



## Research Article

# APPROPRIATENESS OF TRAINING AMONG THE ORGANIC FARMING GROWERS IN GUJARAT STATE

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**Abstract-** More and more area increased under organic farming, which is becoming demand of present and coming era. In India, vast stretches of arable lands, which are mainly rain fed and found in the North eastern region where negligible amount of fertilizers and pesticides are being used and have low productivity, could be exploited as potential areas for organic agriculture. Considering the potential environmental benefits of organic production and its compatibility with integrated agricultural approaches to rural development, organic agriculture may be considered as a development vehicle for developing countries like India, in particular with this context research study was undertaken for 90 farmers in capacity building through training on organic farming practices and 90 untrained farmers of Surendranagar, Jamnagar and Rajkot district of Gujarat state where researcher observed that a majority of the respondents had medium level of knowledge about organic farming practices. It was also found that the lecture with discussion and demonstration was most important and effective method of training suggested by majority preferred with a first ranked followed by lecture and computer based presentation with discussion, lecture with discussion & Audio-Visual aid, and lecture with A.V. with second, third and fourth rank respectively.

**Keywords-** Training, Organic farming, Knowledge, Training method, Techniques

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## Introduction

Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimum use of off-farm inputs and management practices that restore maintain and enhance ecological harmony. Day by day use of chemical based farming increases but some people are being vigilance about their side effect. Farmers and other peoples are find way of sustainable agriculture practices, eco-friendly practices and organic farming practices is the only way to achieve it. More and more area increased under organic farming which is becoming demand of present and coming era. All are eager to know how to improve the organic farming practices. One way is exists and that is Training. Training is a process that intends to improve skill and develop new abilities. It is low cost and highly productive method, extremely significant for speedy socio-economic development of the farming community. Farmers follow many organic farming practices for their crops, health consciousness and increasing crop yield. On the basis of this question arise on mind that, why they have to follow organic farming, what is covered under training and what is about training method and level of knowledge of organic farming practices followed by respondents. Keeping in view the above facts present study was planned to carried out with the following specific objectives:

- 1) To study the knowledge of trained and untrained farmers regarding organic farming practices.
- 2) To determine the appropriateness of methods, time and techniques use for training.

## Materials and Methods

The study was under taken in Surendranagar, Rajkot and Jamnagar district of Gujarat State which are having major dominance over organic farming practices. Six talukas were selected from each district and three villages from each taluka were selected randomly. Thus, total eighteen villages from three districts were considered for the study. Five trained and five untrained respondents were selected randomly from each selected village. Total one hundred eighty respondents were selected from the selected villages by random sampling method.

To measure the trained and untrained farmers' knowledge about organic farming practices, the teacher made knowledge test was developed. The pretesting was done to find out whether the questions were clear to respondents or not. Before finalizing the schedule, it was pretested by interviewing 20 non sampled trained and equal numbers of untrained farmers from selected area. After pretesting the questions and statements those were not clear then they were corrected and modified in the final format of the schedule. To determine the appropriateness of method, techniques and time used for trainings, interview schedule developed. The responses of the only trained farmers who were undergone for training for each method was recorded on four point continuum viz; highly appropriate, appropriate, less appropriate and not appropriate with score allotted 3,2,1,0 respectively to each response. The respondents were personally interviewed with the structured interview schedule. The data so collected were analyzed and interpreted in light of objective.

## Result and Discussion

### Level of knowledge

A critical perusal of the [Table-1] indicated that more than one half (58.89 %) of the trained farmers possess moderate knowledge about organic farming practices followed by 24.44 per cent trained farmers possess high level of knowledge where as only 16.67 percent trained farmers possessed low level of knowledge about organic farming practices. In case of untrained farmers 43.33 per cent farmers had medium level of knowledge about organic farming practices followed by 35.56 per cent and 21.11 per cent had low level and high level of knowledge respectively.

**Table-1** Distribution of Trained farmer based on their knowledge about organic farming practices.

n=90

Category	Knowledge score	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
Low	Below 25.07	15	16.67	35.33	10.26
Medium	Between 25.07 to 45.59	53	58.89		
High	Above 45.59	22	24.44		
Total		90	100		

This might be due to the fact that knowledge of organic practices is obtained mainly as an ancestral property. Other reasons might be that the respondents had medium extension participation and high innovativeness. These facts may be helped to trained farmers in acquiring medium knowledge about organic farming

practices, lacking of above aspects were found in case of untrained farmers. This finding was in conformity with the findings of Thippeswamy *et al.* (2008), Munir *et al.* (2009), Sidram *et al.* (2009), Jaitawat *et al.* (2010), Oyesola *et al.* (2011), Rekha *et al.* (2012) [2,4,5,6,9,10].

**Table-2** Distribution of Untrained farmer based on their knowledge about organic farming practices.

n=90

Category	Knowledge score	Frequency	Percentage	Mean	Standard deviation
Low	Below 20.31	32	35.56	29.76	09.45
Medium	Between 20.31 to 39.21	39	43.33		
High	Above 39.21	19	21.11		
Total		90	100		

### Appropriateness of methods, time and techniques used for training:

It is cleared from the data presented in [Table-3] that, out of eighteen extensions training methods five methods secured 70 per cent and above. According to the per cent in highly appropriate continuum, the ranks were assigned all the eighteen methods. The methods which have been secured 70 per cent or above were lecture with discussion and demonstration (87.77 %) raked I, lecture with computer based presentation and discussion (86.66 %) ranked II, lecture with discussion and A.V. aids (82.22%) raked III, lecture with A.V. aids ( 72.22 %) raked IV and Method demonstration ( 71.11 %) raked V.

**Table-3** Appropriateness of method, time and techniques used for training

N=90

Sr. No.	Teaching methods and technique	Highly appropriate	Appropriate	Less Appropriate	Not Appropriate	Rank
1.	Lecture with discussion and demonstration	79 (87.77)	6 (06.66)	3 (03.33)	2 (02.22)	I
2.	Lecture with discussion and A. V. aids	74 (82.22)	8 (08.88)	4 (04.44)	4 (04.44)	III
3.	Lecture with A. V. aids	68 (72.22)	19 (21.11)	2 (02.22)	1 (01.11)	IV
4.	Lecture with field trips	57 (63.33)	28 (31.11)	5 (05.55)	0 (00.00)	VII
5.	Lecture with discussion methods	58 (64.44)	30 (33.33)	1 (01.11)	1 (01.11)	VI
6.	Method demonstration	64 (71.11)	23 (25.55)	2 (02.22)	1 (01.11)	V
7.	Group discussion method	45 (50.00)	24 (26.67)	13 (14.44)	8 (08.88)	VIII
8.	Question answer method	15 (16.66)	58 (64.44)	13 (14.44)	4 (04.44)	IX
9.	Lecture with Computer based presentation and discussion	78 (86.66)	7 (07.77)	3 (03.33)	2 (02.22)	II
10.	Only computer based presentation	13 (14.44)	65 (72.22)	10 (11.11)	2 (02.22)	XI
11.	Only lecture method	14 (15.55)	25 (27.77)	47 (52.22)	4 (04.44)	X
12.	Training should be before sowing of crop	10 (11.11)	15 (16.67)	60 (66.67)	5 (05.55)	XIII
13.	Training should be after sowing of crop	7 (07.77)	14 (15.55)	64 (71.11)	5 (05.55)	XVI
14.	Training should be after sowing and before harvesting	12 (13.33)	45 (50.00)	28 (31.11)	5 (05.55)	XII
15.	One day training	8 (08.88)	22 (24.44)	58 (64.44)	2 (02.22)	XV
16.	Three day training	6 (06.66)	25 (27.77)	54 (60.00)	5 (05.55)	XVII
17.	Five day training	9 (10.00)	39 (43.33)	38 (42.22)	4 (04.44)	XIV
18.	Ten day training	5 (05.55)	18 (20.00)	62 (68.89)	5 (05.55)	XVIII

The training method have been secured more than 50 percent or up to 70.00 per cent were, lecture with discussion method (64.44 %) ranked VI, lecture with field trip (63.33%) ranked VII and group discussion method (50.00%) ranked VIII. The least per cent score secure training method were question answer method (16.66 %) ranked IX, only lecture method (15.55%) ranked X, only computer based presentation (14.44 %) ranked XI, training should be after sowing and before harvesting (13.33%) ranked XII, training should be before sowing (11.11%) ranked XIII, five days training (10.00%) ranked XIV, one day training (8.88%) ranked XV, training should be after sowing of crops (7.77%) ranked XVI, three day training (6.66%) ranked XVII and ten days training (5.55%) ranked XVIII. The training method, lecture with computer based presentation and discussion occupied first ranked. The probable reason might be that it has been given idea with multimedia task and with discussion, it became more effective in understanding of the concept on which subject training was imparted. Lecture with discussion and A.V. aids training method occupied second ranked, the probable reason might be it A.V. aids helped the trained farmers' for better understanding of facts. Lecture with A.V. aids occupied third ranked, the probable reason might be due to the up to date use of A.V. aids, which help them better understanding of the facts.

The training method, method demonstration occupied fourth ranked the reason might be due to that method demonstration helped them in teaching a new skill and convincing them and thereby provided them an opportunity of practice. Lecture with discussion training method occupied fifth ranked because of that discussion might help them for better understanding and showing their experiences and express their ideas. Thus, it can be concluded that the majority of the respondents suggested using the lecture with discussion and demonstration or computer based presentation and A.V. aids to make training programme more effective and beneficial.

Jaitawat and Sharma (2008), Oyesola *et al.* (2011), Roman *et al.* (2011), Jiyawan *et al.* (2012), Shobha *et al.* (2012) and Jain *et al.* (2013) [1,3,5,7,8] were in agreement with this finding.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded from the results that more than half of the trained farmers had moderate knowledge about organic farming practices. In terms of appropriateness of training method, the lecture with discussion and demonstration was most important and effective method of training suggested by majority preferred with a first ranked followed by lecture and computer based presentation with discussion, lecture with discussion and A.V. aid, and lecture with A.V. with second, third and fourth rank respectively. Least of respondents were suggested some high-tech training methods and about duration of due to their awareness with high extension participation and innovativeness characteristics with ranked ninth.

## Conflict of Interest: None declared

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