Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry
Available online at www.phytojournal.com

E-ISSN: 2278-4136
P-ISSN: 2349-8234
www.phytojournal.com
JPP 2018; 7(6): 220-221
Received: 18-09-2018
Accepted: 22-10-2018

MC Obaiah
Krishi Vignana Kendram,
ANGRAU Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, India

K Pullamraju
DAATTC, ANGRAU, Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, India

D Kodandarami Reddy
ARS, Podalakuru,
Andhra Pradesh, India

Corresponding Author:
MC Obaiah
Krishi Vignana Kendram,
ANGRAU Nellore,
Andhra Pradesh, India

Impact of management of vegetable nursery training conducted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

MC Obaiah, K Pullamraju and D Kodandarami Reddy

Abstract
The present study was conducted by KVK Nellore in adapted villages namely Chembedu of Naidupeta mandal and Kothuru of Indukuripenta Mandal under ARYA Programme. Total of 80 farmers from two villages were imparted training in vegetable nursery raising and management. The questionnaire comprised of questions regarding different components of nursery raising and nursery management. Hence, Deviation or gain in knowledge was calculated from the difference of scores obtained in pre and post knowledge test of the trainees. It revealed that 62.5 percent of the farmers were deviating on information regarding B-C ratio followed by 56.25 percent on site selection of nursery, 51.25 percent on pest management, 47.5 percent disease management, 46.25 nursery layout and meaning of nursery. It may therefore be concluded that respondents succeeded in acquiring knowledge after exposure to training on nursery management.

Keywords: ARYA training, knowledge

Introduction
In India, over 58% of the rural households depend on agriculture as their principal means of livelihood. As per Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the share of agriculture and allied sectors was 16.4% of the Gross Value Added during 2017-18 at current prices. Average monthly income of farmer's households is Rs. 6426, of which 47.9 % of income comes from cultivation. According to Census 2011, there has been a 24% increase in the number of female agricultural labourers between 2001 and 2011, from 49.5 million to 61.6 million. Thus, on the one side, there is a need to diversify agriculture and make it more remunerative with the thrust on value addition and processing on the other hand, the rural youth are moving away from agriculture sector. Youth are expected to play a vital role in the much-anticipated transformation of agriculture in India. According to national youth policy, persons in the age group of 15-35 are defined as young. At present, 35% of the total population is in the age group of 15-35 years, out of which 75% live in rural areas. Migration of rural youth to cities is around 45% in the country, and it is estimated that only about 5% of youth are engaged in agriculture. In developed countries, skilled workforce is in the range of 60% to 90% of the total workforce, whereas in India, the skilled workforce is as low as 5% (20-24 years age group).
Realizing the importance of rural youth in agricultural development especially from the point of view of food security of the country and to empower rural youth, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has initiated a programme on "Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) during 2015-16. Under this scheme, special efforts are being taken up to attract the rural youth under the age of 35 years in agriculture to provide income generating opportunities and engage them in agriculture. The oriented youth groups may function as role model for other youths by demonstrating the potentiality of the agri-based enterprises and also by imparting training to others. Skill development of rural youth is helping in regaining their confidence levels to pursue farming as a profession, besides generating additional employment opportunities to absorb under employed and unemployed rural youth in secondary agriculture and service related activities in rural areas (www.icar.gov.in). As a part of ARYA programme KVK Nellore have conduced training programmes to youth of adopted villages. The present paper is to reveal the impact of the nursery training programme conducted by KVK Nellore.

Material and Methods

The present study was conducted in two adopted mandals namely Naidupeta and Indukuripeta. Total of 80 members from two villages namely Chembedu and Indukuripenta were imparted training in vegetable nursery raising and management. Data collection was done through structured interview method. The questionnaire comprised of questions regarding different components of nursery raising and nursery management. Hence, Deviation or gain in knowledge was calculated from the difference of scores obtained in pre and post knowledge test of the trainees.

$$\text{Gain in knowledge} = \frac{\text{Post evaluation score} - \text{Pre evaluation score}}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times 100$$

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Gain in knowledge after training with respect to different components n=80

SI. No	Components	Pre training Score out of 100 & (%)		Post training Score out of 100 & (%)		Change in Knowledge	
		Total score	%	Total score	%	Knowledge gain	%
1	What do you mean by Nursery?	25	31.25	62	77.5	+37	46.25
2	Site selection of Nursery	14	17.5	59	73.75	+45	56.25
3	Nursery layout (direction and slope)	23	28.75	60	75	+37	46.25
4	Seed treatment chemicals and doses	30	37.5	72	90	+42	52.5
5	Seed treatment methods	29	36.25	65	81.25	+36	45
6	Irrigation scheduling in nursery	28	35	56	70	+28	35
7	Type of fertilizers and quantity to be applied	15	18.75	75	93.75	+60	75
8	Pest management	24	30	65	81.25	+41	51.25
9	Disease management	29	36.25	67	83.75	+38	47.5
10	Rodent management	34	42.5	60	75	+26	32.5
11	Weed management	40	50	68	85	+28	35
12	Government subsidies	52	65	72	90	+20	25
13	BC ratio	24	30	74	92.5	+50	62.5
14	Adverse climatic conditions	51	63.75	62	77.5	+11	13.75
15	Insurance policies	46	57.5	70	87.5	+24	30

A cursory look at the table-1 revealed that 62.5 percent of the farmers were deviating on information regarding B-C ratio followed by 56.25 percent on site selection of nursery, 51.25 percent on pest management, 47.5 percent disease management, 46.25 nursery layout and meaning of nursery It may therefore, be concluded that respondents succeeded in acquiring knowledge after exposure to training on nursery raising. The results are in line with findings of Ranjitha *et al*. (2018) [1] and Upamanya *et al*. (2020) [2].

Conclusion

Thus from the study it can be concluded that training programmes always enhances the knowledge level of trainees and helps them in successful adaptation of the new technology which enhances the socio economic status of the farmers.

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