

Information needs of the Ruralwomen Farmers: A study

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to highlight the agricultural information needs of the women farmers in Garani village Tumkur District, Karnataka. The population of the study are women farmers. Survey method was adopted in this study and data were collected by using questionnaire and interview method. The results reveal that 81.25% of the rural women are using mobile phones for getting their agricultural information. It is also found that the first preferred sources of the information of women farmers is newspapers following by other farmers or colleague and television.

1. Introduction

Information has become the most important element for progress in society. According to Kemp "Information has been described as the fifth need of man ranking after air, water, food and shelter". Everyone needs information about everything even in his day to day life. The information need is a factual situation in which there exists an inseparable inter connection with 'information' and 'need'. Information originates and generated because there exists a need or an interest. The content of information is of primary concern. The information objectively necessary for realising a function is the objective information. Such information need of users have to be satisfied. Belkin (1978) defined information need as condition or situation that exists when the internal sense runs out. In this condition, the individual does not have enough knowledge or conceptual congruity to perform tasks or resolve uncertainty.

2. Review of the Literature

Danappa Vaggi; Kamble, V.T(2017) Observes that Agricultural Information Needs of Farmers in Hyderabad Karnataka Region. This paper attempts to highlight the agricultural information needs of farmers covering total population of 884 farmers. Result discussed on the different type of information required by farmers in their farming activates and their dependent on formal and informal agencies. 38.9% of farmers consult shop the agriculture information, 29.3% of them most Krishi Mela, 28.7% of farmers consult elders and 28.5% consult Raithshamparka Kendra.

Nitin BhagachandBachhav(2012) the present paper deals with the information needs of the farmer community in rural areas. The study conducted through survey method and reveals that 71 (40.58%) farmers requires daily information for various agriculture work. It is also found that the first preferred sources of the information of the farmers are colleague or fellow farmers following by newspapers and Government office and interpersonal by default due to relevancy in the context and content.

Okwu O J; Umoru B I (2009) A study of women farmers agricultural information needs and accessibility: A case study of

Apa Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. A sample size of 70 women farmers was initially taken for the study but only data for 65 respondents were analysed. Needed information include pesticides application 67.7%, fertilizer application 64.6% and improved farm implement 50.8%. Other areas that were mentioned by a good number of the respondents include improved variety of crops 47.7%, better marketing system and outlets 41.5% and improved storage system 33.8% were the major information need by the farmer.

Sabo Elizabeth (2007) The information needs of women farmers in the Mubi region of Nigeriawas evaluated in a multi-stage random sampling process involving 300 respondents registered with the Agricultural Development Project of Adamawa State in 2006. Results indicate that 76% of the respondents were below 40 years, and 50% were married. Sorghum, maize, cowpea, and groundnut were the common crops cultivated. The women farmers required information on weather, soil management, credit availability, and farm management, besides awareness on improved seedlings, fertilizer and insecticides, animal health, future market prices, land tenure, child immunization, and vaccination for animals.

3. Objectives of the study

The study having specific objectives, they are

- To identify the women farmer's information needs
- To obtain the types of information required by women farmers.
- To know the sources of information used by the farmers.

4. Methodology

The study was conducted in the selected village GaraniinTumkur district Karnataka state. 50 women farmers were randomly selected from the village for individual survey. Data were collected by using questionnaire and interview method.

5. Scope & Limitation

The scope of the present study is limited to the farmers of Garani and whose main occupation is agriculture. The study was involving only female farmer's community and therefore it is not projectable of entire population of the region further the information collected was based on small numbers (n=48) of farmers. Hence the result cannot apply to the entire population of the Garani farmers of the Karnataka state.

6. Results and Discussion

TABLE 1- Languages Know of the Women Farmer

SL No	Language known	Frequency	Percent
1	Kannada	38	79.17
2	Telugu	8	16.67
3	Others	2	4.16
Total		48	100

Table 1 shows that the all respondents know Kannada language because it is native language while 16.67% know

Telugu langue whereas 2 respondents know 1 is Urdu and other 1 is Lambani language.

TABLE 2- Age Group of the Women Farmer

SL NO	Age in Years	Frequency	Percent
1	20-30	9	18.75
2	31-40	12	25
3	41-50	18	37.5
4	Above 50	9	18.75
Total		48	100

The age of the farmers who have participated in this study is depicted in Table 2. All the farmers are categorized into four age groups such as 20-30, 31-40, 41-50 and 50 above with 18.75%, 25%, 37.5% and 18.75% respectively. It is found that the maximum numbers of women farmers are in the age group of 41-50.

TABLE 3- Educational Levels of the Women Farmers

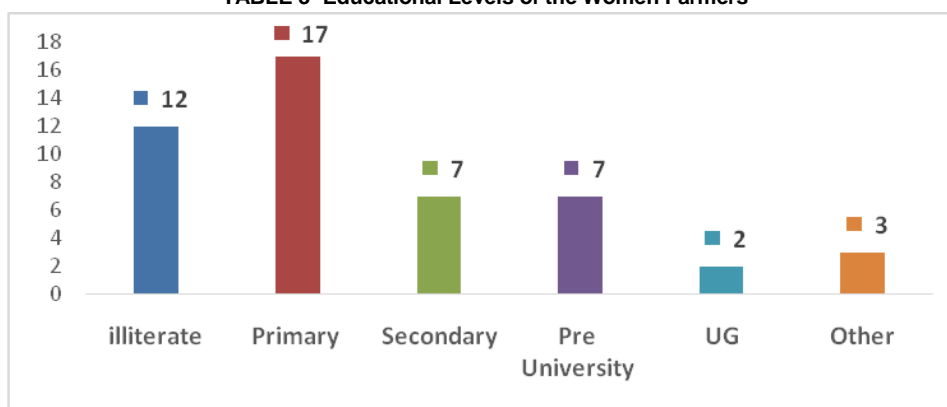


Table 3 represents the education background of the women farmers. There are six categories of the educational levels of the farmers illiterate to graduates. It is found that the educational level of under primary is the highest with 17(35%) followed by illiterate with 12(25%). While there are 7(14.58%) are pre-university and secondary. There are 2 (4.17%) graduates women farmers in this study.Hence, it can be concluded that majorityof the women farmers are education is primary.

TABLE 4 - Information Needs by Women Farmers

SL No	Type of response	Frequency	Percent
1	Daily	11	22.92
2	Some time	9	18.75
3	If need	22	45.83
4	Not at all	6	12.5
Total		48	100

As for distribution of respondents with respect of information need is concerned, majority 22(45.83%) of the farmers if need

information, while 11 (22.92%) of farmers need dailyinformation. Only 6 (12.5%) farmers are stated that they do not need information for agriculture activities.

TABLE 5 - Use of mobile phones by farmers

SL No	Type of response	Frequency	Percent
1	Yes	39	81.25
2	No	9	18.75
Total		48	100

The result shows that the majority of the women farmers 81.25% are using mobile phone for communication and other purpose. It is good sign that most of the farmers of the rural area are now use mobile device and 18.75% women are not using mobile phones.

FIGURE 1 - Information Needs of Women Farmers

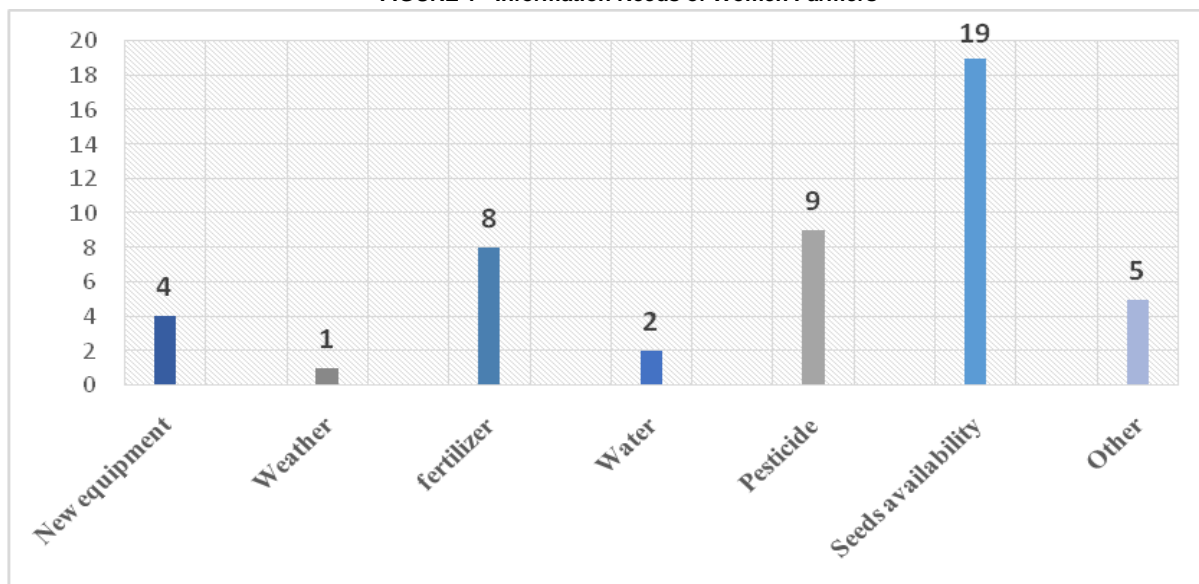


Figure 1 – Shows that, majority of the women farmers need information on availability of seeds (39.58%), Pesticide (18.75%) and fertilizer (16.67%). Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the women farmers need information on availability of seeds.

TABLE 6- Information Needs of Women Farmers regarding farming activity

SL No	Item	Frequency	Percent
1	Market-oriented agricultural production	11	22.92
2	Bank Transaction	6	12.5
3	Transport facility	3	6.25
4	Govt Schemes	6	12.5
5	Crop insurance	6	12.5
6	Irrigation	3	6.25
7	Milk Product	11	22.92
8	Medicinal plants	1	2.08
9	Animal husbandry	1	2.08
Total		48	100

Table 6 reveals that 22.92% of women farmers require milk product and market-oriented agricultural production, 12.5% farmers need information about government scheme, bank transaction and crop insurance, 6.25% of women need information on irrigation. Hence, it can be concluded that majority of the women farmers information needs regarding farming activity is market-oriented agricultural production and milk product.

TABLE 7 – Sources of Information by Women Farmers

SL No	Item	Frequency	Percent
1	News paper	16	33.33
2	Television	8	16.67
3	Magazine	1	2.08
4	Radio	1	2.08
5	Library	4	8.33

6	Other farmers	8	16.67
7	Internet	1	2.08
8	Agriculture Exhibition	4	8.33
9	Raitha Samparka Kendra	5	1.43
Total		48	100

Table 7 shows that majority of the farmers rely on their newspapers for obtaining the information while second important channel of information is the television and other farmers 16.67% followed by radio, magazine and agriculture exhibition are 8.33% for accessing the information to the daily farming activity. Majority of the women farmers information source is newspaper.

7. Major Findings and Recommendation from the present Study

- Majority of the women farmers 81.25% are using mobile phone for communication and other purpose.
- Majority of the women farmers need information on availability of seeds.
- Majority of the women farmer needs information regarding farming activity is market-oriented, agricultural production and milk product.
- Majority of the women farmer information source is newspaper.
- Majority of the rural women are not aware of using mobile phones to get information.
- The rural women should be aware to get information through the radio, magazine and internet.
- This study shows women if they need accessing information but it should be improve daily, they have to up to date their knowledge in their field.

8. Conclusion

From the findings it was concluded that overwhelming majority of the women farmers were using mobile device for getting information. The women farmers' main

source information is newspaper but they are lacking other information sources. It is to be request and recommend that the government must be organize some awareness programmes' for the rural women to fulfill their information needs, like giving

advertisement, financial assistance, orientation programs, workshops, conducting exhibition and sending for the field trips etc.

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