

EXTENSION SERVICE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EFFECTIVE TRANSFER OF FISHERIES TECHNOLOGIES

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Fisheries are one of the important types of renewable resources which play a vital role in the economic development of a nation. In order to increase fish production continuously and sustainably, a major change in the attitude, knowledge and skills of the fishermen are required. In order to achieve this, the extension system could efficiently transfer the new innovations in fisheries through various extension methods like individual, groups and mass contact approaches. The Fisheries developments organisations like Central Fisheries Institutes, State Department of Fisheries, State Agricultural Universities, Non-Governmental Organisations, etc., should have strong research bases for the development of innovations in fisheries and also have sound extension services for the transfer of technologies successfully for the speedy adoption by the fishermen. Keeping the above aspects in view, the study of extension service requirements for the effective transfer of fisheries technologies was undertaken.

Out of 21 fishing villages in Thoothukudi district, four fishing villages namely, Thoothukudi South, Punnakayal, Alanthalai and Periyathalai were selected

for this study. A total of 120 respondents were randomly selected for this study from these villages. Since Thoothukudi district does not have much aquaculture activity, the technologies selected were only from fishing and fish processing fields. Thus, the respondents were fishermen those who were actively engaged in fishing and fish processing activities.

Among the various technologies available in fisheries, only 13 fisheries technologies such as., use of selective gear , use of ice on board, use of synthetic materials ,use of marine anticorrosive paints, use of marine antifouling paints, use of cathodic protection of fishing boats, use of aluminium alloy sheathing, use of copper sheathing, use of electronic equipments, preparation of value added products(fish/prawn pickle, dry fish / masala dry fish, masmin and wafers), dry fish packaging, use of low cost smoking chamber and hygienic handling of fish and fishery products were selected for the study. The extension services selected for the effective transfer of these technologies were training, demonstration, on-the-spot guidance, mass media, advisory services, exhibition and mid-term and short-term courses.

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The selected fisheries technologies and extension services were administered to 120 fishermen in order to find out the effectiveness of fisheries extension services. The data were collected from the respondents by using an extension service list constructed for the 13 fisheries technologies. The responses used to indicate the type of extension service requirements were highly required, required and not required.

The collected data were tabulated and computed in order to find out the effectiveness of extension service requirements with regard to the selected fishing and fish processing technologies which are given in the Table. 01.

It could be inferred from the Table. 01. that about 56.88 per cent of the fishermen indicated that training was highly required for the early adoption of selected fisheries technologies while about 23.80 per cent of them indicated that the training was required. Only 19.32 per cent of the fishermen specified that no was training needed. The findings of Vasanthakumar *et al.* (1990) supported this finding who reported that the effective diffusion of scientific technologies could be done through training programmes. Most of the fishermen (45.56%) point out that demonstration was highly required extension service for the fast adoption of technologies. About 30.82 per cent of the fishermen indicated that the demonstration was required for adoption while only 23.62 per cent of the fishermen stated that the demonstration was not required for the transfer of fisheries technologies. This finding is in accordance with the findings of Veeraputhiran (1998) who concluded

that the demonstration was a suitable extension method for dissemination of fisheries innovations. Only 35.73 per cent of the fishermen indicated that on-the-spot guidance was required for transfer of fisheries technologies while 30.47 per cent of them stated that on-the-spot guidance was highly required.

It could be also observed from the Table.01. that about 37.18 per cent of the fishermen required mass media services for the dissemination of fisheries technologies. About 26.24 per cent of the fishermen indicated that mass media services were highly required for transfer of fisheries technologies. This finding is supported by Seema *et al.* (1992) who reported that mass media services were required for the transfer of agricultural innovations to the farm women. Nearly 50.78 per cent of the fishermen required no advisory services while only 28.08 per cent of the fishermen required advisory services for effective diffusion of fisheries technologies. About 61.77 per cent of the respondents indicated that the exhibition was not required while 20.57 per cent of them indicated that the exhibition was required for transfer of fisheries technologies. This result is supported by the findings of Labh Singh *et al.* (1999). Nearly 63 per cent of the fishermen not required mid-term and short-term courses for the adoption of fisheries technologies.

The study revealed that training, demonstration, on-the-spot guidance and mass media services are mostly required for the speedy dissemination of fisheries technologies when compared to other extension services like advisory services,

exhibition and mid-term and short-term courses. It gives the impression that lack of extension teaching aids is a major constraint in the extension services. Therefore, adequate teaching aids with suitable extension services could be implemented by the fisheries development organisations and extension workers in order to create an effective learning situation to improve the skills of fishermen and also to speed up the transfer of technologies in the present day context.

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Table. 01. Extension services required for transfer of selected fisheries technologies

Sl.No	Extension Services	Responses		
		HR	R	NR
01	Training	56.88	23.80	19.32
02	Demonstration	45.56	30.82	23.62
03	On-the-spot guidance	30.47	35.73	33.80
04	Mass media	26.24	37.18	36.58
05	Advisory services	21.14	28.08	50.78
06	Exhibition	17.66	20.57	61.77
07	Mid-term and short-term courses	14.79	18.59	66.62

HR – Highly Required

R- Required

NR – Not required