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EFFECTIVENESS OF TRAINING ON MILLET PRODUCTION AND VALUE ADDITION

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Abstract: Millets, particularly small millets are in a situation of crisis in India. At the same time, India is the biggest producer of millets in the world and millets remain a staple crop for numerous household.

Millets are healthy food irrespective of the age group so the state government is planning to make millet available in the Public Distribution System. By promoting millet production, Tamil Nadu will be able to combat malnutrition.

With this background, awareness was created among the farming community by broadcasting lessons on "Millet Production technologies and Value Addition" through TNAU Vivasayee Community Radio Station 107.4 through "Farm School on CRS" i.e e - radio mode and also two day training programme was organized to millet growers of Dharmapuri, Salem and Krishnagiri districts and the impact of the training programme was studied. Feedback study was conducted among the participants of the training programe using questionnaire and the data was analyzed using per cent analysis method.

Findings shows that, majority of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district (100%, 97.5% and 87.5% respectively) reported that, the training programme on "Millet Production and Value Addition" has motivated them to continue millet cultivation in future also. Almost all the respondents from Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district (100 %, 95 % and 100 %) reported that, in the training programme more focus was given on new varieties in millets and their special features. The respondents also reported that, the important technologies learnt through this training programme were seed treatment before sowing, new varieties, proper plant protection methods, application of micro nutrients. Almost all the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district (100 per cent, 97.5 per cent and100 per cent) reported that, in future they will try to increase the production level of millets by following the cultivation practices learnt through the training programme. Majority of the respondents informed that, the training programme, detailed information was given on Post Harvest Processing machines available for value adding millets. Sixty per cent, 92.5 per cent and 96 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that the training programme on "Millet Production and Value Addition" has created awareness about the availability and usage of Millets processing machines. Thus, the training programme organized at KVKs/ RRS has created awareness on millet production technologies, millet processing machines and their utility value.

Keywords: Millets, Farm school on CRS

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Introduction

Millets particularly small millets are in a situation of crisis in India. The period between 1961 and 2009 saw a drastic decrease in cultivated area under millets (80% for small millets, 46% for finger millet, 59% for sorghum and 23% for pearl millet); a 76% decrease in total production of small millets; a significant decrease in per capita availability of all millets (despite high productivity gains for some varieties) and a steep fall in overall millets consumption. At the same time, India is the biggest producer of millets in the world and millets remain a staple crop for numerous household.

Millet has been produced in nearly 18 districts of the State, but now only a handful of them produce the crop. Anjugam (2012) stated that majority (76.00%) of the respondents had medium level of adoption followed by 42.00 per cent of the respondents with low level of adoption and 2.00 per cent with high level of adoption. Bagya Janani (2016) found that, more than four-fifth of jasmine growers (85.00%) had medium level of adoption followed by low (10.00%) and high levels (5.00%) of adoption. Jayanthi (2013) revealed that majority (86.67%) of the respondents were found at medium level followed by high (10.00%) and low (3.33%) levels of overall adoption of management technologies in maize.

Major consumers of millets were people in the lower strata of society and their access to rice and wheat brought in a total transformation in food culture. Besides, conversion of agriculture land for real estate business, migration of poor farm laborers to urban area is also a major factor in the decline of cultivation and consumption of millets.

By promoting millet production, Tamil Nadu will be able to combat malnutrition. Millets are healthy food irrespective of the age group so the State government is planning to make millet available in the Public Distribution System. Unlike rice and wheat that require many inputs in terms of soil fertility and water, millets grow well in dry regions as rain fed crops. By consuming millets, we are encouraging farmers in dryland areas to grow crops that are best suited for those regions. By promoting millet production, Tamil Nadu will be able to combat malnutrition.

With this background, awareness was created among the farming community by broadcasting lessons on “Millet Production technologies and Value Addition” through TNAU Vivasayee Community Radio Station through “Farm School on CRS” i.e e - radio mode and also two day training programme was organized to millet growers of Dharmapuri, Salem and Krishnagiri districts and the impact of the training programme was studied.

Methodology

Fourteen lessons (14) on various aspects of millet production was produced and broadcast monthly twice, for duration of half an hour each through Community Radio Station "TNAU Vivasayee CRS 107.4" for the farming community of Coimbatore district and to the listeners of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts through TNAU agritech e- radio mode. And two day training was also organized on "Millet Production and Value Addition" to the millet growing farmers of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts. Feedback study was conducted among the participants of the training programe using questionnaire and the data was analyzed using per cent analysis method.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to the adoption of technologies on millet production through the two day training programme

S.No.	Question	Sandhiyur, Salem (25)				Paparapatti, Dharmapuri (40)				Paiyur, Krishnagiri (24)			
		Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%	Yes	%	No	%
1.	Have this training programme motivated you to cultivate millet in future also.	25	100	-	-	39	97.5	1	2.5	21	87.5	3	12.5
2.	Have the training programme emphasized about new varieties and its special features.	25	100	-	-	38	95	2	5	24	100	-	-
3.	List out the technologies emphasized through the training programme for getting higher yield.	Seed treatment, Crop protection methods, New varieties, Application of Micro nutrients and Value addition											
4.	Will you adopt the production technologies learnt through this training programme for increasing the yield?	25	100	-	-	39	97.5	1	2.5	24	100	-	-
5.	Did the training impart knowledge on value addition using Millet Processing Machines?	25	100	-	-	39	97.5	1	2.5	24	100	-	-
6.	Are you already aware of value adding the produces with Millet Processing Machines?	5	20	20	80	15	37.5	25	62.5	2	8	22	92
7.	Have you tried to market the produces by adding value with Millet Processing Machines	4	16	21	84	13	32.5	27	67.5	1	4	23	96
8.	If no, in future will you try to market the produces by value adding with Millet Processing Machines?	15	60	10	40	37	92.5	3	7.5	23	96	1	4

Findings and discussion

From table 1, it was inferred that 100 per cent and 97.5 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri district respectively reported that, this training programme has motivated them to continue millet cultivation in future also. Regarding Krishnagiri district, 87.5 per cent of the respondents reported that, this training programme has motivated them to continue millet cultivation whereas only 12.5 of the respondents reported that, they are not interested in cultivating millets in future.

A total of 100 per cent, 95 per cent and 100 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that, in the training programme more focus has been given on new varieties in millets and their special features.

The respondents of the Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts reported that, the important technologies learnt through this training programme are seed treatment before sowing, new varieties, proper plant protection methods, application of micro nutrients.

Respondents to the tune of 100 per cent, 97.5 per cent and100 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that, in future they will try to increase the production level of millets by following the cultivation practices learnt from the training programme.

About 100 per cent, 97.5 per cent and 100 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri District respectively informed that, in the training programme detailed information was given on Post-Harvest processing machines available for value adding millets.

Only 20, 37.5 and 8 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that, they are aware of the Post-Harvest Machines available for value addition of millets after harvesting whereas majority of the respondents i.e 80, 62.5, 92 per cent from Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that, they are not aware of the machines available for processing of millets until they attend the training.

Only 16, 32.5 and 4 per cent of the respondents who are already aware of the millet processing machines of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that, they have tried to market the produces after value adding the grains using millet processing unit whereas 84, 67.5 and 96 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that so far they have not used Millet Processing machines for processing millets.

Sixty per cent, 92.5 and 96 per cent of the respondents of Salem, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri district respectively reported that as they are now aware of the Millets processing machines, in future they will try to add value to the produces and market for better price.

Conclusion

The training programme organized at KVKs/ RRS have created awareness on millet production technologies, millet processing machines and their utility value.

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