AWARENESS OF RURAL WOMEN ABOUT TRAINING AND VISIT SYSTEM

By
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF APPENDICES

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy and prosperity of agriculture stands for her prosperity (Dutt and Sundaram, 1983). Agriculture has been termed the mother of all industries and the maintainer of human life, heading all sciences and arts, leading to civilization and progress. In India, nearly half of the national income is derived from agriculture. Thus it constitutes the very base of our national economy. (Shankar, 1982).

Kaneda (1980) reveals that the experience of India's economy in recent years has demonstrated quite convincingly that a stable and buoyant agricultural growth is the sine quanon of a strong performance in other sectors of the economy. Sain (1980) expresses that the crop production has barely managed to keep abreast of the rate of growth of population.

Brahme (1980) says that on the eve of Independence, agricultural production in India was by and large stagnant and there were marked year-to-year fluctuations in production due to the dependency of agriculture on the monsoon. The cultivation was carried on mainly with the help of bullock and human labour using traditional farm equipment. The peasant's Charter (1981) explains that the goal of agrarian reform and rural development being the transformation of rural life and activities in all their economic, social, cultural, institutional, environmental

and human aspects. National objectives and strategies to achieve this transformation should focus on elimination of poverty. For this, a well planned agricultural system is very important.

According to Sinha (1975) and Krishna (1982), implementation of the Intensive Agricultural District Programme (IADP), the Special Programmes for the Small Farmers (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers (MFAL) and High Yielding Varieties Programme (HYVP) had helped in increasing agricultural production during the five year plans. The experiences from these earlier programmes had helped our planners and experts to plan for innovative programmes.

Application of science and technology has certainly brought about a big change in Indian agriculture. In order to make technology an instrument of "Chage in favour of the Poor" its scope will have to be extended so as to cover small farmers, dry areas and hill areas. The first five points in the new 20 points programme constitute an attempt to realise this balanced pattern of growth in agriculture. So the 'Training and Visit System' was introduced. The reorganised extension system or the 'Training and Visit' (T & V) system of extension covers all farmers irrespective of their size of the farm or the state of irrigation. The Training and Visit Programme is also conclusively proved that technology is also an important input for increasing agricultural production. (Krishna, 1982). An extremely important feature of the T & V system

is ensuring transfer of know-how available at agricultural research farms to widespread areas through effective time-bound system.

Role of women in agriculture is getting momentum and they are contributing considerably for the development of agriculture. The Coimbatore District is an agrarian district where among the contact farmers of Training and Visit system, 10 per cent are women. Due to these reasons, the objectives set for this present study are to,

1. Find out the role of women in agricultural operations.
2. Study the set up and function of Training and Visit System in Coimbatore District.

and 3. Understand the awareness of women about Training and Visit system.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The relevant literature pertaining to the study on "Awareness of Rural Women about Training and Visit system", which is the re-organised extension system are under the following headings :

A. Importance of agriculture in national development.

B. Women in agriculture.

C. Training and Visit system and rural women.

A. Importance of agriculture in national development :

India is predominantly an agricultural country, more than two third of its people are engaged in agriculture. Agriculture contributes nearly 50 per cent to the total national income. (Dewett and Wadhawan, 1981). Dhingra (1981) states that agricultural development is a necessary prerequiste for industrial growth.

Barnala (1978) views that nearly three fourth of the total population derives its livelihood from agriculture. Besides supplying food grains to the growing population, it provides raw materials to our major industries like cotton textiles, jute, tea and sugar, influences the stability of general economy, price etc. It contributes about one half of the national income. It is estimated that our population will raise to 76.0 crores by March 1988. On the basis of the envisaged population growth and the objectives of rising the

percapita availability of food grains from the present level of 159 Kg to about 190 Kgs by 1987-88, the demand for food grain in 1987-88 is estimated as 169 million tonnes.

Agarwal (1978) indicates that agriculture provides employment and work for living to an over whelming majority of the Indian massee. Almost every Indian is employed directly or indirectly in agriculture with 72.5 per cent of the working population being engegedin agriculture. According to census of India (1981), total number of cultivators are 41.53 per cent, which will include 43.77 per cent male cultivators and 33.03 per cent female cultivators and among 25.16 per cent of total agricultural labourers 19.77 percent were males and 45.77 per cent were female.

Year book (1981) gives the information that agriculture (including animal husbendary, fishery and forestry) provides employment to 167 million in 1971 as against 128 million in 1961. The share of agriculture in India's domestic product of Rs. 812,280 million in 1978-79 was Rs.3,57,400 million or 44 per cent which includes forestry and fishery. This underscores the crucial role of agriculture in the Indian economy. Exports of agricultural commodities are a major source of foreign exchange for the country and account on an average for about 40 per cent of the total export earnings. It is estimated that if certain measures are taken, the export of agricultural products can rise to Rs.31,250 million tonnes in 1982-83 from about Rs.12,170 million in 1975-76 (Directory and Year Book, 1982).

B. Women in agriculture :

Chitnis (1983) opines that the Indian Constitution categorically asserts women's xxxx equal right to employment. Saikia (1981) views that women's role in agriculture is not less important than man's. Women are generally exempted from doing certain jobs such as ploughing, cutting and falling of trees etc. Luthra (1975) states that in India, by for the largest number of working women are in rural areas engaged in farming operations either as cultivators or as agricultural labourers.

According to Saikia and Gogoi (1981), women discovered crop husbandry in the Neolithic period and has been taking activepart in agriculture. In India, one fifth of the total labour of a family covers from women. One third of the women labour of the family is engaged in agriculture. The general trend is that both educated man and women become averse to manual labour. Now-a-days in the rural societies more of the educated women of the rich families are exempted from the agricultural labour. Besides, women of some particular castes and communities are not allowed to work in the field inspiteof their deplorable economic condition.

Traditionally women were expected to work at home and help her husband, But thereis a shift in the structure of work and hence the concept of work has changed to agriculture, (Nate 1971).

According to Choudhari and Sharma (1966), Department of Social Welfare (1974), Kara (1976), Tapper (1979) and Dhillon (1981), women play an important role in numerous agricultural operations in addition to their domestic tasks of providing meals for the family and looking after their children. The activities performed by women in the field of agriculture are preparing and carrying meals for menfolk, working on the fields, harvesting groundnut and cotton, separating seed from cotton, grain sowing, rice transplanting, vegetable sowing, weeding, threshing wheat and paddy, preparing fertiliser from cowdung, caring irrigation water, and supervision of farming operations to give suggestions to see that nothing is going wrong and for personal satisfaction. The activities performed by women in cattle rearing are cleaning the cattle shed, throwing the cow dung on the dung heap, preparing cow dung cakes, setting them to dry and carrying them back home to use as fuel, mixing the fodder for the cattle, bathing them and milking.

Devadas etal (1972) reveal that farm women were almost always consulted in making decisions with regard to various farm operations like getting new seeds, selecting crops, getting fertilisers and pesticides and appointing labourers.

Nainie etal (1966) state that based on the statistics obtained, an International Labour Report stated that women may be expected to continue to play an important role in agriculture in the forseeable future. This is further confirmed by a study

conducted by the FAO and the ILO, where it was pointed out that the rural exodus of farm to urban areas leaves the women behind to carry on all aspects of the farm and home, the burden of women increased and the adoption of improved farm techniques is retarded. In a country like India, which ranks third in the number of women employed in agriculture, the actual condition of working women in agriculture are not well known.

Sundar (1983) states that basically India's estimated female labour force of 76.73 per cent can be divided into those who work for wage employment and those who are self-employed. 60.4 per cent of the rural female work force and 44 per cent of the urban female work force are self-employed. Money earned by women goes more direcly to raise the health, nutrition and economic status of whole family, than in the case of a man earner. Besides, women constitute a large percent of the agricultural labour force and share as farmers and partners in farm decision making.

C. Training and Visit system and Rural Women :

1. Training and visit system and its features :

Salunkhe (1982) explains that rapid and continuous progress isbeing made on the front of agricultural research and the potential for increasing food production and the possibilities of bettering the economic conditions of the masses and better than ever. However, the advancement in

agricultural research, has not been matched by equal progress in the transmission of the results to the ultimate beneficiary, which is the mass of farming community. The results of this slow and uneven progress in channelling new technology to farmers are becoming increasingly evident. Hence the solution for agricultural development does not result with the evolution of a suitable technology which could be used by the neglected majority. This indicates that the effective communication of the technology is of crucial importance. Here, agricultural extension plays an important role. Active participation of agricultural extension service in agricultural development produced better results, which gave birth to so called "Green Revolution". This means that the Indian farmers are on move and they have understood the importance of the new agricultural technology. But because of many short falls the present agricultural extension system does not fulfil the expectations of the farmers and the planners and/or administrators too. It is true that this system needs revitalisation for the cause of farmers' development. However, the planners and/or administrators substituted this by so-called, Training and Visit (T and V) system.

According to Benor and Harrison (1977), Sood (1978) and Jaganathan (1983), the Training and Visit system of Extension is developed by Daniel Benor which has been introduced in projects assisted by the Work Bank in a number of countries with good results. Nearly 39 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin

America have adopted the T and V programme. It has been introduced in 13 states in India. First it was started in Rajasthan canal and Chambal area in Madhya Pradesh during kharif 1974. The methodology adopted in these projects had shown promissing results. The methodology had since been extended to Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Rajasthan, Madya -Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharastra and Karnataka.

As a starting in Tamil Nadu the programme was introduced as a part of periyar-Vaigai Project in Madurai District and some part of Ramanathapuram District in 1980. Then as a first step, it was introduced in Chengulpet, Tanjur, Pudukottai, Ramanathapuram, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore and Madurai districts in 1.9.1981. As a second step it was introduced in North Arcot, South Arcot, Trichi Salem, Periyar, Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts in 1.7.82 (Subramani, 1983).

Directorate of extension (1982) gives the aims of T and V system as to,

1. increase the agricultural production.
2. introduce new agricultural techniques to farmers
3. Provide adequate training to extension workers and
4. increase the economic condition of farmers.

Sinha (1980) gives the six major elements of the system as,

1. a single line restructured organisational set up,
2. a family based moderate sized group of contact farmers,
3. regular fixed and periodic visits to the families,

4. a timely, clear and precise form of message communication,

5. an arrangement for infrastructural support for the supply of inputs and services and

6. a regular and autonomous arrangements for monitoring and evaluation of efforts and results.

According to Salunkhe (1982), the special features of T and V system are to,

1. import necessary skills to the farmers and enable them to undertake improved agricultural practices which would raise farm productivity.

2. prepare them for introducing innovations and change in farming practices so that they can use the results of adoptive research.

3. give them timely guidance on such improved practices

4. increase farming capabilities by advising farmers on a wider range of crops and more sophisticated techniques even as the farmers adopted improved production methods and cropping system, and

5. Use an inbuilt capacity for monitoring and self evaluation.

The main ingredients of the re-organised agricultural programme are :

1. Professional service capable of giving farmers sound technical advice on their entire farming operations.

2. Exclusively professional agricultural extension work.

3. A systematic time-bound programme of Training and Visit system.

4. Concentration of efforts to achieve a clear, visible impact and continued progress.

5. Immediate success.

6. Focus on selected "Contact" farmers who transfer the messages to most of the farmers in the area quickly.

7. Efforts were taken to teach farmers to make the best use of available resources.

8. Recommendations according to ability.

9. Proper linkage to a vigorous research programme well tuned to the needs of the farmers.

10. Effective co-ordination arrangement between extension and the input supply agencies.

11. A built in process for continuous adoption to changing conditions.

12. Field trials in farmers' fields.

13. Use of other extension methods to complement the main programme.

14. Appropriate incentives to extension workers.

The above ingredients indicate that T and V system is typical, and is superior to the present extension service in all grounds.

2. Administrative set up of T and V system :

According to sood (1978), transfer of research findings to farmers' fields include:

Stage I : "Training" provides for transfer of know-how from the research scientists/subject matter specialists to the extension worker and

Stage II : "Visits" provides for transfer of know-how from the extension workers to the farmers (fig. 1.)

Directorate of Extension (1981) Benor and Harison (1982), and Mills (1983) explain the general organisational set up as given in figure 2.

The entire organisation is based on the total number

of farm families and the number of families whichone Village Extension Worker (VEW) can reasonably expect to cover. Once, this is determined the number of VEWs needed to cover a given project area (or state or country) is easily calculated. It is organised in such a manner that an Agricultural Extension Officer (AEO) guides, trains and supervises about 6 to 8 VEWs. Six to eight AEOs are in turn, guided and supervised by a Subdividional Agricultural Officer (SDAO). The SDAOs are supported by a team of Subject matter Specialists (SMSs). Four to eight SDAOs are supervised by a District Agricultural Officer (DAO), who is also supported by SMSs. Depending on the number of district the DAO is supervised either directly by extension, head quarters or by an intermediate superior. The objective is to ensure that each level of the service has a span of control narrow enough to afford close personal guidance and supervision of the level immediatly below.

Field level :

The number of families that a VEW can cover, varies from place to place and all the farm families under a VEWs jurisdiction are divided into eight groups of equal size depending on geography, size of the villages and ease of communication. The VEW will live in his jurisdiction. consulting with the village leaders VEW will select about 10 per cent of the farmers as contact farmers on whom he will concentrate his arrofts. The key points here is a fixed schedule of VEWs visits, known to all.

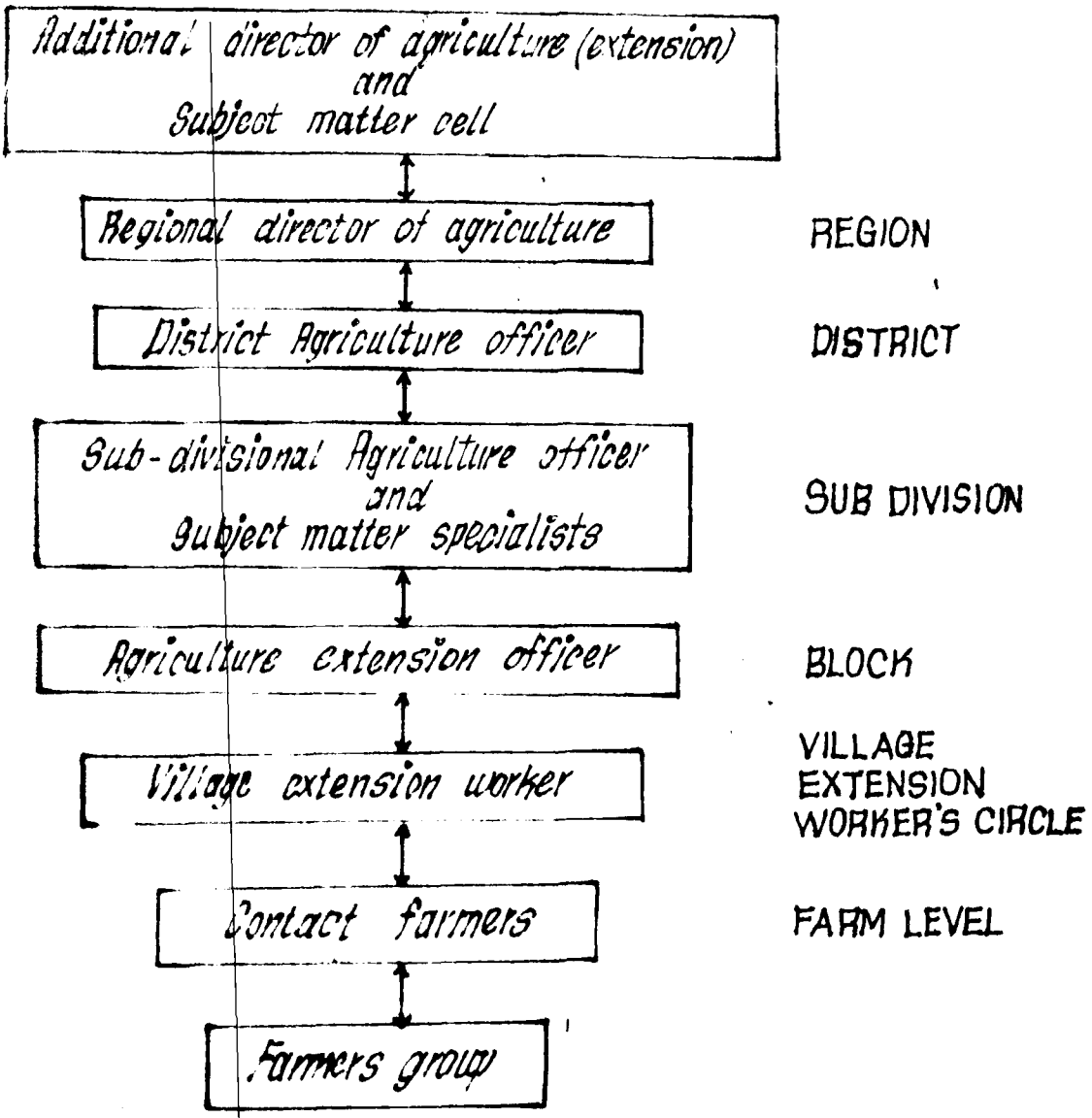


Fig 1. ORGANISATIONAL PATTERN OF TRAINING AND VISIT SYSTEM (DIRECTORATE OF EXTENSION [1982])

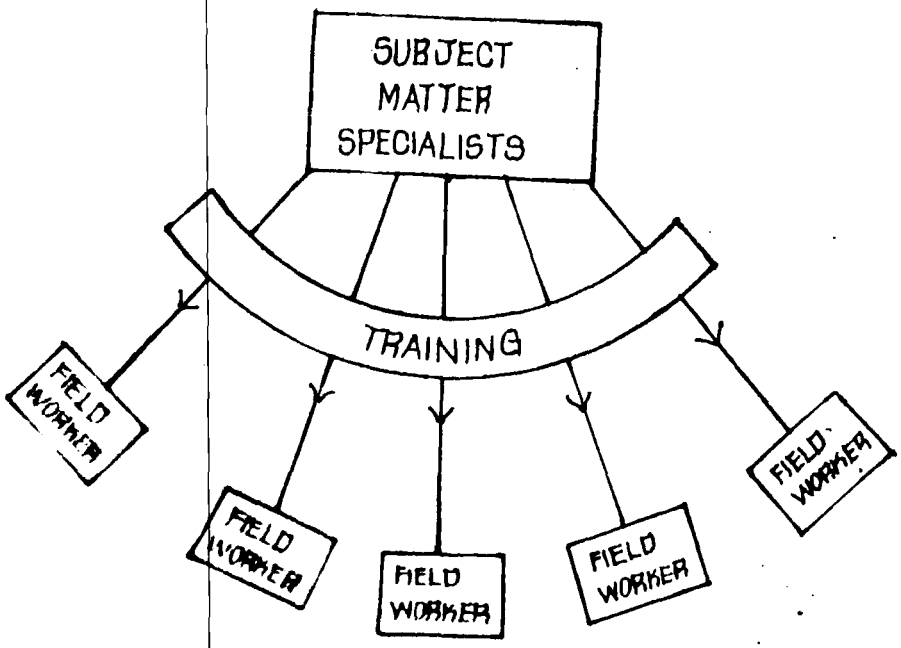


Fig. TRANSFER OF KNOW-HOW (SOOD-1978)

Each Agricultural Extension officer (AEO) will supervise and provide technical support to about eight VEWs. His visits should be prescheduled and timed so that over a period of several months he sees each of his VEWs with each of their groups, and he will also keep a simple diary recording the findings of his visits.

The sub divisional or subdistrict is an administrative unit covering several blocks. The Sub Divisional Agricultural Officer supervises the AEOs and VEWs under his jurisdiction and is in overall charge of the extension programme. One SDAO can supervise about six to eight AEOs.

District level :

At the district level, the District Agricultural Officer (DAO) will supervise the SDAOs. He will also make random checks at other levels in the system. He will be supported by a team of SMSs in the fields of specialists in farm management, water management or farm implements, or specialists in livestock, or crops of special relevance to the district.

Regional level :

In cases of too many districts to be supervised directly by the headquarters department, one additional level is required, that is Regional level. The Regional Director of Agriculture (RDA) will be responsible for all extension

activities in his district. The field supervision work will be done by him personally and he will be assisted by a few administrative staff only.

Headquarters level :

The headquarters may vary from place to place according to the responsibilities and the structure of Ministry of Agriculture. The Director of the Extension Service would be assisted by three deputies. First for administration including personal administration, second for technical and professional aspects of service and the third for the execution and implementations of the work at all levels, constantly, monitoring and regularly evaluating the effectiveness of the system.

3. Experiments with T and V system :

Sarkar (1979) conducted a study in Murshidabad district of West Bengal selecting it as one of the six project districts for the states, Agricultural Department project, in view of its potentiality for agricultural development. As an integral part of the project the Training and visit system of Extension was introduced in this district in July 1975. A pilot project was taken by deploying the organisational setup and mechanism of the T and V system of Extension.

Achievements :

1. There has been a complete change in the cropping pattern with the introduction of irrigated jute followed by paddy

and wheat instead of nonirrigated jute and wheat.

2. Elimination of summer paddy in the command area and there by to cover more area under wheat within the command, giving benefits to a larger number of farmers with the same quantum of water became possible.

3. Wheat crop was replaced by oil seeds in plots at higher attitudes where wheat crop suffered due to inadequate irrigation water at the peak consumption period.

4. The water tax was fully realised in almost all the project sites.

5. The total running time of the deep tube well was reduced by 50 per cent, although the area irrigated increased by 80 per cent. Average running time of the deep tube well for growing wheat in eech acre of plot was drasticallyreduced.

The reaction of the farmers in the project sites was quite favourable to the improvements brought about in the distribution of irrigation water.

According to the study conducted by Mills (1983) in Orissa, the area planted under both oil seeds and pulses increased from 1.5 million ~~km~~ hectares in 1977 to 2.3 million in 1980 due to T and V system. In Rajasthan, during the first three years under the system, wheat, cotton and groundnut yields went up, the area planted under hybri millets increased more than three fold in some areas and was replaced by soyabean in others, the seed treatment and fertilizer applications recommended by the VEWs

have been adopted by 40 to 50 per cent of the farmers. Three years after being established, the T and V system has Perceptibly improved cotton and food crop yields in an IDA financed project in Upper Volta.

From the paper presented at the workshop on Management of T and V system of Extension held at NIRD (1979), the Orissa Agricultural Department gave details about a short term development project to increase rapidly the productivity of the state by improving the effeciency of the extension services, estimating multiple control and established a single line of command from the state headquarters to the field level.

Kathinesabapathy (1983) conducted a study in Tinnevely District in Tamil Nadu where the T and V programme is being implemented in the second phase in 1-7-82 and within a short period it gained so much importance in the minds of farming community because of its success. Kadasamy Somasundaram is one of the contact farmers of the village Athalikulam in Srivaikundam Taluk of Tinnevely District. He got a highest yield of 3386 Kgs of paddy per acre with IR 20 paddy in phisanam (October-November) season and 3720 Kgs of paddy per acre with TK M 9 paddy in advance kar season (March-April). Normally he could get only 1200-1800 Kgs of paddy per acre with either local or high yielding varieties. After the introduction of the Training and Visit programme, being a contact farmer he had a close contact with the VEW and Agricultural Officer and gain knowledgeabout the various improved agricultural practices. As

such the T and V programme is boon to the farming community in Tamil Nadu as they were contacted by the field level workers in the field itself and extended upto date technology at the proper time.

4. Training of Rural women :

According to the paper presented in the workshop on Management of T and V system of Extension (1979), women in Orissa play an important role in family decisions, including decisions on agricultural matters, and are becoming more involved with such things as seed selection, handling, of fertilizers, rodent control, kitchen gardening, compost making and the keeping of small animals. The project provides for training of the rural women through peripatetic training terms. The teams comprise a women's training officer, and two demonstrators with a vehicles, which carries teaching aids and demonstration materials.

The strong and the weak points of the T and V system as perceived by the workshop (1979) in Orissa strong points are:

1. Increase in awareness among farmers, eliminated multiple control and ensure direct control of VEWs with farmers.
2. Confidence among VEOs due to continuous training.
3. The impact of the programme has reflected in the production of rice, pulses and oil seeds to great extent. There is increased demand for fertilisers Further, cultivetors are aware of quality seeds and pesticides.

4. Credibility of extension workers with the farmers has very much improved.

The weak points are :

1. Although a single line of command has been introduced, the correct attitude are yet to develop in the concerned quarters.
2. It has been noticed that, the financial paraphernalia generally followed in creating bottlenecks in timely execution of the programme.
3. It may be noticed that though 125 posts of SMS have been sanctioned, only 90 are on the jobs. It is due to the number of post graduates in Agriculture is small and they are getting better emoluments in banking and commercial services. The present recruitment rules are also not permitting the filling up of the post of SMS easily.
4. The transport and housing facilities are seriously inadequate, for the extension workers.

METHODOLOGY

III METHODOLOGY

The steps involved in eliciting information about the "Awareness of Rural Women about Training and Visit system" Area:

A. Selection of Area.

B. Selection of Sample.

C. Selection of Method.

D. Preparation of Interview schedule.

E. Collection and Interpretation of data.

A. Selection of Area :

Karamedai, Velliangedu, Paneppalayam, Kalampalayam, Pungampalayam, Seeliyur, Belichigoundenur, Alangombu, Sirumugai, and Pattakarampalayam were the ten villages of Karamedai Panchayat Union, Coimbatore District, selected for the study owing to the following reasons :

1. The officials of Trainning and Visit (T and V) system, enabled the investigator to obtain the list of villages where the programme is in operation, having women contact farmers and
2. The villages of Karamedai Panchayat Union had good rapport through different programmes of Sri Avinashilingam Education Trust Institutions.

B. Selection of Sample :

According to Gupta (1982) a sample is that part of the universe which we select for the purpose of investigation.

Sampling is simply the process of learning about the population on the basis of a sample drawn from it. Thus, in the sampling technique, instead of every unitof the universe, only a part of the universe is studied and the conclusions are drawn on that basis for the entire universe.

The names of the women contact farmers were collected from the officials of T and V system. One woman contact farmer from each village and nine farm women (wives of farmers benefitting from T and V system) were selected, thereby, total sample was 100.

C. Selection of Method :

Interview schedule was utilized for the collection of data. Interview makes possible a face to face communication, inter stimulation between the interviewer and the interviewee. The data collected by interview method is more accurate when compared to other methods and also the information collected were more accurate and reliable compared to other methods. (Chaudhari 1976) And also in the selected villages some of the women were illiterate. So the interview method was chosen to collect information from the farm women.

D. Preparation of Interview Schedule :

The interview schedule was prepared to get the information on general family background, size of land holdings, cropping pattern, role in agriculture and awareness about T & V system. Modifications and improvements in the schedule were made based on the results of pretesting.

E. Collection and Interpretation of Data :

The respondents were interviewed in person and the data were collected for the study. The data were tabulated, analysed and interpreted in the following chapter.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the study on "Awareness of Rural Women about Training and Visit system" are discussed under the following headings :

A. Background information about the selected women,

B. Role of women in agriculture and

C. Awareness of women about Training and Visit system.

A. Background information about the selected women :

Among the sample 99 per cent were Hindus. Among the Hindus, 97 per cent belonged to Gowda caste and two per cent were Naidus. There was only one Christian family. The educational status of the selected respondents is given in Table I.

T A B L E - I

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF SELECTED RESPONDENTS

S.No.	Educational status	percentage of respondents
1	Primary School	65
2	Secondary School	9
3	High School	6
4	Illiterate	20

The above table reveals that 65 per cent of the respondents had education up to primary school, Nine percent had secondary school education and Six percent had high school

education. The percentage of illiteracy was only 20 per cent. (fig.3)

The income level of the selected families is given in Table II.

T A B L E - II.

INCOME LEVEL OF SELECTED FAMILIES.

S.No.	Income range in Rs./month	percentage of families
1	0 - 500	58
2	501 - 1,000	36
3	above - 1,000	6

Fifty eight per cent of the respondents had income upto Rs.500 per month, 36 per cent were getting Rs.501-1000 and only 6 per cent had above Rs.1,000/- per month. All the respondents had their main occupation as agriculture. (fig. 4.)

Among the respondents, 62 per cent had only wet land, 5 per cent had only dry land and 33 per cent had wet as well as dry land.

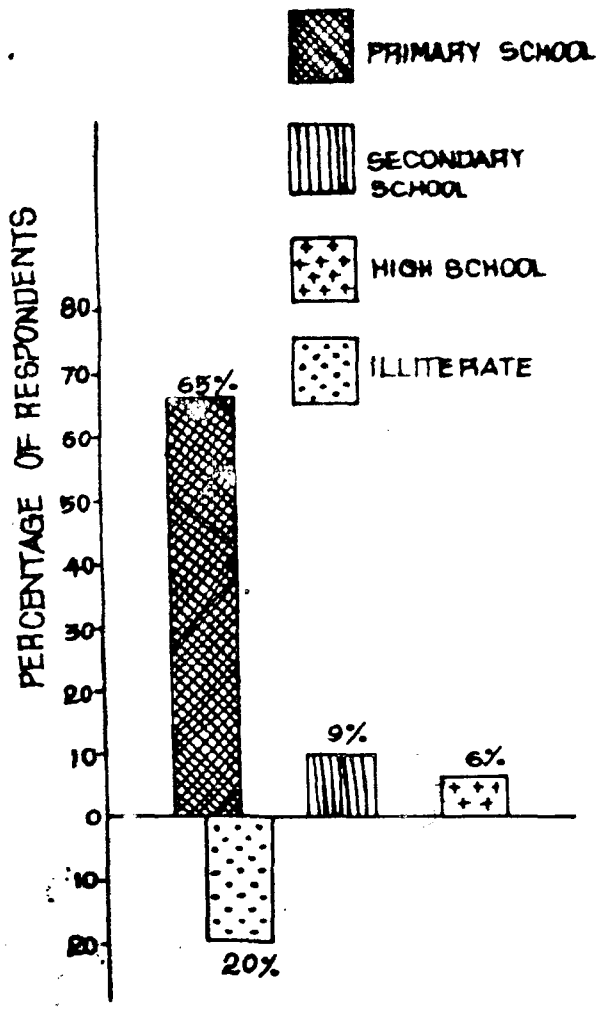
The size of land holdings of the selected families are given in Table III.

T A B L E - III.

SIZE OF LAND HOLDINGS OF SELECTED FAMILIES

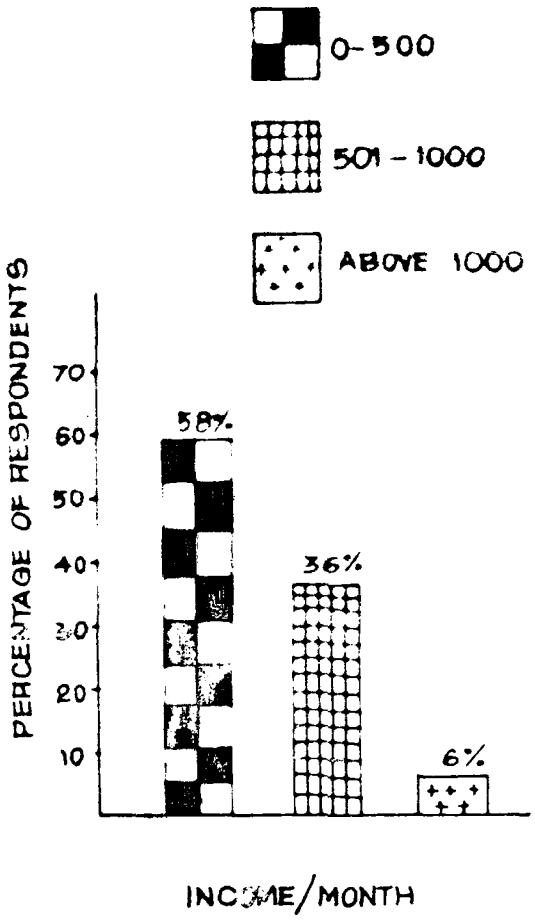
S.No.	Size of land (in acres)	Percentage of families
WET LAND :		
1	0 - 5	79
2	6 - 10	19
3	11 - 15	2
DRY LAND :		
4	0 - 5	71
5	6 - 10	16
6	11 - 15	13

Among the 95 per cent of the respondents who were having wet land, 79 per cent possessed 0-5 acres, 19 per cent possessed 6-10 acreas and only 2 per cent had 11-15 acres and none of them had above 15 acres of wet land. Among the 38 per cent of respondents having dry land, 71 percent hold 0-5 acres, 16 percent hold 6-10- acres and 13 per cent possessed 11-15 acres. (fig. 5.)



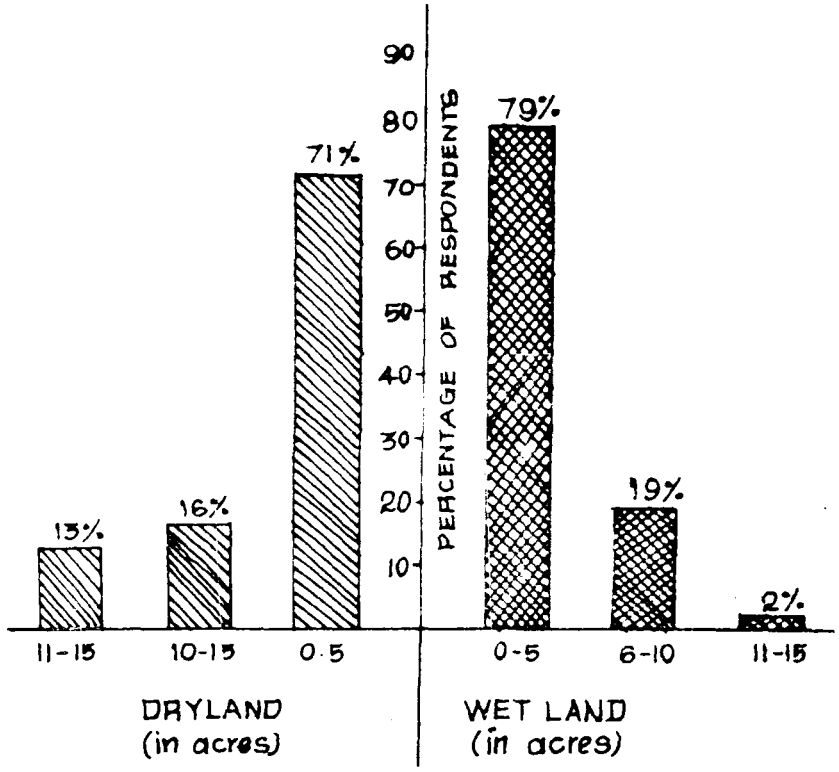
EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF WOMEN

Figure . 3



INCOME LEVEL OF FAMILIES

Figure . 4



SIZE OF LAND HOLDING (IN ACRES)

Figure . 5

The common crops cultivated by the selected families are given in Table IV.

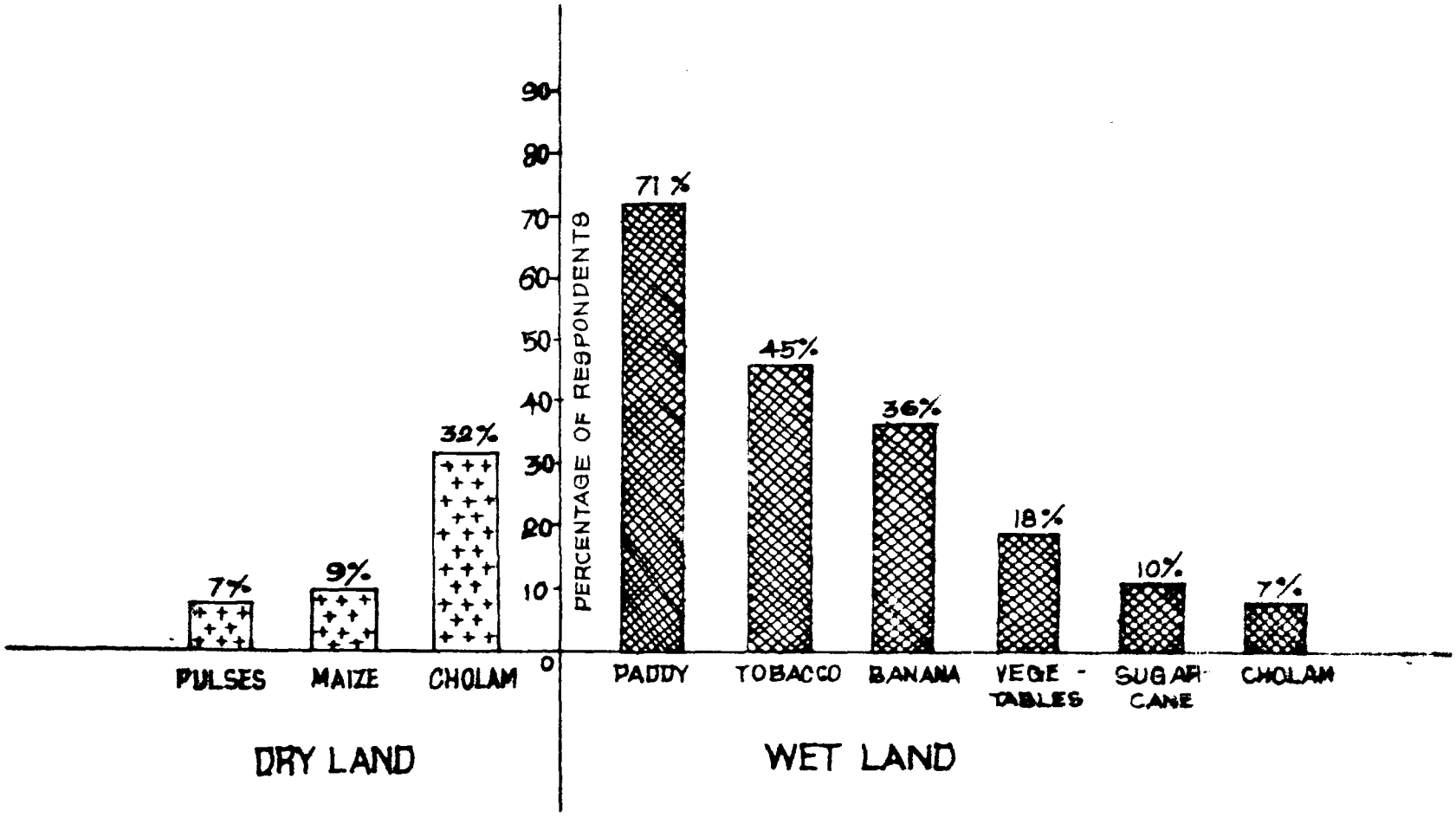
T A B L E - IV.

CROPS CULTIVATED

S.No.	CROPS	Percentage of families
I	WET LANDCROPS :	
1	Paddy	71
2	Tobacco	45
3	Banana	36
4	Vegetables	18
5	Sugar cane	10
6	Cholam	7
	DRY LANDCROPS :	
7	Cholam	32
8	Maize	9
9	Pulses	7

Regarding the cultivation of crops, paddy, tobacco, and banana seemed to be very common in wet lands. In dry lands, the respondents usually cultivated cholam (32 percent) maize (9 percent) and pulses (7 percent). (fig.6)

The source of irrigation for the farms, as mentioned by women revealed that 95 per cent had wells for irrigation and five percent who were having dryland, depended on rain water. For lifting the well water, 92 percent had electric motor and the others used diesel engines.



CROPS CULTIVATED IN FARMS OF SELECTED FAMILIES

Figure . 6

B. Role of women in agriculture :

The role of women in agriculture is shown in Table V.

T A B L E - V.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

S.No.	Activities	Participation/Supervision/Not involved (Per centage of women)		
1	Ploughing	-	28	72
2	Irrigation	-	29	71
3	Preparing seed bed	19	36	45
4	Sowing	21	42	37
5	Transplanting	49	40	11
6.	Hoeing and weeding	55	40	5
7	Application of fertilizer	49	41	10
8	Scaring of birds	47	33	20
9	Harvesting	50	39	11
10	Hand threshing	52	16	32
11	Drying	61	27	12
12	Winnowing	61	25	14
13	Storing the grains	66	26	7
14	Preparing for marketing	67	30	2
15	Giving Wages	70	29	11
16	Care of Cattle	51	37	11
17	Milking	43	33	21
18	Keeping accounts	17	31	40
19	Operating implements	1	36	63

Regarding the participation of selected women in the agricultural operations, it is clear from the table that they actually participated in giving wages (70 percent), preparing the produce for marketing (67 per cent), storing the grains for future use (66 per cent) and drying and winnowing (61 per cent). Except ploughing and irrigation, women participated in all other activities to some extent or the other.

Some women took part in agriculture through supervision. Sowing was supervised by 42 per cent, transplanting, hoeing and weeding by 40 per cent of the women and harvesting by 39 per cent. All the activities were supervised by some percentage of women or the other.

Seventy two per cent and 71 per cent of the women were not involved in ploughing and irrigation respectively. Sixty per cent of the women were not at all involved in operating implements. It is clear from the table that some of the women were not at all involved in any of the agricultural operations.

Participation of selected women in taking up decisions regarding farming is shown in Table VI.

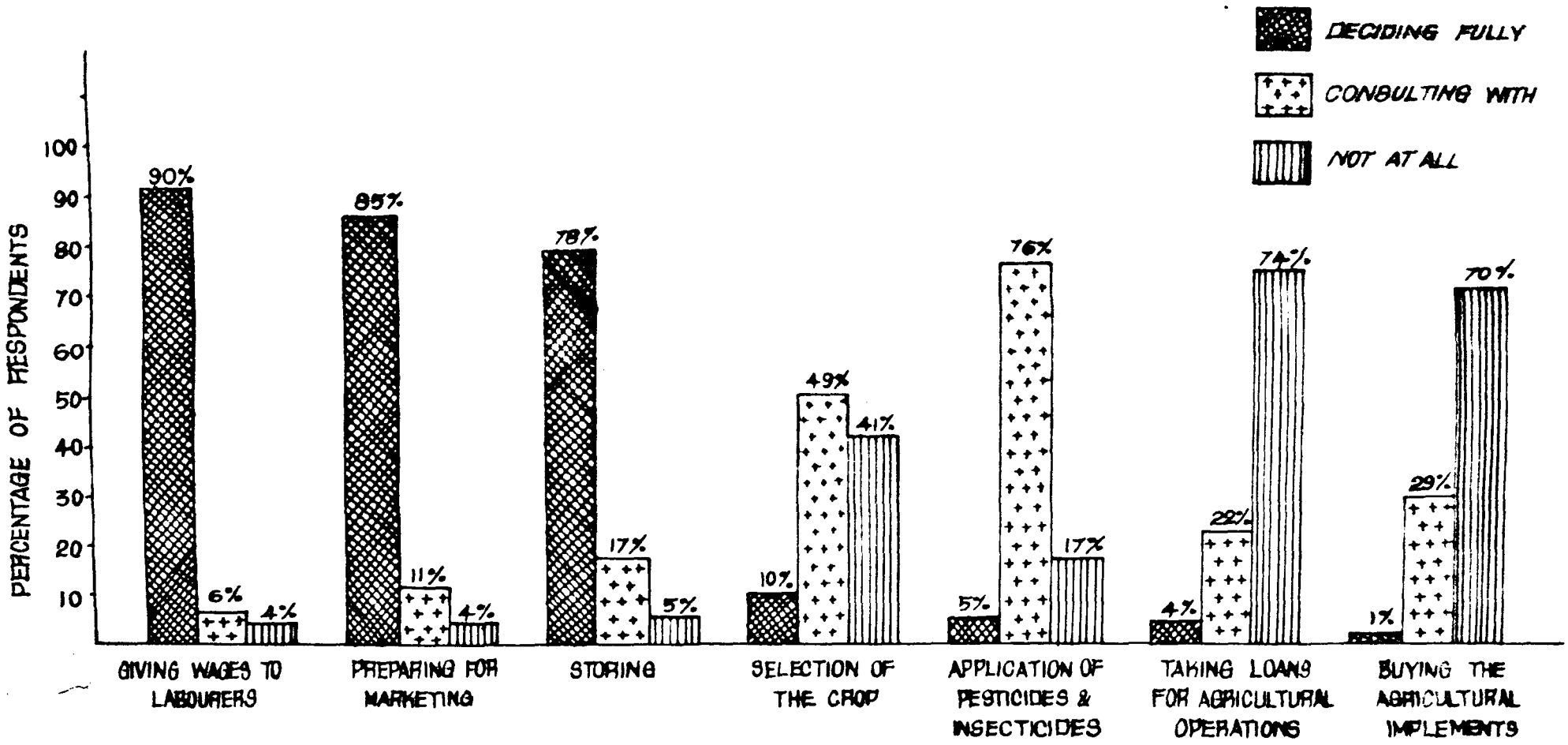
T A B L E - VI

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN FARM DECISION MAKING.

S.No.	Aspects	Percentage in Deciding fully	consulted with	Not at all
1	Giving wages to labourers	90	6	4
2	Preparing for marketing	85	11	4
3	Storing	78	17	5
4	Selecting the type of crop	10	49	41
5	Application of pesticides and insecticides	5	76	17
6	Taking loans for agricultural operations	4	22	74
7	Buying agricultural implements	1	29	70

In the farm decision making pattern, 90 per cent of the women decided by themselves about giving wages to labourers. In this regard, only six per cent consulted the head of the family and two women were not at all involved in deciding about distribution of wages to the labourers. Eighty five per cent decided about the preparation of produces for marketing and 78 per cent decided the method of storing.

Women were consulted regarding application of pesticides (76 per cent) and selection of the type of crop (49 per cent). Seventy four per cent and 70 per cent of the women were not at all consulted about taking loans and buying agricultural implements respectively. (fig. 7.)



PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DECISION MARKING

Figure .7

C. Awareness of women about Training and Visit system :

General Information about T and V system

Among the selected women, 87 per cent were aware of T and V. When this 87 per cent of the women were interviewed regarding the source through which they had come to know about T and V system, the responses are shown Table VII.

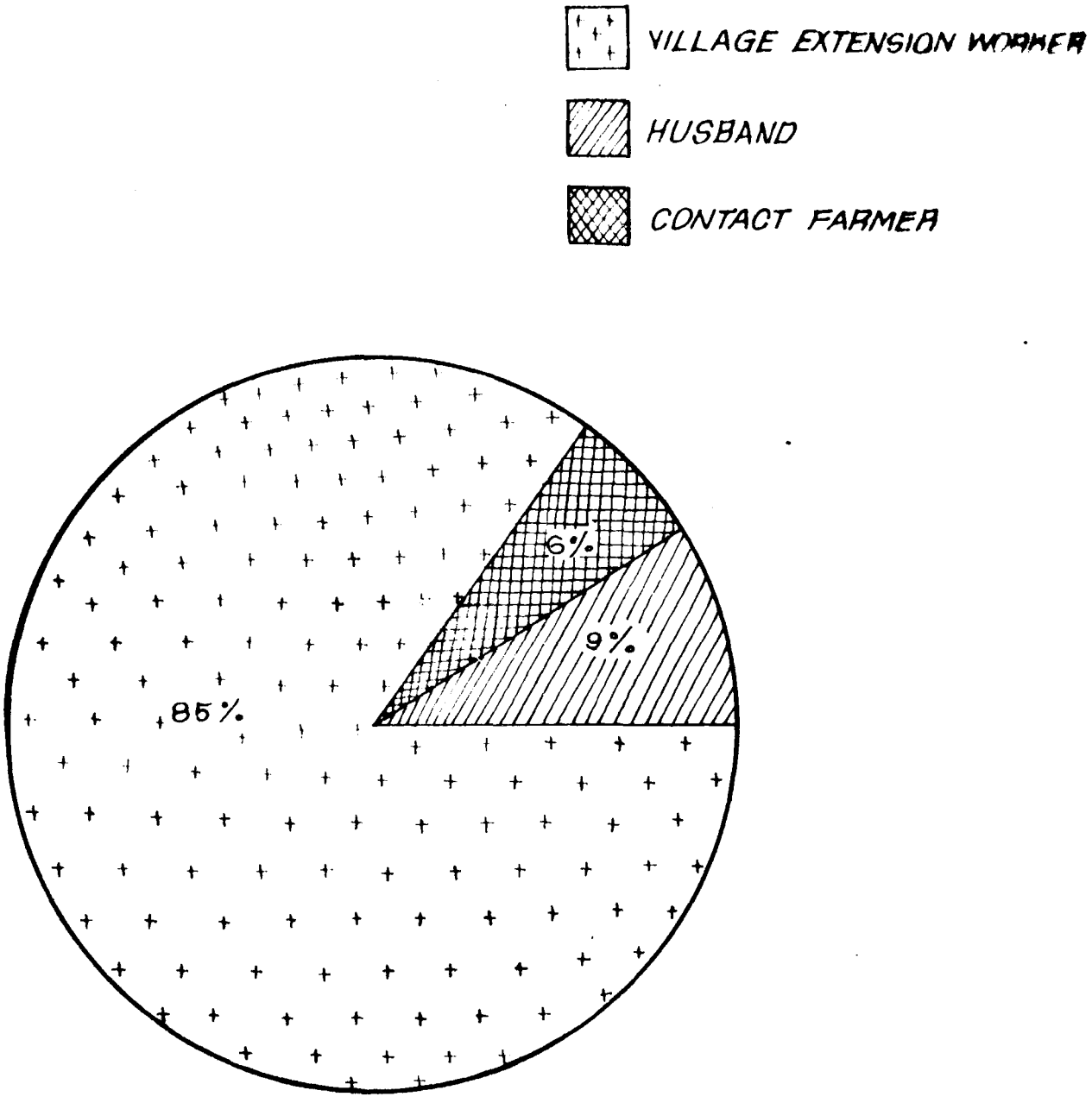
T A B L E - VII.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR WOMEN ABOUT T AND V SYSTEM.

S.No.	Source	percentage of women
1	Village Extension Worker (VEW)	85
2	Husband	9
3	Contact farmer	6

Eighty five per cent, among the 87 respondents came to know about the programme through VEW and the other sources were husband and contact farmer. But the respondents were unable to express when the T and V system was started in their areas. (fig. 8)

Objectives of T and V system as expressed by the respondents are shown in Table VIII.



SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT
T AND V SYSTEM

Figure 8

T A B L E - VIII

OBJECTIVES OF T AND V SYSTEM

S.No.	Objectives	Percentage of Respondents stating.
1	To bring about agricultural improvement	52
2	To Help farmers at the time of need	19
3	To increase production	16
4	To introduce new varieties	11
5	No idea	2

The objectives listed out in Table VIII shows that there was general awareness among the women, as the T and V system, was to increase the agricultural production by introducing advanced science and technology in farming.

To give informations through T and V system the VEOs used to meet the farmers at convenient places. The details of meeting places are given in Table IX.

T A B L E - IX

PLACE OF MEETING OF VEOs

S.No.	Place	Percentage of Respondents
1	Farms	54
2	Homes	40
3	Common place in the village	6

It can be understood that VEOs met 54 per cent of the farmers on their farms, 40 per cent in their homes and only six per cent in a common place.

It was expressed by 94 per cent of the respondents that VEOs met the farmers through individual contact and only five per cent said that the VEOs met the contact farmers and other available farmers as a group in a common place.

Details of the progresses under T & V System :

Awareness of the respondents about the messages taught by VEOs, is shown in Table X.

T A B L E - X.

AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT THE MESSAGES TAUGHT THROUGH T & V SYSTEM

S.No.	Messages	Percentage of respondents stating		
		Demonst-ration	Giving advice	Helping to get
1.	Method of ploughing	7	74	—
2.	Irrigation	7	77	—
3.	Preparing seed bed	9	46	—
4.	Showing	7	63	—
5.	Transplanting seedlings	8	64	—
6.	Weeding methods	1	15	—
7.	Identification of crop diseases	21	63	—
8.	Advising to erradicate diseases	17	69	—
9.	Providing fertilizers and Pesticides in time	—	92	66
10.	Advising to buy good and useful equipment	—	50	—
11.	Supplying equipment for rent	—	—	—
12.	Introducing new varieties of crops	17	91	44

Among the messages taught through T and V system 7 per cent respondents learnt new ploughing methods through demonstration and 74 per cent got advice about it. Regarding irrigation 7 per cent were made aware of, through demonstration and 77 per cent got advice. Nine per cent understood the preparation of the seed bed through demonstration and 46 per cent got advice on it. Regarding sowing 7 per cent became aware through demonstration and 63 per cent through advice. Twenty One per cent became aware of the identification of crop diseases through demonstration while 63 per cent got advice on the same. Seventeen per cent knew about the demonstration conducted about the eradication of diseases and 69 per cent got advice about it. Ninty two per cent received advice about the application of fertilizers and pesticides in time and 66 per cent got permission for buying them.

When interviewed about the transfer of messages to V.E.O. 95 per cent of respondents told that they would transfer their problems to the staff and get solutions and 5 per cent would not express any of their problems or get solutions too.

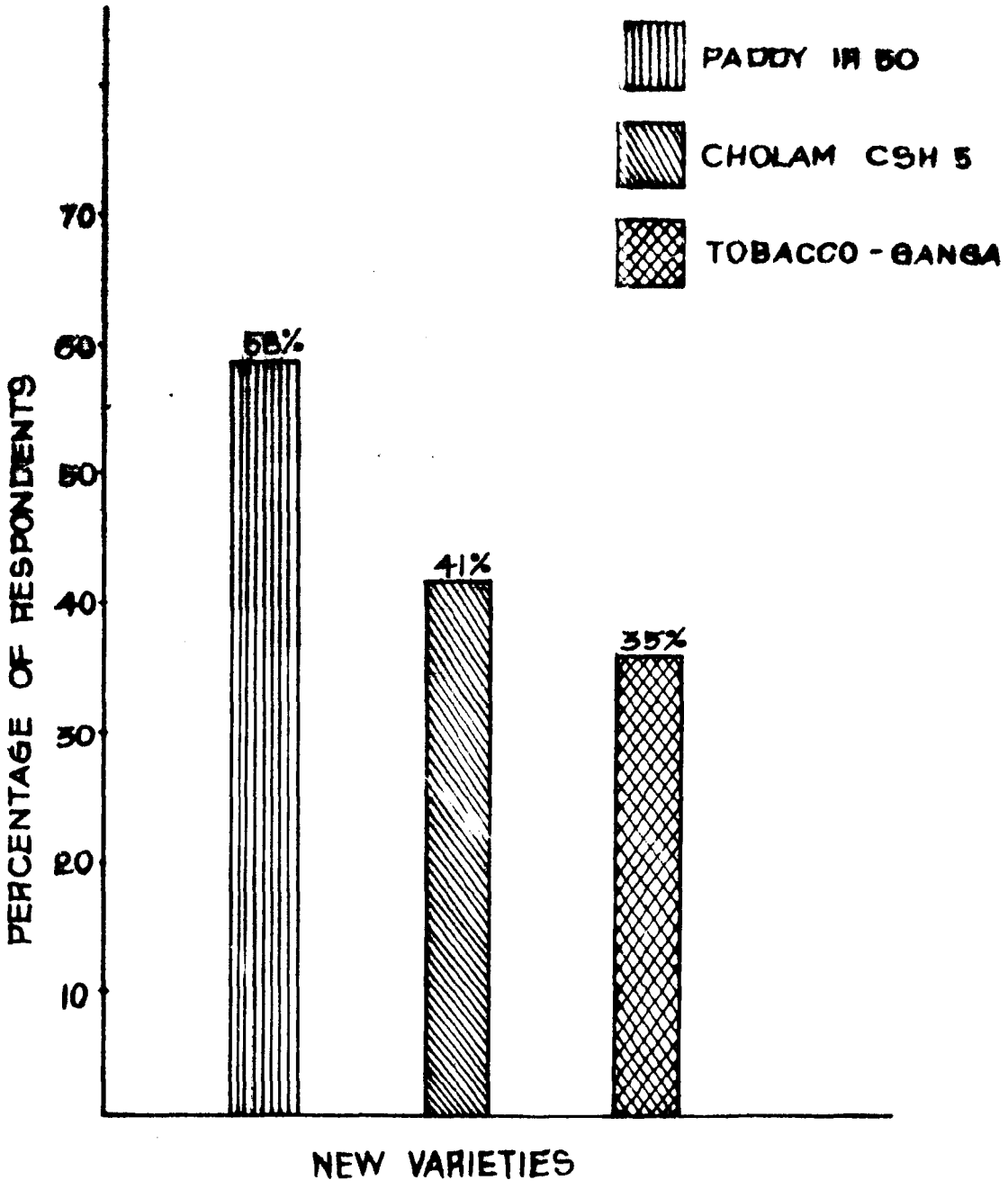
Awareness of respondents about new varieties introduced through T and V is given in Table XI.

T A B L E - XI.

AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT NEW VARIETIES

S.No.	Varieties			Percentage of respondents stating
1.	Paddy	-	I R 50	58
2.	Cholam	-	C S N 5	41
3.	Tobacco	-	Ganga	35

The respondents were able to mention the new varieties introduced through T and V system and Table XI shows the percentage of respondents, cultivating the same. CSH_5 Cholam was cultivated both in dry and wet lands. IR_{50} Paddy and tobacco (Ganga) were the new varieties cultivated in wet lands. The women felt proud to mention these varieties, which they learnt through this new system of agricultural extension (Fig: 9)



AWARENESS OF WOMEN ABOUT NEW VARIETIES

Figure - 9

The respondents were asked to furnish information regarding the new information that they had learnt through T and V system, the responses are shown in Table XII.

T A B L E - XII.

AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT INFORMATION GIVEN THROUGH T AND V SYSTEM

S.No.	Crops	No. of Cultivators	Areas of information					
			Sowing	Transplanting	Irrigation practices.	Application of fertilisers	Identification of diseases	Application of Pesticides
			(Percentage of respondents)					
1.	Paddy	58	67	95	74	53	74	22
2.	Cholam	41	70	—	30	47	52	77
3.	Tobacco	35	—	62	50	72	68	60
4.	Tomato	25	43	25	30	57	62	30
5.	Banana	21	—	71	53	47	61	95
6.	Maize	21	70	—	43	27	42	89
7.	Sugar cane	7	—	—	71	85	43	40

It is clear from the above table that about 40 to 70 percentage of the respondents got the information on method of irrigation, application of fertilisers, application of pesticides and indentification of diseases whereas, the messages about sowing and transplanting did not reach all the farmers. The information regarding sowing was given to the plants like paddy, cholam, tomato and maize and the messages regarding transplanting the seedlings was given to crops like paddy, tobacco, tomato and banana.

The awareness of respondents about the methods used by VEOs to transfer the information are shown in Table XIII.

T A B L E - XIII.

AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT METHODS USED BY VEOs

S.No.	Crops	No. of Cultivators	Methods used by VEOs		
			Advise during individual contact	Group Discussion	Demonstration
			Percentage of respondents stating		
1.	Paddy	58	74	60	19
2.	Cholam	41	92	42	—
3.	Tobacco	35	90	42	—
4.	Tomato	25	85	42	—
5.	Banana	21	67	37	—
6.	Maize	21	72	—	—
7.	Sugarcane	7	98	37	—

Regarding the awareness of the methods used by VEOs for the transformation of messages, individual contact and advice was mostly used to inform about the method of cultivation. Group discussions

with the farmers was the next important method used for transferring knowledge of all the crops. Only 19 per cent of the respondents knew about the demonstrations conducted by VEOs regarding the transplantation of paddy seedlings. The VEOs helped in getting pesticides and fertilizers which were distributed under control.

The reasons for acceptability and non acceptability of the messages given by VEOs are given in Table XIV.

T A B L E - XIV

ACCEPTANCE OF MESSAGES.

S.No.	Reasons	percentage of respondents stating
	ACCEPTED (78 respondents)	
1	More yield with the new varieties	73
2	Less duration for new varieties	68
3	Easy availability of inputs	65
4	Timely guidance	42
5	Technical guidance by staff	42
	NOT ACCEPTED (22 respondents)	
6	Traditional in cultivation	71
7	Particular crops were not cultivated	69
8	Inadequate economic facility to apply fertilizers and pesticides according to the recommendations.	53

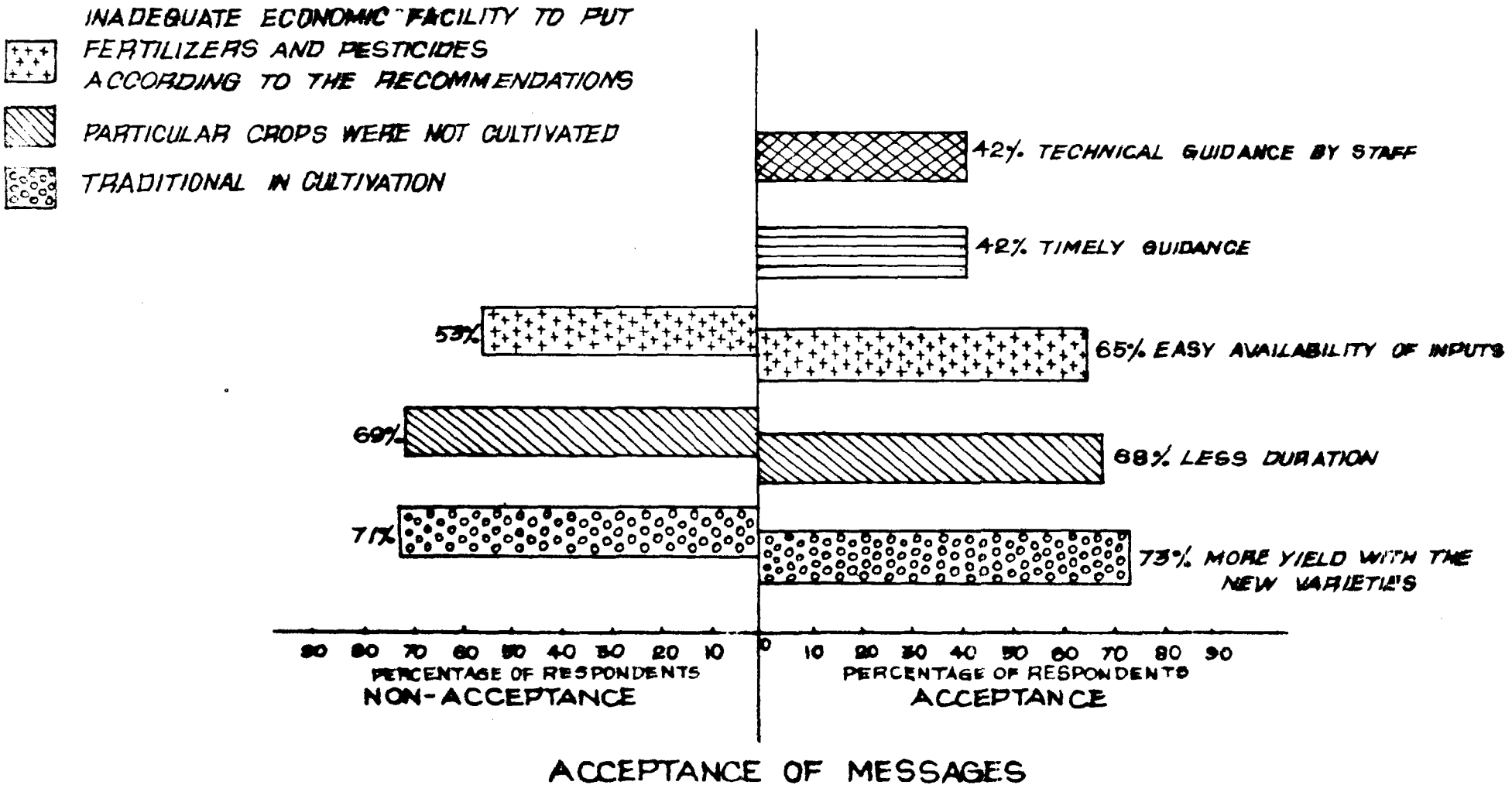

INADEQUATE ECONOMIC FACILITY TO PUT FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES ACCORDING TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS
PARTICULAR CROPS WERE NOT CULTIVATED
TRADITIONAL IN CULTIVATION
42% TECHNICAL GUIDANCE BY STAFF
42% TIMELY GUIDANCE
53%
65% EASY AVAILABILITY OF INPUTS
69%
68% LESS DURATION
71%
73% MORE YIELD WITH THE NEW VARIETIES
90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10
PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
NON-ACCEPTANCE
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90
PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS
ACCEPTANCE
ACCEPTANCE OF MESSAGES

Figure . 10

Among the 78 per cent of the accepted respondents the reasons for the acceptance were more yield due to the newly introduced varieties (73 per cent), less duration of crops (68 per cent) and availability of inputs (65 per cent). They also accepted due to timely technical guidance of the extension workers, who came to the field to give informations.

The reasons given by the non-acceptance (22 per cent) were, the respondents were not interested in modern cultivation methods, (71 per cent), certain corps were not cultivated in their farms for which information were given by VEWs (69 per cent) and inadequate economic facility (53 per cent) of the respondents.

When the respondents were asked about their opinion regarding the interest of other farmers in T and V system in general, it was found that the farmers were interested in T and V system as they were able to know about the new varieties of crops which gave more yield in short period. They too expressed that the farmers used to feel that they were able to get timely guidance (fig.10.)

Benefits of T and V system :

The benefits of T and V system as expressed by the respondents are shown in Table XV.

T A B L E - XV.

AWARENESS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF T AND V SYSTEM.

S.No.	Benefits	percentage of respondents
1	Technical guidance by staff	87
2	More production	71
3	Using new methods in cultivation	67
4	Up to date information about the crops	64
5	New varieties of seeds being introduced	49
6	Using modern implements	46

The above table explains the awareness of the respondents regarding the benefits due to T and V system. 87 per cent got benefitted by the technical guidance of staff; 71 per cent due to more production; 67 per cent used new methods in cultivation; 64 percent came to know the up to date information about the crops; 49 per cent knew new varieties of seeds and 46 per cent had come to know about the method of using modern implements. (fig.11.)

The respondents were requested to give their opinion about the changes that had taken place in their own farms.

The changes in their farms as expressed by the selected women, due to T and V system, are given in Table XVI.

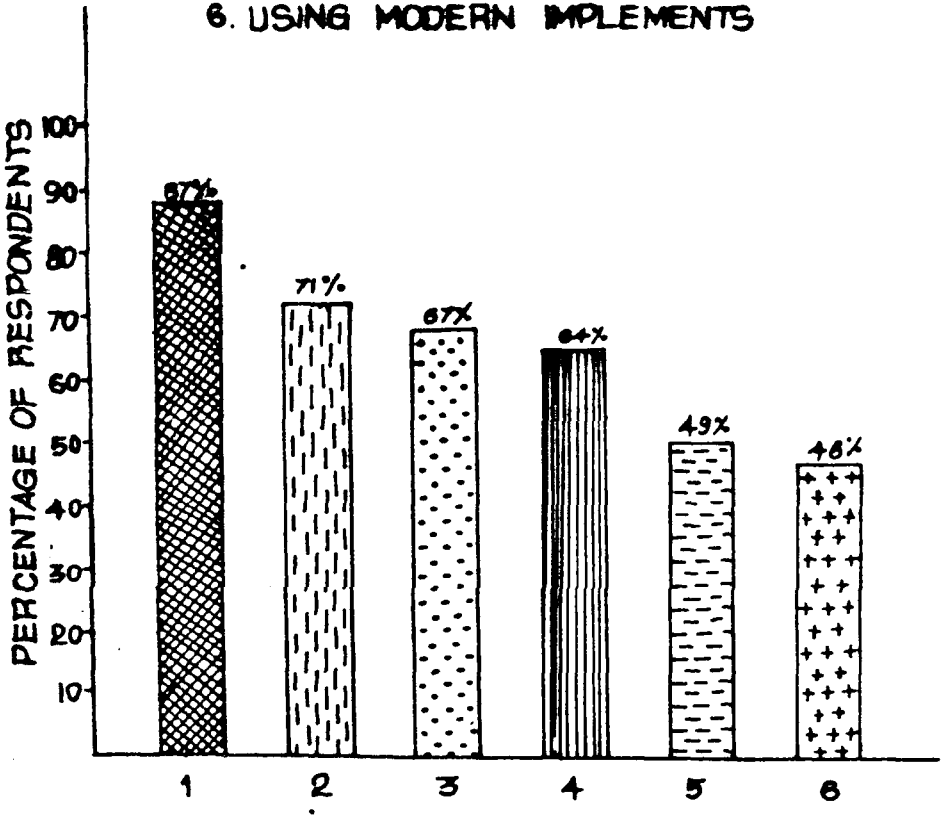
TABLE - XVI

CHANGES DUE TO T AND V SYSTEM

S.No.	Changes	Percentage of respondents
1.	More production	71
2.	Using improved agricultural methods	64
3.	Frequent visit of extension workers to their farms	47
4.	Introduction of new varieties	46
5.	Less attack of diseases	44
6.	Better crop protection	35
7.	No. idea	2

Regarding the opinion about the changes that had taken place in their own farms, 71 per cent of the respondent had more production; 64 per cent were using improved agricultural method; 47 per cent were aware of the frequent visits of extension workers; 46 per cent had introduced new varieties; 44 per cent had less attack of diseases for the crops and 35 per cent had learnt about better crop protection. (Fig. 12)

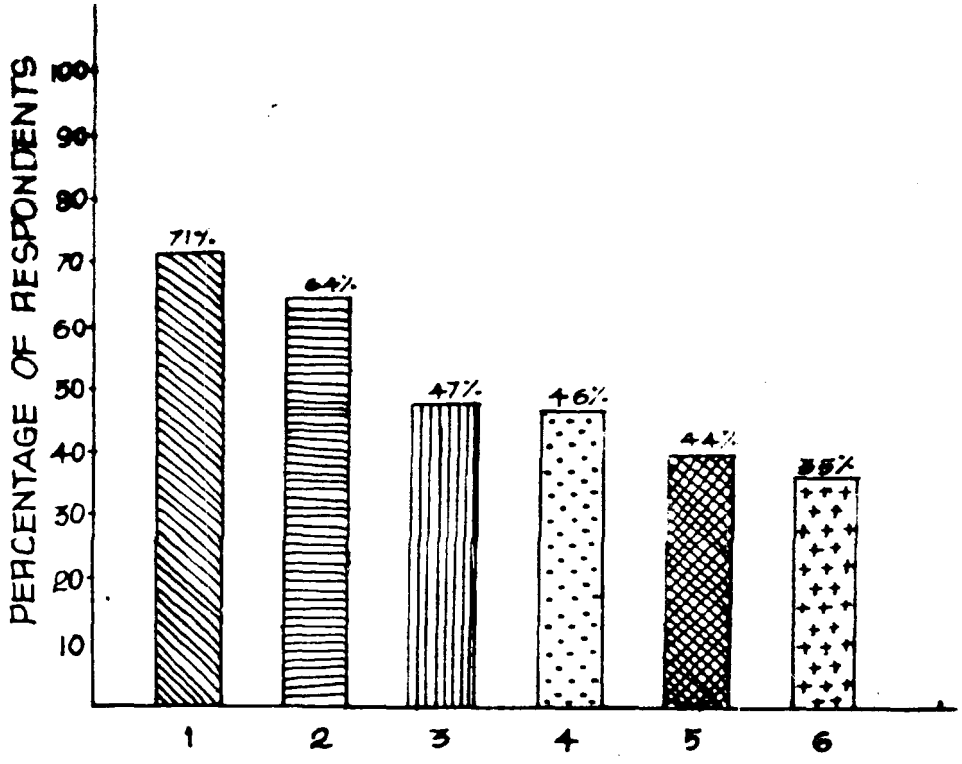
1. TECHNICAL GUIDANCE BY STAFF
2. MORE PRODUCTION
3. USING NEW METHODS IN CULTIVATION
4. UP TO DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CROPS
5. NEW VARIETIES OF SEEDS BEING INTRODUCED
6. USING MODERN IMPLEMENTS



AWARENESS ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF T AND V SYSTEM

Figure-11

1. MORE PRODUCTION
2 USING IMPROVIED AGRICULTURAL METHODS
3 FREQUENT VISIT OF EXTENSION WORKERS
4 INTRODUCTION OF NEW VARIETIES
5 LESS ATTACK OF DISEASES
6 BETTER CROP PROTECTION



CHANGES DUE TO T AND V SYSTEM

Figure. 12

Suggestions for better functioning of T and V system :

The draw backs expressed by the respondents in T and V system are given in Table XVII.

T A B L E - XVII.

DRAW BACKS IN T AND V SYSTEM

S.No.	Draw Backs	Percentage of respondents
1.	Inadequate supply of agricultural implements	71
2.	Less number of visits by staff	43
3.	Inadequate supply of fertilizers and pesticides	40

The respondents expressed that the inadequate supply of agricultural implements (71 per cent), inadequate supply of fertilizers and pesticides (40 per cent) and less number of visits by staff (43 per cent) were the loopholes in the T and V system.

Solutions given by the respondents to overcome the draw backs in T and V system are presented in Table XVIII.

T A B L E - XVIII.

SOLUTIONS GIVEN TO OVER COME DRAW BACKS IN T AND V SYSTEM

S.No.	Solutions	Percentage of respondents
1.	Supply of agricultural implements on rent basis	70
2.	More frequent visits by staff	44
3.	Supply of adequate fertiliser and pesticides in time	42

Supply of adequate agricultural implements on rent basis more frequent visits by staff and supply of adequate fertilisers and pesticides would help in the success of T and V system as opinioned by the respondents.

Awareness of the respondents about contact farmers :

Among the total respondents who were aware of T and V system, (87), ten were contact farmers and among the remaining

77 respondents, 30 per cent were aware of their respective contact farmers and others (70 per cent) were not aware of the contact farmers. Efforts could be taken to make all the farm women aware of the contact farmers. The women contact farmers (10) were not aware that they were selected as contact farmers and did not know their functions too. The Mahalir Mantrams in the Villages could be used to educate the women about T and V system, role of women in T and V system and need for women to be effective contact farmers.

When the opinion of the selected women regarding the selection of contact farmers was asked, all suggested that men are more able. The reason given for this were, men only were involved fully in agricultural activities and would be able to apply the knowledge in their fields, (52 per cent) and transfer the same to other farmers (43 per cent) and it could be easy for the VEWs also to meet men and transfer the information (42 per cent) without hesitation.

The women contact farmers also suggested that men only should be selected as contact farmers for the easy transfer of messages. This idea could be changed only through proper education for the women.

Suggestions given by the respondents for better functioning

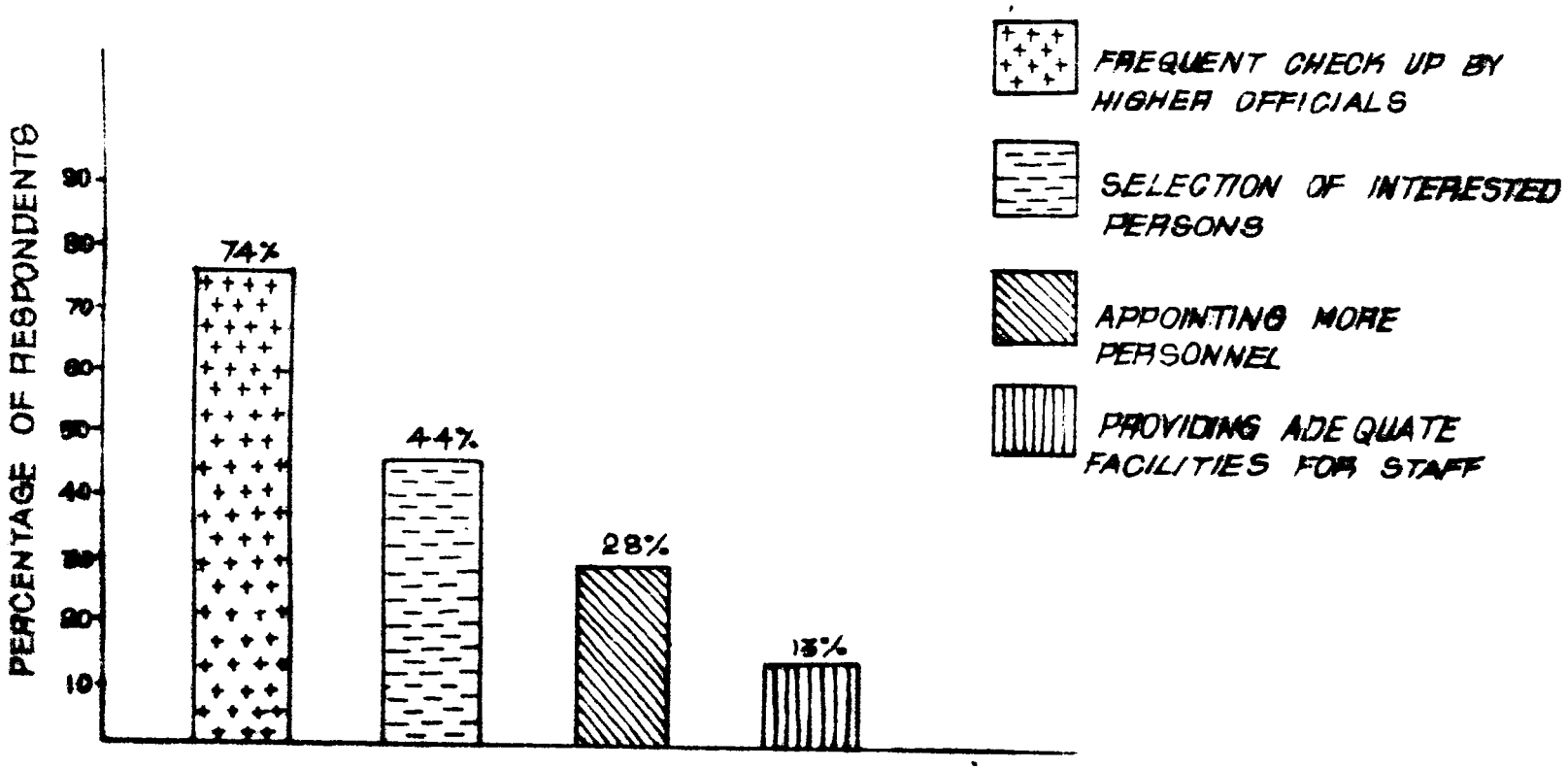
of VEOs and contact farmers are shown in Table XIX.

T A B L E - XIX.

SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER FUNCTIONING OF CONTACT FARMERS AND VEOs

S.No.	Suggestions	Percentage of selected women.
1.	Frequent check up by higher officials	74
2.	Selection of interested persons as contact farmers	44
3.	Appointing more personnel	28
4.	Providing adequate facilities for staff	13

The suggestions given for the better functioning of contact farmers and VEOs were, frequent check up by the higher officials (74 per cent), selection of interested persons (44 per cent), appointing more personnel (28 per cent) and providing adequate facilities for staff (13 per cent). (Fig: 13)



SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BETTER FUNCTIONING OF CONTACT FARMERS AND VEOS

Figure . 15

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

An attempt was taken to study the "Awareness of Rural Women about Training and Visit System." Ten Villages of Karamadai Panchayat Union, Coimbatore District were selected where, women contact farmers were available. Ten women contact farmers and 90 farm women constituted the sample (100).

All the selected women were involved in agricultural operations either by participation or through supervision of the various activities on the farm. In the farm decision making also, women were either fully involved or being consulted with, by the head of the families.

Among the respondents 37 per cent were aware of Training and Visit System. The main source of information about T and V system was Village Extension Officers. The respondents were able to express the objectives of T and V system. The major objective stated by the women was, to increase the agricultural production by introducing science and technology in farming.

The respondents were able to state the various messages that they had received through T and V system regarding the various agricultural operations. Introduction of new varieties was one of the important messages (19 per cent) that they had received through T and V system. The respondents mentioned about IR_{50} Paddy (58 per cent), CSH_5 Cholam (41 per cent) and Ganga Tobacco (35 per cent).

The women were aware of the information regarding sowing, transplanting, irrigation practices, application of fertilisers, identification of diseases and application of pesticides. The VEOs

as expressed by the respondents used individual contact method, group discussions and demonstrations to transfer messages to the farmers.

Seventy eight per cent of the respondents expressed that they could accept the messages given through T and V system. The reasons given by them were that they could get increased yield due to new varieties (73 per cent), duration is less for new varieties (68 per cent), inputs were easily available (65 per cent) and they could also get timely guidance from the technical staff of T and V system (42 per cent). Twenty two per cent of the respondents could not accept the new messages, as they were traditional in their practice and they were unable to invest on fertilizers and pesticides according to the recommendations of T and V staff.

In general the respondents were able to express the benefits of T and V system which had helped them to increase production (71 per cent), by using improved agricultural methods, introduction of new varieties and better crop protection.

The problems in T and V system as expressed by the respondents were inadequate supply of implements (71 per cent), less number of visits by staff (43 per cent) and inadequate supply of fertilizers and pesticides (40 per cent). They suggested by improving these situations the system could function effectively.

Regarding the contact farmers, all respondents suggested to have men contact farmers as they could function better in giving information to all other farmers.

It is found from this study that the role of women in agriculture is great, but they are not coming forward to take up leadership responsibilities such as contact farmers and improve their conditions. Through the Women's Organisations in the Villages, education and training could be given to the rural farm women on their role in farming, for better participation in the T and V system. A follow up study could be taken up to bring about effective participation of farm women in Training and Visit System.

* * * * * * *

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX – I.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE TO ELICIT INFORMATION REGARDING AWARENESS OF RURAL WOMEN ABOUT TRAINING AND VISIT SYSTEM

A. **Background Information about the selected women :**

Name of the Interviewee : Place:

Occupation : Date :

Name of the Head of the Family : Caste:

Occupation : Religion:

Address :

S.No.	Name of the respondent.	Relation to the head of the family.	Age	Education: Studied	Education: Illiterate.	Occupation	Income in Rs/ Month

Land Holding :

1. How many acres of land do you possess?

Wet Land _____ Dry Land _____

_____ _____

2. What do you cultivate?

Wet Land	Dry Land
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

3. Type of Irrigation :

a) Well Water :

i) Electric Motor :

ii) Diesel Engine :

b) Canal Water :

c) Rain Water :

d) Othersources (specify) :

B. Role of Women in agriculture :

1. Do you participate/supervise agricultural activities ?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, in what ways.

S.No.	Activities	Participation	Supervision	Not involved.
1.	Ploughing			
2.	Irrigation			
3.	Preparing seed bed			
4.	Sowing			
5.	Transplanting			
6.	Hoeing and weeding			
7.	Application of fertilizer			
8.	Scaring of birds			
9.	Harvesting			
10.	Hand thrashing			
11.	Drying			
12.	Winnowing			
13.	Storing the grain			
14.	Preparing for marketing			
15.	Giving Wages			
16.	Care of Cattle			
17.	Milking			
18.	Keeping accounts			
19.	Operating implements			

2. Do you participate in taking decisions in agriculture?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, in what ways.

S.No.	Activities	Deciding fully	Consulted with	Not at all
a.	Giving Wages to Labourers.			
b.	Preparing for Marketing			
c.	Storing			
d.	Selecting the type of crop			
e.	Application of pesticides and Insecticides			
f.	Taking loans for agricultural operations			
g.	Buying agricultural implements			

C. Awareness about Training and Visit system :

1. How did you come to know about T and V system?

2. Who introduced it in your Village?

3. What are its objectives?

4. When were you selected as a contact farmers?

5. Who selected you as a contact farmer?

6. Who are all coming to your Village connected with T and V system?

1.

2.

3.

7. How frequently does the VEO come to your Village?

   a) Weekly :

   b) Fortnightly:

8. Where does the extension officer meet you?

9. Does he meet?

   a) Individual Farmer:

   b) All the farmers together:

10. What does he teach in your Village?

   a) Method of Ploughing:

   b) Irrigation :

   c) Preparing seed bed :

   d) Sowing :

   e) Transplanting :

   f) Weeding Methods :

   g) Identification of crop diseases:

   h) Advising to erradicate diseases:

   i) Providing fertilizers and pesticides in time:

   j) Advising to buy good and useful implements :

   k) Supply equipment in rent :

   l) Introducing new varieties of crops :

   m) Any other (specify)

11. What are the new varieties introduced by T and V Officer?

Crops :	New Varieties
1)	
2)	
3)	

12. Messages received through T and V systems :

S.No.	Crops in the field	Sowing	Trans-planting.	Irrigation	Application of fertilizers	Application pes ticides	Identification of diseases.

13. What are the methods used by VEO to transfer the information?

S.No.	Crops	Advice	Supply of fertilizers	Supply of Pesticides	Demonstration

14. Do you accepted the message given by VEO?

Yes ☐ Reasons:

No ☐

15. Do you get any benefit through the system?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes what are the benefits?

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

16. Are the other farmers in your Village interested in T and V system?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Reason:

17. Where the farmers interested in adopting the practices transferred through T and V system?

Yes Reason:

No

18. Do you transfer the agricultural problems to T and V Officer?

Yes No

19. Do they bring solutions for the problems?

Yes No

20. What are the agricultural improvements do you find in your farm/village due to T and V system?

a) More production

b) Using improved agricultural methods

c) Frequent visit of extension worker to the farm

d) Introduction of new varieties

e) Less attack of diseases

f) Better crop protection

g) Any other (specify)

21. What are the draw backs do you find in T and V system?

Drawbacks	Suggestion for solution
1)	
2)	
3)	

22. Do you aware of any meeting conducted by VEO?

Yes No

23. Do you follow the messages taught in meeting?

Yes No Reasons:

For the wives of farmers' group

1) Do you aware of your contact farmer?

Yes No

2) How many members are there in your farmers' group?

3) Whom do you meet generally from T and V system?

a)Village Extension Officer:

b)Contact farmer:

4) What is your opinion about the selection of contact farmer?

Men : Reason:

Women :

5) What are your suggestions regarding the better functioning of contact farmers and village Extension Officer?

1)

2)

3)

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