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NEED OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOR YOUNG FARMERS IN FAISALABAD TEHSIL

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This study was conducted in fifty randomly selected villages of Faisalabad Tehsil to assess the need of agricultural education for young farmers. The data collected from 250 randomly selected young farmers disclosed that a simple majority of the respondents did not adopt improved cultivation methods. An overwhelming majority suggested that their working efficiency could be enhanced by offering them short term courses in agriculture. Imparting training to young farmers by the Extension Department and providing literature by the Information Bureau were the common suggestions presented by the respondents.

INTRODUCTION

Youth is the most important segment of farming community. They are more energetic, vigorous, enthusiastic and receptive to a change. Despite all this, it has become very difficult for them to keep pace with the modern farming world changing every moment. With technology advancement, farming has become considerably complicated. So lack of sufficient information on the part of young farmers is limiting productivity. Medeley (1984) reported that radio was the most effective media to transfer fertilizer use benefits to the growers in Nepal. The improvement scheme aimed at demonstrating to the farmers that fertilizer used could significantly increase their crop yield with little extra labour particularly if applied alongwith new cropping techniques. The present study was, therefore, undertaken to assess the need of agricultural education for the young farmers and to make suitable recommendations.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was confined to Faisalabad Tehsil. Out of total 257 villages, 50 were selected at random. From each village, five young farmers were selected randomly thus the sample was 250 farmers. An interview schedule was developed. Respondents were interviewed personally and data collected were analysed and interpreted by using simple percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study showed that about 56% respondents responded negatively to adoption of improved cultivation methods. Only about 44% replied positively. This is in line with the findings of Ather (1982) and Hussain (1982).

The study indicated that an overwhelming majority (98%) of the respondents acknowledged that supply of agriculture information would inspire them to adopt improved production technology (Table 1). Only 1% of the respondents gave a negative response in this regard. This might be due to their farming ignorance about the role of agricultural education in farming development.

Table I: Usefulness of short courses in agriculture for improved working at their farms.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	245	98.00
No	5	2.00
Total	250	100.00

Conclusions

1. About 56% of the respondents were not adopting improved cultivation methods. Only 44% adopted improved methods.

2. Ninety eight of the respondents thought that after studying short courses in agriculture they would be in a better position to work at their farms.

Suggestions

1. The arrangements must be made by the Extension Department to demonstrate modern farm practices in the villages so as to motivate the young farmers for their adoption.

2. The Bureau Information must be asked to make necessary arrangements for the supply of reading material for the young farmers at village level.

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