

An impact study on information communication technology training to extension functionaries through opinion poll

C. Swaminathan¹ & K. Sujatha²

¹Professor and Head
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Dryland Agricultural Research Station
Chettinad-630102, Sivaganga Tamil Nadu, India.

²Professor
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Agricultural College & Research Institute
Madurai- 625 104, India.

Accepted 12 November, 2013

ABSTRACT

Human Resources Development is the needed strategy to all categories in the existing agricultural system to imbibe efficiency to effectively transfer information to the stake holders including farmers to achieve sizable growth. Consequent to the restructuring of the department of agriculture, Tamil Nadu, India HRD is of utmost need and is essential to all the extension functionaries to sensitize them on emerging information technologies. With this view, a series of trainings has been organized at Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai during the year 2008-09 with the objective of empowerment of extension officials of the Agricultural and Allied Departments with knowledge on ICT and also to enhance skills on the use and application of an array of information and communication technology tools and mass media. It comprises interactive and participatory sessions, demonstrations, filed visits, group works and computer aided sessions and totally 10 training programs were organized and the impact analysis of the training has been done with the feedback got from the trainees at the end of each training through an Opinion Poll formed with a set of questions and the results are presented in this paper.

1. INTRODUCTION

Information is the product of processing data. Information Communication Technology (ICT) has become the most exciting set of technologies today, thanks to developments viz., Internet growth, e-commerce proliferation, mobile computing revolution and the arrival of broadband. In the fast moving world ICT is making our life easier and better. Inventions like internet, e-mail, cell phones, i-pods, smart quills, WiFi systems etc. have taken ICT to new and dizzy heights in the information age. Information reduces uncertainty and triggers of action. It carries messages and when perceived by the recipient via any of the senses, it increases the state of knowledge of the receiver.

Human Resources Development is the needed strategy to all categories in the existing agricultural system to imbibe efficiency to effectively transfer information to the stake holders including farmers to achieve sizable growth. Consequent to the restructuring of the department of agriculture, Tamil Nadu, India HRD is of utmost need and is essential to all the extension functionaries to sensitize them on emerging information technologies. With this view, a series of trainings has been organized at Agricultural College & research Institute, Madurai during the year 2008-09. The major objective of the training is empowerment of extension officials of the Agricultural and Allied Departments with

knowledge on ICT and also to enhance skills on the use and application of an array of information and communication technology tools and mass media.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objective of the study is to analyze the impact of the training on ICT through a feedback form comprised of questions related to the training and also to the individual's attitude.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 TRAINING

It comprises interactive and participatory sessions, demonstrations, filed visits, group works and computer aided sessions. Totally 10 training programmes were organized starting between 16.06.2008 and 06.02.2009. The training module comprised topics on Introduction to Computers, Internet and ICT Technology, Operating Systems, Software, Hardware and Basic Operations, Word Processing, Spread Sheet, Power Point and Multimedia Presentations, Internet, TCP, IP, Browsers, Search Engines, Viruses, Spy ware, Malware and management, Internet Communication, E-mail, Chat, Blogs, e-publication, VOIP, Net Meeting and Video Conferencing, Web Designing, Agro Technology Portals, IMCD,

Corresponding Author: C. Swaminathan

Professor and Head, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Dryland Agricultural Research Station, Chettinad-630102, Sivaganga Tamil Nadu, India.
Email address: brownrevolution@yahoo.com.

E-Governance, Government Portals usages, Open source tools, Linux basics and Linux based open source applications.

3.2 CATEGORY and NO. OF TRAINEES

The trainees belong to the restructured agriculture department, Government of Tamil Nadu and 498 officers of different cadres had been trained.

3.3 FEED BACK STUDY

The impact analysis of the training has been done with the feedback got from the trainees at the end of each training through an Opinion Poll formed with a set of questions. An opinion poll has been done at the end of each training to assess the impact of the training on the following four fronts.

- Confidence to operate computer without any assistance.
- Inspiration to go for purchase of a system for my personal use.
- Usage of computer for official works.
- Learning on advanced hardwares and softwares.

4. RESULTS

The data collected from the study are presented in tables and discussed hereunder.

i) Confidence to operate computer without any assistance

Sl.No	Population	Respondents	Confidence gained	
			Yes	No
1	498	384	320	64

It is found that 320 out of 384 respondents have gained confidence to operate computer without any assistance. This is about 83 % of the population.

ii) Inspiration to go for purchase of a system for my personal use

Sl.No	Population	Respondents	Confidence gained	
			Yes	No
1	498	402	343	59

About 855 of the respondents have been inspired by the training to go for a purchase of new PC for their use at home.

iii) Usage of computer for official works

Sl.No	Population	Respondents	Confidence gained	
			Yes	No
1	498	400	372	28

Out of the 400 respondents, 372 trainees (93 %) said they would be using the computers for their official purposes after joining office.

iv) Learning on advanced hard wares and soft wares.

Sl.No	Population	Respondents	Confidence gained	
			Yes	No
1	498	400	331	70

About 83 % of the respondents have claimed that they have learned about advanced hard wares and soft wares in this training.

5. FINDINGS OF THE OPINION POLL

5.1 Confidence to operate computer without any assistance

Parameters	Opinion poll	
	Yes	No
Total no. of trainees	498	498
No. of Respondents	384	384
Category wise no. of respondents	320	64
Percent	83.33	16.67

Out of 498 trainees 384 have responded and 83.3 percent of them opined that they gained confidence to operate computer without any assistance which is the greatest success of the training program.

5.2 Inspiration to purchase a PC system

Parameters	Opinion poll	
	Yes	No
Total no. of trainees	498	498
No. of Respondents	402	402
Category wise no. of respondents	343	59
Percent	85.32	14.68

Out of 498 trainees 402 have responded and 85.3 percent of them opined that they are inspired by the training to go for a purchase of a PC for their use.

5.3 Using computer for official work like report preparation, slide presentation, Table Formation

Parameters	Opinion poll	
	Yes	No
Total no. of trainees	498	498
No. of Respondents	400	400
Category wise no. of respondents	372	28
Percent	93	7

Out of 498 trainees 400 have responded and 93 percent of them opined that they will use computer for official work like report preparation, slide presentation, table formation in future.

5.4 Knowledge on advanced hard wares and soft wares

Parameters	Opinion poll	
	Yes	No
Total no. of trainees	498	498
No. of Respondents	401	401
Category wise no. of respondents	331	70
Percent	82.54	17.46

Out of 498 trainees 401 have responded and they had a positive opinion on the acquisition of knowledge on advanced hardwares and softwares with a score of 82.5 percent.

CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the data collected for the study it is concluded that the trainees of the Information Communication Technology are satisfied with the training programme in general and computer and information communication technology facilities and knowledge imparted in particular.

1. 83.3 percent of the trainees opined that they gained confidence to operate computer without any assistance
2. 85.3 percent of the trainees opined that they are inspired by the training to go for a purchase of a PC for their own use
3. 93 percent of the trainees opined that they will use only computer for official work
4. 82.5 percent of the trainees opined that they have acquired knowledge on advanced hardwares and softwares.

Acknowledgements

The senior author wishes to thank Director, SAMETI, Coimbatore, India and Government of Tamil Nadu, India for funding.

References

1. Ramamoorthy, K., Vadivel, E., Swaminathan, C and Karthikeyan, S. (2008). Information communication technology. AC&RI, Madurai Publications. P. 104
2. Ramamoorthy, K. Reddy, M.N., Balasubramani, N and Swaminathan, C. (2008). Horticultural Extension management. AC&RI, Madurai Publications. P.164
3. Swaminathan, C. (2008). A Study on services rendered by the Human Resources Department and employees satisfaction in DCW, Thoothukudi, MBA Thesis, Alagappa University, Karaikudi, India.