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Knowledge up gradation of Tribal farm women through training on preservation in Narmada district, Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in jurisdiction of KVK, Narmada, NAU, Gujarat. Total 150 tribal farm women were randomly selected from different villages. The study was undertaken to know usefulness of information on fruit and vegetable preservation. The result revealed that factors like expectations of developing knowledge and skills related to fruit and vegetable preservation technique motivated the participants to join the programme. Trainees were satisfied with the aim of the training programme, schedule and method demonstration as well as facilities provided to them. There was considerable improvement in the knowledge level of the trainees on fruit and vegetable preservation as an outcome of the training programme.

Key Words : Tribal farm women, Training, Fruit and vegetable preservation

INTRODUCTION

India has a rich biodiversity of horticultural crops growing in its varied agro-climatic regions, fruits, vegetables, flowers, ornamentals and spices are perishable in nature and their shelf life is limited, depending upon environment and handling conditions, Due to poor post-harvest management practices and lack of infrastructure facilities, huge losses occur.

Food processing and preservation is an area offering immense scope for income generation and prevention of post harvest losses to farm families. The seasonal availability of perishable foods especially fruits and vegetables need to be given utmost attention. Preservation of food is one of the most important elements in agro-processing as it keeps the food safe and longer and it also ensures that people have food throughout the year. Processing and preservation of vegetables and fruits in times of abundance for times of scarcity using indigenous techniques such as drying or fermentation is exclusively practiced by women in rural areas. Food production practices and food processing methods are greatly influenced by technological advancements. Therefore, it is essential to equip the rural farm women with the needed knowledge and skills (Gellen, 1994). Rural women spend much of their time in unpaid activities like working in the family farm and other domestic work (Gupta and Verma, 2013). They are the main responsible persons for domestic and household work, which include child care and nutrition, consumption and preservation of milk, processing of milk, preservation of fruits and vegetables, and stitching of cloth.

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METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Narmada district of Gujarat state where the Krishi Vigyan Kendra is situated. A total 150 farm women were selected for this study and training was imparted on 3 selected products of fruits and vegetables preservation like various types of pickles, sauce and jam etc. The structured interview schedule was used for data collection. The knowledge level of participants on different aspects of fruit and vegetable preservation was assessed with the help of knowledge test developed for the purpose. The knowledge level of trainees was assessed before and after the training programme. The marks obtained by the participants in both the tests were recorded and analyzed to evaluate the knowledge gain. The gain in knowledge was assessed using the formula (in percentage):

$$\frac{\text{Post knowledge score - Pre knowledge score}}{\text{Pre knowledge score}} \text{ x } 100$$

At the end of training programme, the responses of the trainees was recorded on a three to five point scale using a suitable pre-tested performa on various dimensions of utility of training programme. The collected information were classified, tabulated and analyzed to arrive at the conclusion of the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 revealed that majority of farm women (63.33%) attended training were from middle age group (20 to 36 years), were married, educated up to middle school, and had medium income level and family farm size. Table 2 and 3 presented the utility of the programme in terms of content of the programme, usefulness, fulfillment of needs, benefit, programme schedule and relevance. It

Table 1 : Socio-economic characteristics of respondents (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Category	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1.	Age (Years)	Young (<20)	15	10.0
		Middle aged (20-36)	95	63.33
		Old	40	26.66
2.	Marital status	Single	20	13.33
		Married	50	33.33
		Widow	80	53.33
3.	Educational Level	Illiterate	-	-
		Primary education	30	20.0
		Middle school	40	26.66
		High school	60	40.00
		Intermediate	15	10.00
		Graduate and above	05	3.33
4.	Income Level	High	10	6.6
		Medium	90	60.00
		Low	50	33.33
5.	Family Size	Large	80	53.33
		Medium	50	33.33
		Small	20	13.33

Table 2 : Various dimensions of utility of the training programmes as perceived by the respondents (n=150)

Sr. No.	Dimensions	Category	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
1.	Course content of the training	Very much useful	55	36.66
		Useful	95	63.33
		Not at all useful	-	-
2.	Usefulness in technical knowledge gain	Very much useful	90	60.00
		Useful	60	40.00
		Not at all useful	-	-
3.	Usefulness in technical skill development	Very much useful	85	56.66
		Useful	65	43.33
		Not at all useful	-	-
4.	Extent of fulfilment of needs	Highly fulfilled	90	60.00
		Partially fulfilled	60	40.00
		Not at all fulfilled	-	-
5.	Benefit from group interactions among trainees during training	Highly benefited	95	63.33
		Benefited	55	36.66
		Not at all benefited	-	-
6.	Usefulness of training experience in day-to-day activities	Very much useful	85	56.66
		Useful	65	43.33
		Not at all useful	-	-
7.	Relevance of information to The Trainees	Very much useful	80	53.33
		Useful	70	46.66
		Not at all useful	-	-

Table 3 : Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge level (n=150)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Pre-knowledge score			
	Low (<3)	55	36.66
	Medium(4-6)	95	63.33
	High (>7)	-	-
Post-knowledge score			
	Low(<3)	35	23.33
	Medium(4-6)	115	76.66
	High(>7)	-	-

is evident from the Table 2 that 63.33 per cent of rural farm women found course content of the training as useful, 60.00 per cent of the trainees found the training useful in technical knowledge gain and technical skill development. Regarding extent of fulfillment of training needs, benefit from group interactions among trainees during training and usefulness of training experience in day to day activities, Table 4 presents the distribution of respondents based on their knowledge level. Based on pre-knowledge score of the respondents, majority of the respondents (63.33%) were having medium knowledge level. However on the basis of post-knowledge score, majority of the respondents (76.66%) were having high knowledge level. On further analysis, it was found that after imparting training on 'preservation of fruits and vegetables' there was 50- 80 per cent increase in the knowledge level of the respondent.

Conclusion:

From the findings of the study, it can be concluded that training programmes, demonstrations discussions and interactions along with practical hands on experiences of fruit and vegetable preservation were quite useful to up gradation of knowledge to the participants. Such training programmes help in capacity building of form women and enable them with requisite technical knowledge and skills need to start entrepreneurial activities in fruit and vegetable processing and preservation and thereby creating opportunities of income generation and livelihood security.

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