



INFORMATION NEEDS AND USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES BY THE FARMERS: A REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH

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ABSTRACT:

The study examines twenty three research articles reviewed of information needs and use information sources by the farmers during the period 2009-2016. This period covered 52.17 per cent reviewed studies in information needs and 47.83 per cent were use information sources by the farmers. The study indicates that farmers were needed different type information for their agricultural task. Farmers were mainly relying on extension worker collect the information; fellow farmers, friends, family members, fertilizers, magazines, newspaper and mobile phones their agricultural field work. They were constraints of illiterate, financial and technological awareness in agricultural development in relevant information sources.

KEYWORDS : Information Needs, Farmers, Information Sources, Agriculture.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has been backbone and an important part of each country economy (Deepashree, 2016). The largest part of population working as farmers at global levels and they depended on agriculture. While the main sources of livelihood for the rural people is agriculture. Agriculture is providing large employment at first the place, and huge amount of land is used for agricultural activities. Agriculture plays a vital role in the growth of any country (South, 1995).

AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NEEDS

Information is something essential which someone ought to have for his work as; teaching, research, education, recreation, etc. In case of a researcher, a needed item of information is one that would further his research. The information needs are not same among the farmers. The needs are differ, state to state, district to district and development of the concerned agriculture field. Those village are closer to urban areas have access to better infrastructure facilities, whose as the other have very poor infrastructure facilities (L. Shanta Meitei and Th. Purnima Devi, 2009). So, farmers should information such as weed, insecticides, pesticides, weather, state and central government scheme and market price etc. from different information sources for farming activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The main aim of the study is to examine the uses of information source and services by the farmers in Haryana. To fulfil this aim, the following specific objectives are identified:

1. To know the information needs of the farmers
2. To find the used of information sources by the farmers
3. To find the purpose of used information Source by the farmers
4. To find given preference of information Source by the farmers
5. To find the major constraints faced by the farmers

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A number of studies have been reviewed to know the agriculture information needs and use information sources among the farmers. These studies reviewed from 2009 to 2016 and it included 23 review studies (12 studies reviewed on agriculture information needs and 11 reviewed on use information sources).

Meitei and Devi (2009) studied the mainly farmers were not access required agricultural information. So, it emphasis that ICT based agricultural information support should be develop to the farming community. Okwu and Umoru (2009) analyzed the most of the information needs in the areas of pesticides and fertilizer applications and improved farm implements. Main sources of agricultural information used (informal) husbands; fellow women and mass media by the women farmers. So, the reliability of messages through them may not be guaranteed. Income, educational and age have affected the accessibility of agricultural information of the Women farmers. While, Lwoga, Ngulube and Stilwell (2010) showed the information needs and seeking patterns of farmers were location and gender specific to somewhat considered. They relied on interpersonal and face to face communication. Main constraints (External) were faced unavailability of the extension officers, distant locations of public extension officers, poor responses from the government. While they were also faced village leaders, lack of awareness of the available information sources and internal were age with gender, change of resistance, memory lapses and selfishness.

Achugbue and Anie (2011) analyzed the 43.83% female farmers needed information on crop production and almost each thirty per cent need on Pest control, Treatment of animals and Preservation of farm produce. Mainly female farmers rely on community leader and husband, neighbors and friends their information needs. Whereas, the information communication technology did not more impact on the farmers. Bachhav (2012) show that mainly farmers were information needs for new crop-production, seed availability and fertilizer availability. While most of the farmers required on market information of Agricultural production, Transport facility and Government schemes. They were using newspaper, fellow farmers and Government offices were used by the farmers for their information needs. While Elly and Silayo (2013) determined that farmers (70%) were needs information on crop and livestock husbandry, marketing, funding option and value addition. These needs were large extent with the help of programs and schemes essentially to the government and development partners. Traditional and interpersonal communication sources of information the most reliable among rural farmers if it remains unabated. While modern communication was also used by the farmers to access non-agricultural information.

In Nigeria, John, Wakilu and Olateju (2013) found the farmers were need information for different agricultural activities. They were using different sources and media for access information. But farmers were not well aware of modern techniques of agriculture and used it technique occasionally for farming. They were not satisfied with the getting agricultural information. Naveed and Anwar (2013) identified that the farmers in Pakistan, mainly relied on informal source for their agricultural information needs. While Mass media and printed material used by the farmers very low. Main constraints faced lack of timely access, low education and language barriers during the getting information. Yusuf, Masika and ighodaro (2013) show that most of farmers were facing weed problem after apply the cow dung. Majority of women farmers needed agricultural information on insect attack on vegetables and fowl theft. They believed that they access agricultural information through the radio, extension worker and practical farm demonstrations. Generally farmers were depended on friends and neighbor for their agricultural information.

Ansari and Sunetha (2014) described the farm women information needed on disease control/management, weed control/management, high yielding variety crop and fertilizer requirement use of improved farm implements and marketing in North India. They always sought farming information from friends and relatives, elder person but they were didn't contact to the progressive farmers, local leader and extension functionaries. Omoregbee and Banmeke (2014) assessed the most of cassava farmers were the information needs for herbicides, use of pesticides and fertilizers. While, most of farmers were aware about

the agronomic practice and agro-chemical for the cassava production. For the most of farmers relied on fellow farmers, family/friend and radio their information needs. Ronald, Dulle and Honesta (2014) show the Rice farmers mostly needs information for Marketing, weather condition, agricultural credit/loan, new seeds, storage method, planting method, diseases & pest control, pesticide availability and its application. Whereas they were most preferred personal experience, family parents and neighbours/friends source for their information. Generally farmers faced lack of information services, inadequate extension worker, inadequate funds and lack of awareness during access agricultural information.

A number of studies have been conducted to know the utilization of information sources and services by farmers, which are given the below:

Daudu, Chado and Igbashal (2009) show that main agricultural information sources of farmers were extension agents, friends and radio. In which, extension agent (agricultural information source) were the most preferred by the farmers and constraint faced financial difficulties to use of information sources. Olajide (2011) also described that mainly farmers were used fellow farmers, extension agents and friends rather than radio information sources for cassava, yam, and maize for their information needs in Oyo State. They were access information on selected food crop technologies and production of cassava and yam.

Fawole and Olajide (2012) studied that farmers were aware of old ICTs (radio and television) while some aware to new ICTs (mobile phone, Internet, digital video disc, and cable television) in Oyo State. But it observed that new ICTs such as mobile phone and cable television were used more than old technologies. The mobile phone technology was noticeable of acceptance. Unaffordable cost, service failure and substandard ICT products were the most significant barrier to use ICT. Nigeria, Oriakhi and Okojie (2013) assessed that main source of information radio, fellow farmers and extension agent were preferred by the crop farmers. Most of farmers were aware of agricultural technologies to improved seedling/varieties, processing, fertilizer application, spacing and storage. Whereas, majority of farmers were adopt agricultural technologies for improved seedling/varieties and storage. Main benefits of agricultural information for crop farmers were increased yield and income. Sharma (2014) found that elder/family members and friends/neighbours/relatives were common source of information for the farmers. They were relied for information on their personal contact. Most of the farmers got below average satisfaction from public library community information centre, minikit, meetings, field days and agriculture tours. So, these information sources were not effective to the farmers. But radio and television were the effective and important information source for the farmers under mass category.

Odini (2014) investigated that women farmers in Vihiga County were accessing information for enhancing food security; establish information sources, channels, and technologies. While food security is a serious problem among the older women, large households, members with low education and unemployment. They were feeling that needs information for their daily farming activities. The existing information system and services were not provided satisfied information needs of the women farmers due to lack of communication and information infrastructure, literacy levels, suitable information services, and technical competencies. Odongo (2014) analyzed that farmers were access knowledge from different sources with the help of ICT a comparative assessment between peri-urban and rural. Clearly show the impact of Information needs on sources used. But small farmers were needed to use ICT for more efficiency of information access. ICT was very low adoption by farmers, so it was need to more aware about the technologies. Kapoor and Kumar (2015) studied that farmers preferred noncommercial and personal information sources. These information sources used by farmers depended on the perceived importance of the product. While many option available to farmers for credibility of the information sources. The personal characteristics of farmers did not have a major influence on information sources used during the buying process. Traditional information sources predominate while relative importance of specific categories of sources varied among farmers.

In Nigeria, Okoedo-Okojie (2015) studied the farmers were preferred sources of information radio, fellow farmer, posters, bill board and books in Edo State. For the most part of the farmers were constraints

faced poor radio and television signals, inadequate rural electrification and agriculture information. There was a significant relationship between access to credit, farm ownership sex of respondents and constraints encountered in information sources utilization at level of significance. While Adio and others (2016) show that mainly farmers were relied on fellow farmers, television, mobile phones, town criers, film shows, radio, etc. for their information sources and service in Kwara state. They were using these information sources for crop and pests, diseases and weed control; animal production; disaster control fishing; and mitigation, fertilizer procurement and post-harvest technology; agricultural credit; etc. Yaseen, Xu, and Hassan (2016) assessed the major source of agricultural information for farmers were neighbor-friend-relatives. Company/dealers and media (print & electronic) were contributed equally good share for dissemination of agricultural information. But Self experience of farmers was also considered as good source of information while the extension staff's performance of was not encouraging and literacy rate was too low. Government should be launch plan to different agricultural information sources for farmers at the development of rural. Therefore farmers can access information according to their need.

CONCLUSION

Concluded that farmers were the highly information needs in the areas of pesticides, insect attack on vegetables, disease and weed control/management, fertilizer applications, Pest control, new crop-production, new seed availability and fertilizer availability. They were also needed information for market price, weather condition, agricultural credit/loan and funding options. In this study, 52.17 per cent reviewed studies on information needs and 47.83 per cent on use of information sources.

Mainly farmers were using extension agents, elder/family members and friends/neighbours /relatives common source of information. They were aware technologies of old ICTs (radio & TV) than new ICTs (mobile phone, Internet, digital video disc, and cable television). ICT was very low adopted by the farmers' community and generally preferred non-commercial, fellow farmer, and personal information sources. While Farmers were using these information sources for crop and pests, diseases and weed control; animal production; disaster control fishing; and mitigation, fertilizer procurement and post-harvest technology; agricultural credit; etc. But Self experience of farmers was also considered as good source of information. Main benefits of agricultural information for crop farmers were increased yield and income. Traditional and interpersonal communication sources of information the most reliable among the farmers.

Farmers constraints were faced unavailability of the extension officers, distant locations of public extension officers, poor responses from the government, lack of timely access, low education and language barriers during the getting agricultural information. Main constraint faced by the farmers to use these information sources was financial difficulties and lack of awareness during access agricultural information. While food security is a serious problem among the older women, large households, members with low education and unemployment.

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