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Research Article

A STUDY ON FARMERS' AWARENESS REGARDING AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION

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Abstract- The present investigation was carried out in Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh. A total of sixty-five farmers were consulted in order to know their awareness regarding agricultural legislation (Insecticide act, Seed act, Fertilizer act, Agriculture marketing act, Protection of Plant varieties and farmers right act). The factors governing their awareness regarding agricultural legislation (like preferences of farmers for insecticide, seeds, fertilizer and their selling preference in regulated and government markets) were also kept in consideration.

Keywords- Agricultural legislation, Awareness.

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Introduction

Agriculture is the backbone of economic development of India. The agriculture sector is encouraged to meet national food and industrial raw material demand. Agricultural legislations play a significant role in policy formulation and agricultural development, through creating awareness and providing information to the farmers about agricultural acts and laws. Agriculture production is purely based on the basic inputs, until and unless the purity, quality and standards of agricultural and commodities are maintained, production programme cannot be successful. To maintain these quality standards, legislations are equally important. Although the government of India has enacted Seed Act (1966), Insecticide Act (1668), Fertilizer Act (1957) and Fertilizer Control Order, Agriculture Marketing Act (1937) and Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act (PVFRA, 2001) during various periods of times, with suitable amendments as disclosed in due course of time to protect the rights and give freedom and credit to the researcher of private sectors, public sectors, research institutions and farmers yet the farmers are concerned with inputs available in the market like different verities of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides and market for their produce but are they aware of the rights, freedoms and various provisions under the various Acts, is a question to be answered.

Material and Methods

Research Design- The research design adopted for this study was ex-post facto in nature, since the phenomenon had already occurred. According to Kerlinger (2007) "ex-post facto" research, is a systematic empirical enquiry in which the researcher does not have direct control over independent variables because either their manifestation has already occurred or they are not inherently manipulated [1].

Locale of the Study

The state of Uttar Pradesh was purposively selected because of the reasons that it is one of the agriculturally rich states of the country and has maximum area under cultivation in majority of crops. Out of 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, Hardoi district was selected as considerable amount and varieties of agricultural inputs like, seed, fertilizer, insecticides, marketing activities as well as different kind of crop varieties used by the farmers in the district [2]. Out of nineteen blocks of the district Aihirori block was selected using random sampling technique. Three villages *viz*; khajurmai, Raobahadur and Lodhi of Aihirori block, were selected purposely because these villages are having most of the farmers of these villages are involved in paddy and wheat production. A total of 65 farmers were selected randomly from the list of farmers available with Gram Pradhans of the purposely selected three villages of Hardoi district of Uttar Pradesh.

Results and Discussion

Table-1.1 *Insecticides purchasing preference of farmers from different sources (N=65)*

S. No	Sources of purchasing by farmers	Frequency	Percentage
1	Government Authorized shop	14	21.53
2	Cooperative societies	6	9.23
3	Private traders	45	69.23
	Total	65	100.00

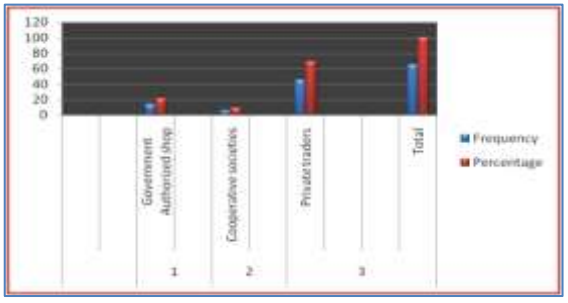

Fig-1.1 Insecticides purchasing preference of farmers from different sources

It is clear from above [Table-1.1] and [Fig-1.1] that, majority of farmers (69.23%) purchased insecticide from private traders while 21.53 percent purchased insecticide from government authorized shop followed by cooperative societies (9.23 %).

Table-1.2 *Seed purchasing preference of farmers from different sources (N=65)*

S. No	Sources of purchasing by farmers	Frequency	Percentage
1	Government Authorized shop	18	27.70
2	Cooperative societies	7	10.76
3	Private traders	40	61.54
	Total	65	100.00

[Table-1.2] reveals that majority of the respondents (61.54 %) purchased seeds from private traders while 27.70 percent of the respondents purchased seeds from government authorized shop followed by cooperative societies (10.76 %). Similar finding was reported by Bishnoi, and Dalal, *(*2008) [3].

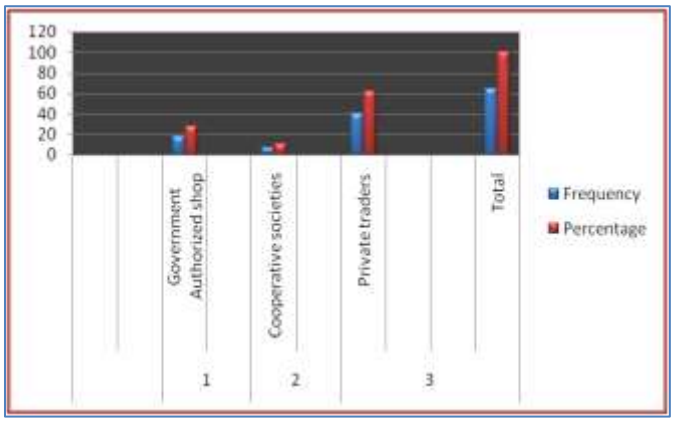

Fig-1.2 Distribution of respondents according to seed purchasing preference of farmers from different sources

Table-1.3 *Fertilizer purchasing preference of farmers from different sources (N=65)*

S. No	Sources of purchasing by farmers	Frequency	Percentage
1	Government Authorized shop	15	23.08
2	Cooperative societies	13	20.00
3	Private traders	37	56.92
	Total	65	100.00

It is clear from [Table-1.3] that majority of the farmers (56.92 %) purchased fertilizers from private traders while (23.08 %) of the respondents purchased fertilizers from government authorized shop followed by cooperative societies (20.00 %). Similar finding was reported by Bishnoi and Dalal *(*2008)[3]

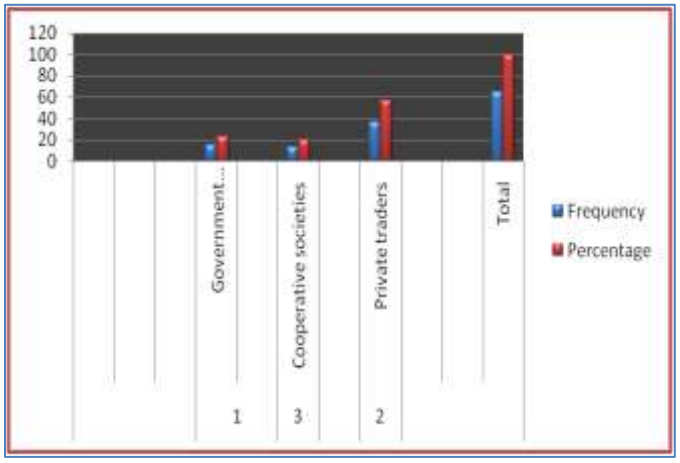

Fig-1.3 Distribution of respondents according to fertilizer purchasing preference of farmers from different sources

Table-1.4 *Selling preference of farmers to Regulated and Government controlled markets (N=65)*

S. No	Sources of purchasing and selling of produce by farmers	Frequency	Percentage
1	Govt, Registered markets	25	38.46
2	Private traders	40	61.54
	Total	65	100.00

[Table-1.4] reveals that majority of the respondents (61.54 %) sold their produce in the governmental registered markets while 61.54 percent of the respondents sold their produce to the private traders.

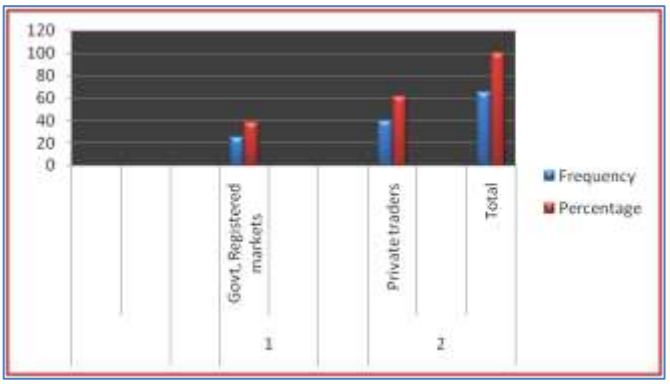

Fig-1.4 Distribution of respondents according to selling preference of farmers to Regulated and Government controlled markets

Table-1.5 *Purchasing preference of respondents to registered varieties of crops* (N=65)

S. No	Sources of purchasing plant, seed varieties by the farmers	Frequency	Percentage
1	Govt. Registered shops	12	18.46
2	Cooperative societies	19	29.23
3	Private traders	34	52.30
	Total	65	100.00

[Table-1.5] reveals that majority of the respondents (52.30 %) purchased seed varieties from private traders while (29.23 %) of the respondents purchased seeds varieties from Cooperative societies shops followed by Govt, Registered shop (18.46 %).

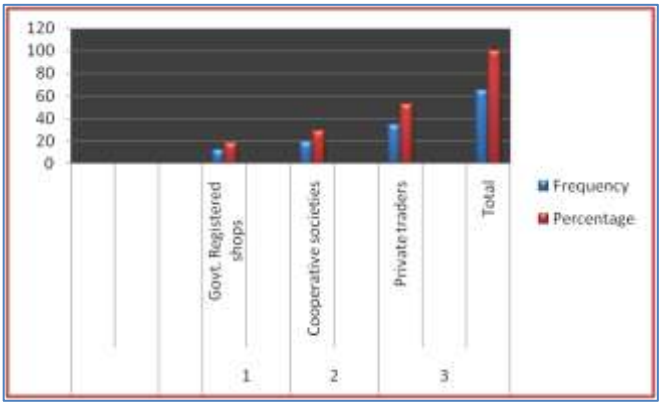

Fig-1.5 Distribution of respondents according to purchasing preference of respondents to registered varieties of crops

Table-1.6 *Distribution of respondent's awareness regarding agriculture legislation (N=65)*

S. No	Name of the act	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Insecticide act	23	35.38
2.	Seed act	32	49.23
3.	Fertilizer act	18	27.69
4.	Agriculture marketing act	15	23.08
5.	Plant varieties and farmers right act	11	16.92

It is evident from [Table-1.6] that majority of the respondents (49.23%) had awareness about seed act while 35.38 percent of the respondents had awareness about insecticide act followed by fertilizer act (27.69%). (Only 23.08%) of the respondents had awareness about agriculture marketing act followed by plant varieties and farmer's right act (16.92%). This finding is contradictory to the findings of Gandhi (2002) and Sivanarayana, (2008) [4,5].

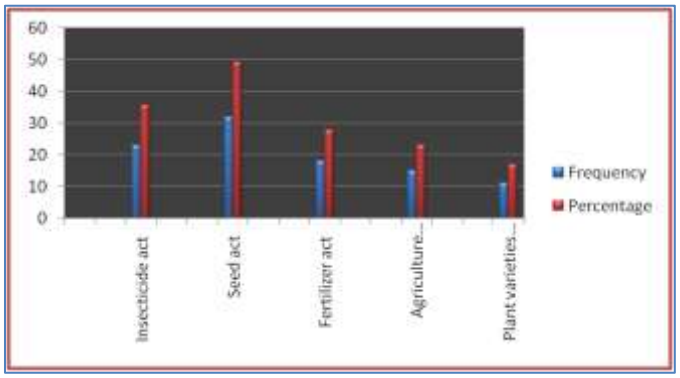

Fig-1.6 Distribution of respondent's awareness regarding agriculture legislation

Conclusion

It can be concluded from above findings that the farmers were not aware of the agricultural legislation up to the extent they should be, even though, it was their main occupation and had direct or indirect effect on them. Thus, there is need of a proper mechanism and efforts to make the farmers aware of the agricultural legislations. It is necessary not only for healthy agriculture practice but also for ensuring the rights of the farmers.

Application of research: The findings of the research will provide a broad

Abbreviations:

PPVFRA: Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Right Act

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Author statement: All authors read, reviewed, agree and approved the final manuscript

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Ethical approval: This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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