



Research Article

ATTITUDE OF TRIBAL FARMERS TOWARDS ORGANIC FARMING PRACTICES IN THE DANGS DISTRICT OF GUJARAT

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Abstract: Organic farming is a modern and a tenable form of agriculture that provides consumers fresh natural farm products. The popularity of organic product is increases day by day dramatically as consumer seeks the organic foods that are thought to be healthier and safer. Thus, organic food perhaps ensures products safety from farm to plate. The present study was conducted in Dang district of South Gujarat during the year 2020. All of the 3 talukas of the Dangs district were covered under the study. 12 villages were selected through proportionate random sampling. From each village ten tribal farmers were selected through simple random sampling. Hence, the total respondents were 120.

Keywords: *Ex-post facto design, Attitude, Tribal farmers, Correlation and Organic farming*

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Introduction

According to Sir Albert Howard, a British agronomist, "Organic agriculture in India long back in 1900 in local village of North India". Organic farming has become very much popularized and practiced in Southern State of India. Economic status of the people of Indian country mostly depends on agricultural production. Need for economic agricultural production lead to discriminative use to chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides. Adoption of new technology and use of modern inputs in agriculture are important in increasing farm productivity. India is the country with wide variation in geographic situation, caste, different farming system, culture and tradition etc. These factors play very crucial role in agricultural production and productivity. Till today, there are region in our country showing lack of the improvement in agriculture productivity. Majority of them are observed in tribal areas of the country which are scattered all over the country and are mostly localized in small pocket in various states. India has second largest tribal population in the world next to Africa. the Indian organic sector is increasing quickly and has already made inroads into the world organic market in certain key sectors such as tea, coffee, spices, fruit and vegetables (mainly semi processed pineapple and dried banana, etc.), cotton, cereals (mainly basmati rice) neem, dried nuts, oilseed (sesame), pulses and sugarcane. The tribal in Gujarat is fourth among states with sizable tribal population preceded by Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar. In Gujarat about 70.00 per cent of the tribal population is concentrated in eleven districts namely Godhra, Dahod, Dangs, Valsad, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Sabarkantha and Banaskantha and Narmada [1-4].

Objective of Study

1. To measure the attitude of respondents towards organic farming in the Dangs district
2. To analyse the association between profile with attitude of respondents towards organic farming

Material and Methods

An *Ex-post-facto* research design was used in the present study area. The study was conducted during February-2020 and march-2020 in purposively selected Dangs district of South Gujarat.

The main focus of the investigation is attitude of tribal farmers towards organic farming tribal farmers in the Dangs District of Gujarat. The total lists of organic farming practices in South Gujarat were prepared from the different sources. To justify the Objectives of the study, 120 organic farming tribal farmers were selected from the complete list by using simple random sampling method. The interview schedule will be prepared by keeping in view the objectives of the study and common for all the respondents. Before its actual use, it was pretested, modified and restructured.

The responses were collected from the randomly selected respondents by arranging personal interview at their home or field or other. Sixteen independent and two dependent variables were selected for the study. The different statistical techniques were used to analyse the data. The collected data were analysed by using appropriate statistical methods viz., average, and percentage, mean score, standard deviation, correlation coefficient (r) [5-8].

Results and Discussion

Attitude of The Respondents Towards Organic Farming

It is the degree of positive or negative feelings associated with respondent's behavior towards organic farming. Attitude of the cultivator is very important for the adoption of any new agricultural technology. If the cultivator has positive attitude or positive behavior about organic farming they can easily adopt or use organic farming. So here an attempt has been made to study the attitude towards organic farming.

The feelings of the respondents about organic farming were collected and grouped into three categories by using mean and standard deviation as (i) less favourable attitude (up to 62.33 score), (ii) favourable attitude (between 62.34 to 71.97 score) and (iii) highly favourable attitude (above 71.97 score). The results of this aspect are presented in [Table-1]. It can be revealed that the majority (72.50%) of the respondents were found in the favourable attitude, followed by 14.17 and 13.33 per cent of the respondents had to highly and less favourable attitude, respectively.

Table-1 Distribution of respondents according to the level of attitude towards organic farming (n=120)

Sr. No.	Attitude	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Less favourable	16	13.33
2	Favourable	87	72.50
3	Highly favourable	17	14.17
Total		120	100.00

(\bar{x} = 67.15) (SD = 4.82)

Correlation Between Personal Profile of The Respondents and Their Level of Attitude Towards Organic Farming

The correlation between personal profile of the respondents of organic farming viz. age, gender, education, size of family, farm experience, land holding, annual income, herd size, social participation, extension contact, economic motivation, scientific orientation, risk orientation, management orientation, mass media exposure and occupation with level of attitude of the respondents towards organic farming were worked out with the help of correlation coefficient (r). The results of this aspect are presented in [Table-2].

Table-2 Correlation between personal profile of the respondents and their attitude towards organic farming (n=120)

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient (r)
1	Age	0.0139 ^{NS}
2	Gender	0.0372 ^{NS}
3	Education	0.1271*
4	Size of Family	-0.0065 ^{NS}
5	Farm Experience	-0.0518 ^{NS}
6	Land Holding	-0.0396 ^{NS}
7	Annual Income	0.3968**
8	Herd Size	0.1380*
9	Social Participation	0.1273*
10	Extension Contact	0.2334*
11	Economic Motivation	0.1371*
12	Scientific Orientation	0.1543*
13	Risk Orientation	0.1749*
14	Management Orientation	0.3554**
15	Mass Media Exposure	0.1838*
16	Occupation	-0.0801 ^{NS}

NS= Non-significant, * = Significant at 0.05 level, ** = Significant at 0.01 level

It can be revealed that annual income (0.3968**) and management orientation (0.3554**) are positively and highly significantly associated at 1 per cent of probability while, education (0.1271*), herd size (0.1380*), social participation (0.1273*), extension contact (0.2334*), economic motivation (0.1371*), scientific orientation (0.1543*), risk orientation (0.1739*) and mass media exposure (0.1838*) were found positively and significantly associated at 5 per cent level of probability whereas, size of family (-0.0065), farm experience (-0.0518), land holding (-0.0396), and occupation (-0.0801) are negatively but non-significantly associated with their attitude towards organic farming. While age (0.0139) and gender (0.0372) are positively but non significantly associated with their attitude towards organic farming.

Conclusion

After completing this study, it can be concluded that majority of the tribal farmers had favourable attitude of organic farming and annual income and management orientation are positively and highly significantly associated at 1 per cent of probability while, education, herd size, social participation, extension contact, economic motivation, scientific orientation, risk orientation and mass media exposure were found positively and significantly associated at 5 per cent level of probability whereas, size of family, farm experience, land holding, and occupation are negatively but non-significantly associated with their attitude towards organic farming.

Application of research: This study will facilitate in knowing the characteristics of the tribal farmers in organic farming which would serve as a guideline for the planners, policy maker and implementing agencies related to promote organic farming.

Research Category: Extension Education

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Study area / Sample Collection: Dangs district of South Gujarat

Cultivar / Variety / Breed name: Nil

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.

Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

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