

## **A STUDY OF THE PROGRAMME OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE IN THE PUNJAB**

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This study was conducted to evaluate professional education with special reference to agriculture in the Punjab. An analysis of the data collected through a questionnaire mailed to 100 randomly selected Agricultural Officers and all the Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture of the area showed that a great majority of the respondents desired training in general administration. Majority of the respondents were in favour of practical training in agricultural engineering and plant protection equipment. All the respondents were eager to get training in handling and operating A.V. Aids. Imparting training in administration, operating and handling farm machinery and A.V. Aids were the most important suggestions given by the respondents.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Despite hectic struggle by agricultural scientists our farmers have not yet been able to exploit the potential yields of various crops as reported by Shakir (1982). He observed that teaching methods like field demonstrations, farm and home visits and group meetings were categorized as the most effective methods by a great majority of the respondents. Average production of our crops is very low as compared to their yield potential. One of the major possible factors responsible for this situation may be lack of proper agricultural skills due to imperfect training of professional workers in the field of agriculture as indicated by Zaman (1985). He pointed out that all the extension workers felt the need for in-service training on continuing basis in order to enhance their professional competencies and thus to strengthen the extension work.

Therefore, this study was undertaken to see the weaknesses of the programme and to make suitable recommendations for its further improvement.

### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study was conducted in the Punjab Province. One hundred Agricultural Officers were selected randomly alongwith all the Extra Assistant Directors of Agriculture (EADA) who were taken as the respondents for the study. A questionnaire was developed and mailed to the respondents. Only 99 respondents responded. Of these, 14 were discarded due to wrong filling of the questionnaire. Thus 85 professional workers were made the sample for this study. The data were analysed and interpreted using simple percentages.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It was found that all the respondents (100%) favoured the practical training in administration for professional workers in agricultural extension service in the Punjab. Table I indicated that the majority of the respondents (66%) were in favour of incorporating agricultural engineering and the use of plant protection equipment in the practical programmes of professional workers while 40% of them emphasized that refresher courses should be conducted for professional workers. All the respondents were also eager to get training in handling and operating audio-visual aids and equipment.

**Table I. Opinion of respondents regarding the type of courses and practical training for effective field performance**

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Short courses	-	-
Refresher courses	34	40
Practical training in agricultural engineering and plant protection equipment	51	60
Total	85	100

### Conclusions

1. All the respondents favoured imparting of practical training in administration for effective and efficient working.
2. Majority of the respondents was in favour of getting training in agricultural engineering and plant protection equipment. However, 40% of them emphasized the need of refresher courses for effective working.
3. All the respondents desired practical training in handling and operating audio-visual aids used for effective dis-

semination of information to the farmers.

### Suggestions

In the light of the conclusions drawn from this study it may be suggested that the professional workers be provided sufficient training in general administration, operating and handling agricultural machinery and A.V. Aids by offering refresher courses on regular basis.

## REFERENCES

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