of information consulted by them to participate in krishimela. Further, department of agriculture, banner, poster, radio, friends/relatives, pamphlets,

Table 4. Perception of farmers about usefulness of technologies demonstrated in krishimela.

Technologies	Number	Per cent
1 Power tiller	103	41.12
2 Mechanical transplanter	89	35.60
3 Madagaskar method of paddy cultivation	81	32.40
4 Drum seeder sowing of paddy	64	25.60
5 Wider row (1.5m) planting in sugarcane	55	22.00
6 Value added products off inger millet	53	21.20
7 Improved paddy varieties	51	20.40
8 Hybrid paddy	47	18.18
9 Ragi varieties	36	14.14
10 Sericulture	33	13.20
11 Integrated pest management in sugarcane	19	7.60
12 Krishi Brahmanda	16	6.40
13 Fisheries	11	4.40

Table 3. Source of information consulted by the farmers to participate in krishimela.

Source	Number	Per cent
1 News paper	98	39.20
2 Television	82	32.80
3 Dept. of agriculture	43	17.20
4 Banner	41	16.40
5 Poster	38	15.20
6 Radio	30	12.00
7 Friends/relatives	22	8.80
8 Pamphlets	20	8.00
9 Scientists	11	4.40
10 Extension guide	9	3.60
11 Sticker on the bus	5	2.00
12 Slide in the film theater	4	1.60
13 CADA	4	1.60
14 Women and child welfare department	3	1.20
15 Students of agriculture college, Mandya	2	0.80

scientists, extension guide, sticker on the bus, slide in the film theater, CADA, women and child welfare department and students of Agriculture College, Mandya were the other sources consulted by them to participate in krishimela. There are no reported studies available on the findings of the present study. The farmers watching TV and reading news papers regularly discuss and share information with themselves and with fellow farmers may be attributed to the findings of present study.

Table 4 reveals that 41.12, 35.60, 32.40 and 25.60% of farmers perceived power tiller, mechanical transplanter, Madagaskar method of paddy cultivation and drum seeder sowing of paddy as the useful technologies demonstrated in krishimela. Further, farmers also perceived wide row planting in sugarcane, value added products of finger millet, improved paddy varieties, hybrid paddy and ragi varieties, sericulture, integrated pest management in sugarcane, krishi brahmanda and fisheries were also as the useful technologies demonstrated in krishimela. The findings of present study are partly in accordance with the findings of swami et al. (2) and Rao et al. (3). The findings of the present study may be attributed to the reason that now a days farmer are facing labor problem, they need low to medium cost labor saving agricultural implements/ equipments suitable to small and marginal farmers. Further, they also need water saving and high yielding technologies.

Table 5. Suggestions of farmers for effective organization of krishimela.

	Source	Number	Per cent
1	More publicity at village level about krishimela	181	72.40
2	Publicity using banner about krishimela	161	64.44
3	Publicity using poster about krishimela	136	54.40
4	Publicity in television about krishimela	133	53.20
5	Publicity in news paper about krishimela	130	52.00
6	Providing transportation facility from village to krishimela	108	43.20
7	Publicity in radio about krishimela	75	30.00
8	Publicity in villages using loudspeaker about krishimela	72	28.80
9	Publicity through developmental departments	71	28.40
10	Information on marketing of agricultural produce	50	20.00
11	Publicity in cinema theater about krishimela	47	18.80
12	Information on agriculture financing	44	17.60
13	Increase in duration of krishimela	22	8.80
14	Publicity through pamphlets	21	8.40
15	Conducting krishimela twice in a year	17	6.80
16	Publicity through sugar factory	11	4.40

Table 5 reveals that majority of farmers suggested for more publicity at village level about krishimela

using banner and poster and in television and news paper about krishimela to attract more farmers/farm women for effective organization of krishimela. The above findings are partly in line with the findings reported by Manjula et al. (1).

Conclusion

Majority of the farmers opined that the krishimela has provided solutions to their agricultural problems to some extent. Therefore concerted efforts are to be made to solve all the agricultural problems of farmers to a greater extent by conducting and releasing local specific technologies. Further, as suggested by majority of farmers more publicity at village level about krishimela using banner and poster and in television and news paper about krishimela to be given to attract more number of participants to make krishimela more effective.

References

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