

Socio- economic impact of *Krishi Mahotsav* on Beneficiary Farmers of Gujarat

S.P.Pandya¹, M. R. Prajapati² and K. P. Thakar³

ABSTRACT

Transfer of scientific technologies from research station to farmers' fields plays the vital role for rural development and rural upliftment. The government of Gujarat organizes *Krishi Mahotsav* every year before monsoon. It is a unique approach of transfer of technology in the whole rural area. There are 18000 villages in Gujarat and *Krishi Rath* equipped with scientific technology information through posters, panels, TV moves in every village. The scientists of agricultural universities are appointed to deliver latest technical know-how. It was started in 2005 and designed for the benefits of farming community for one month duration. Eight *Krishi Mahotsav* have been completed till this study. The present study was conceived with a general objective of assessing the socio economic impact of *Krishi Mahotsav* on beneficiary farmers as a result of participating in *Krishi Mahotsav*. Four districts of Gujarat state Banaskantha, Mahesana, Sabarkantha and Kachchh were randomly selected for this study. The results revealed that majority of beneficiary farmers were found in medium category of socio-economic impact as a result of participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*. About aspect-wise socio-economic impact, majority of beneficiary farmers (43.33 %) have increased their cultivation land as a result of participating in *Krishi Mahotsav* and 95 per cent beneficial farmer have increased their annual income per hectare. According to the, opinion of the beneficiary farmers 57.08 per cent of them had increased their saving and investment, 67.92 per cent of them increased their social status and 72.50 per cent of the beneficiary farmers increased their social relationship through participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*.

Key words: Krishi Mahotsav, Transfer of technology, Socio economic impact

INTRODUCTION

The government of Gujarat organizes *Krishi Mahotsav* every year before monsoon. It is a unique approach of transfer of technology in the whole rural area. There are 18000 villages in Gujarat and *Krishi Rath* equipped with scientific technology information through posters, panels, TV moves in every village. The scientists of agricultural universities are appointed to deliver latest technical know-how. Started in 2005, it is a festival especially designed for the benefits of farming community and the duration of the festival is of one month. Eight *Krishi Mahotsav* have been completed till study.

METHODOLOGY

There was need of deeper probe into the effect of *Krishi Mahotsav*. The present study was conceived with a general objective of assessing its socio economic impact on beneficiary farmers as a result of participating in *Krishi Mahotsav*. Four districts of Gujarat state Banaskantha, Mahesana, Sabarkantha and Kachchh were randomly selected for this study. From each selected district, two talukas and from each taluka three villages were selected randomly for the study. A list of villagers/farmers who

had attended all the three *Krishi Mahotsav* (2006, 2007 and 2008) was made available from government authority. Later on ten farmers from each village were randomly selected which consisted a sample size of 240 respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic impact on beneficiary farmers

Socio-economic impact is the impact that occurs as a result of knowledge gain or rejection of an innovation to individual or a social system. It was operationally defined as the resultant impacts in the form of socio-economic changes occurred among the beneficiary farmers. The difference of resultant impacts that occurred after execution of *Krishi Mahotsav viz.*, increase in land use, increase in annual income, impact in cropping pattern, increase in crop-production, impact in saving and investment, impact in social status and impact in social relationship were considered to be the components of socio-economic impact of beneficiary farmers. The information in this regard was collected and the beneficiary farmers were classified into three levels of socio-economic impacts *viz.*, low, medium and high. The data are presented in Table 1.

^{1 and 3} Assistant Professor, C.P. College of Agriculture, S.D. Agril. University, SardarKrishinagar, Dist- Banashkantha Gujarat-385506.

² Principal, C.P. College of Agriculture, S.D. Agril. University, SardarKrishinagar, Dist- Banashkantha, Gujarat-385506.

Table 1: Distribution of the beneficiary farmers according to their level of socio-economic impact

n=240		
Level of socio-economic impact	Frequency	Per cent
Low (Below 18.888 score)	69	28.75
Medium (18.888 to 27.046 score)	164	68.33
High (Above 27.046 score)	7	2.92
Total:-	240	100.00
Mean = 22.967	S.D. =	4.079

A perusal of data in Table 1 revealed that more than two third (68.33 %) of the beneficiary farmers were found in medium category of socio-economic impact. It is worth to note that 28.75 per cent of the beneficiary farmers were found in low category of socio-economic impact. Only 2.92 per cent beneficiary farmers found in high social-economic impact.

It can be concluded that a great majority (71.25 %) of the beneficiary farmers were in category of medium to high socio-economic impact. This might be due to the facts that beneficiary farmers got better contact with extension agencies, highly favourable attitude, medium level of knowledge and knowledge gain *etc.*

Aspect-wise socio-economic impact on beneficiary farmers

Change in land use

To assess the impact of *Krishi Mahotsav* regarding increase in cultivated land the change in land use pattern was categorized into utilized land under agricultural crop, land utilized under horticultural crops and barren and uncultivated land. Increase in cultivation land is depicted in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their change in cultivated land as a result of participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*

n=240		
Increase in area	Frequency	Per cent
No change	136	56.67
Upto 0.50 ha	39	16.25
0.50 to 1.00 ha.	31	12.92
1.00 to 1.50 ha.	16	6.67
1.50 to 2.00 ha.	08	3.33
More than 2.00 ha.	10	4.16

The data presented in Table 2 pointed out that 56.67 per cent of the beneficiary farmers of *Krishi Mahotsav* were unable to increase the area of cultivated land remaining 43.33 per cent beneficiary farmers of *Krishi Mahotsav* were able to use area of cultivated from 0.50 to 2.00 ha while, among the total beneficiary farmers 16.25

and 12.92 per cent farmers have increased their cultivation upto 0.50 ha and between 0.50 to 1.00 ha, respectively.

Whereas, 6.67 and 3.33 per cent beneficiary farmers have increased their cultivated land between 1.00 to 1.50 ha and 1.50 to 2.00 ha, respectively. Merely 4.60 per cent beneficiary farmers have increased their cultivated land more than 2.0 ha. Thus, it can be concluded that 43.33 per cent farmers have increased their cultivated land as a result of participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*.

Probable reason may be the guidance provided during *Krishi Mahotsav* about MIS, efficient use of irrigation water leads to increase cultivation land.

Change in cropping pattern

Districtwise changes in number of beneficiary farmers growing different crops before and after *Krishi Mahotsav* are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Districtwise distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their change in crop grown as a result of participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*

Name of the crop	Banaskantha		Sabarkantha		Mahesana		Kachhh		Total	
	Before <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	After <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	Before <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	After <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	Before <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	After <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	Before <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	After <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	Before <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	After <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>
Pulses	23	15	10	5	18	8	25	15	76	43
Pearlmillet	27	18	-	-	40	26	28	18	95	62
Sesamum	30	14	-	-	32	16	18	9	80	39
Cotton	10	28	20	43	10	34	20	43	60	148
Castor	14	30	30	33	12	28	23	33	79	124
Rice	-	-	42	30	-	-	-	-	42	30
Wheat	30	14	15	15	38	40	21	10	104	81
Cumin	-	-	-	-	24	10	16	21	50	31
Mustard	30	12	17	17	10	2	13	5	70	36
Potato	12	32							12	32
Vegetable	2	8	7	9	0	2	2	4	11	23
Other crops	2	4	1	2	8	12	3	6	14	24

The data presented in Table 3 revealed the impact of *Krishi Mahotsav* on beneficiary farmers in growing of two major crops before and after *Krishi Mahotsav*.

Table 4: Distribution of the number of beneficiary farmers according to their change in crop grown

Major crops grown by the beneficiary farmers	Number of beneficiary farmers		Per cent change
	Before <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	After <i>Krishi Mahotsav</i>	
Pulses	76 (31.67)	43 (17.92)	-13.75
Pearlmillet	95 (39.58)	62 (25.83)	-13.75
Sesamum	80 (33.33)	39 (16.25)	-17.08

Cotton	60 (25.00)	148 (61.67)	36.67
Castor	79 (32.92)	124 (51.67)	18.75
Rice	42 (17.50)	30 (12.50)	-5.00
Wheat	104 (43.33)	81 (33.75)	-9.58
Cumin	50 (20.83)	31 (12.92)	-7.91
Mustard	70 (29.17)	36 (15.00)	-14.17
Potato	12 (5.00)	32 (13.33)	8.33
Vegetable	11 (4.58)	23 (9.58)	5.00
Other crops	14 (5.83)	24 (10.00)	4.17

Figures in the parentheses indicate per cent beneficiary farmers.

The data indicated that there is an increase in number of beneficiary farmers in growing crops like cotton (36.67 %), castor (18.75 %), potato (8.33 %), vegetables (5.00 %) and other crops (4.17 %), while there is a decrease in number of beneficiary farmers in growing pulses, pearl millet, sesamum, rice, wheat, cumin and mustard crops.

This may be due to the fact that farmers get more remunerative prices of cash crops as compared to traditional crop and other important probable results may be technical guidance provided by the Scientist / Experts at the time of *Krishi Mahotsav*. Similar results was found by Bhanghe *et.al* (2005).

Change in annual income

The data presented in Table 5 clearly indicated that 38.75 per cent of beneficiary farmers had increase in income in range of ₹ 10,000/- to ₹ 20,000/- per ha. and for 25.42 and 22.50 per cent of them had annual income increased between ₹ 20,000/- to ₹ 30,000/- and up to ₹ 10,000/- per ha, respectively. Merely 5.83 and 2.50 per cent beneficiary farmers had increased their annual income per ha between ₹ 30,000/- to ₹ 40,000/- and more than ₹ 40,000/-, respectively. Only 5.00 per cent beneficiary farmers had no change in their annual income.

Thus, it is indicated that 95 per cent of beneficiary farmers could increase their annual income per ha as a result of participating in *Krishi Mahotsav*.

Table 5: Distribution of the beneficiary farmers according to their change in annual income per ha

n = 240		
Increase annual income per hectare	Frequency	Per cent
No change	12	5.00
Upto ₹ 10,000/-	54	22.50
₹ 10,000/- to ₹ 20,000/-	93	38.75
₹ 20,000/- to ₹ 30,000/-	61	25.42
₹ 30,000/- to ₹ 40,000/-	14	5.83
More than ₹ 40,000/-	06	2.50
Total :-	240	100.00

The probable reason might be due to the awareness of efficient use of irrigation, fertilizers and pesticides as a result of participating in *Krishi Mahotsav*. Similar result were found by Pandya and Pandya (2011)

Change in saving and investment, social status and social relationship

The data presented in Table 6 revealed that 57.08 per cent beneficiary farmers had increased their saving and investment, 67.92 per cent of them had increased their social status and 72.50 per cent beneficiary farmers had increased their social relationship through participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*.

Table 6: Distribution of the beneficiary farmers according to their aspect wise socio-economic impact

n = 240		
Particular	Mean score frequency	Per cent
Change in saving and investment	137	57.08
Change in social status	163	67.92
Change in social relationship	184	72.50

It can be concluded that *Krishi Mahotsav* had increased social impact regarding saving and investment, social status and social relationship of the beneficiary farmers because of knowledge gained through participation in *Krishi Mahotsav* and relationship build-up among farming community.

CONCLUSION

The results revealed that majority of beneficiary farmers were found in medium category of socio-economic impact as a result of participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*. About 43.33 per cent beneficiary farmers had increased their cultivation land while, 95 per cent of beneficiary farmers have increased their annual income as a result of participating in *Krishi Mahotsav*. According to the opinion of the beneficiary farmers, 57.08 per cent of them had increased their saving and investment, 67.92 per cent of them increased their social status and 72.50 per cent of the beneficiary farmers had increased their social relationship through participation in *Krishi Mahotsav*.

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