

Role of Nongovernmental Organizations Undertaking Agricultural Extension Activities in the Balochistan, Pakistan

Social Sciences

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Abstract

Present study was examining the role of various NGOs undertaking the agriculture extension activities in purposively selected districts of Balochistan. The target population of present study was NGOs representatives who were involved the agricultural and allied agricultural activities. Well and comprehensive questionnaire was designed for this purpose. Through the simple random sampling 100 respondents were selected in four purposively district (Kalat, Mastung, Pishin and Loralai) of the province. The results revealed that most 40% of the respondents fall in to the age of 31 to 40 years, majority 60% of the respondents received graduation level education, most of the respondent were of the opinion the extension teaching methods provided by the various NGOs through the farmer days. The finding also shows that the vast majority 90% of the NGOs workers were of the views that they help farmers and farming community about conservation of natural resources so as to increase speed their per acre yield. On the basis of results it was recommended that NGOs personnel

should address the need-based and real systematic solution for farmer regarding sustainable agriculture practices.

Keywords: *NGOs, Agriculture, Undertaking, Balochistan*

Introduction

Agriculture is central to economic growth and development in Pakistan. Being the dominant sector it contributes 21.4% to GDP, employs 45% of the country's labor force and contributes in the growth of other sectors of the economy. The healthy expansion in agriculture stimulates domestic demand for industrial goods and other services and supplying raw material to agro-based industry notably cotton textile industry which is the largest sub sector of manufacturing sector. The government under paradigm of the new growth strategy envisioned to enhance growth in agriculture sector by facilitating agriculture productivity sustainable environment, increasing competitiveness in agriculture marketing and trade by providing friendly climate for more investment in the sector (GoP, 2013). In spite of structural shift towards industrialization, agriculture sector is still the largest sector of the economy with deep impact on socio-economic set-up. It is the source of the livelihood of rural poor. Agriculture sector is the mainstay of the rural economy around which socio-economic privilege and deprivations revolve (MinFA, 2011). A non-governmental organization was a legally constituted organization created by natural or legal persons that operates independently from any form of government, linkages between research, extension, NGOs with the context of collaboration part and parcel (Ayers, 1992; De Janvry *et al.*, 1989; Jordan, 1989; Korten, 1987; Wikipedia, 2012).

Over the last few years, there has been growing interaction between various government departments including Agriculture Development not properly addressed the learn objectives to their beneficiary which hamper the progress as results the social circumstances of the rural farmers not yet improved. In this connection the role of NGOs are increased in terms of collaboration and institutional recognition. In Balochistan, various NGOs were registered under diverse legislations these NGOs was pinpoint the quantity of developmental, intuitional, social and economic activities in the remote areas of the province. Approximately, there were five thousand NGOs and Social Organizations (SO's) have been registered and functioning under the umbrella of Corporate Law Authority in Provincial Social Welfare Department. According to their cross cutting components, World Wide Fund for Nature Pakistan (WWF-P) Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), Institute for Development Studies Practice (IDSP), Organization of Community Development (OCD), Pak Public Development Society (PPDS),

Society for Community Support for Primary Education in Balochistan (SCSPEB), World Conservation Union Pakistan, Oxfam, Save the Children Fund (SCF), South Asia Partnership-Technical Pakistan (SAP-Pak), Strengthening Participatory Organization (SPO), Sustainable Specialist Group (SUSG-CA) Central Asia, Trust for Voluntary Organization (TVO), and UNDP had already working for strengthen and boost up the rural population living standard with the context of holistic approach. However, most of the NGOs focused and concentrated agriculture, water, sanitation, income generation, health, education, rural development, community development, local institution development, social development, livestock, mobilization programme, watershed, women's planning, , sustainable use of and advocacy, fisheries, biodiversity, capacity building, humanitarian human right, community networking, and rural development program. NGOs in Balochistan are working in different areas of the environment, education, natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. In attempting to build capacities on the sustainable agriculture, organizations working with community groups will be sensitive to, understand and recognize indigenous, traditional and natural resource management practices in Balochistan. And other way to build capacities of NGOs in this area is to design and implement pilot projects with a stronger emphasis on community-based conservation. These will be established within a participatory development.

The government, rural communities, and NGOs have endorsed the new approach wholeheartedly. The public line departments, which are now in competition with the non-public sector in providing services to the rural communities, will need some time to adjust to the new situation. The NGOs will, most probably, strengthen their linkages with one another as a strategy for their survival with dignity, if nothing else. The NGOs will certainly build the capacities of the non-public service providers in the process. Above all, the agricultural extension services, which have just started playing a key role as facilitators for the men and women groups, will have no other feasible option than changing their traditional, supply-driven mode to a demand-driven one, and broaden their technical mandate beyond passive transfer of agricultural technology. Therefore, the present research was designed to undertake agricultural extension activities by NGOs in four purposively selected of the province of Balochistan in order to explore the perception of the NGOs representatives regarding the agricultural extension activities for sustainable agriculture development in four purposively selected districts of Balochistan. It was visualized that the results of this research would be supportive in confirming or negating. Following were objectives of present study.

Objectives of the study:

1. To assess the goals set by the NGOs regarding agricultural extension activities as perceived by respondents.
2. To develop suitable suggestions and strategies of various NGOs regarding agricultural extension activities.

Methodology

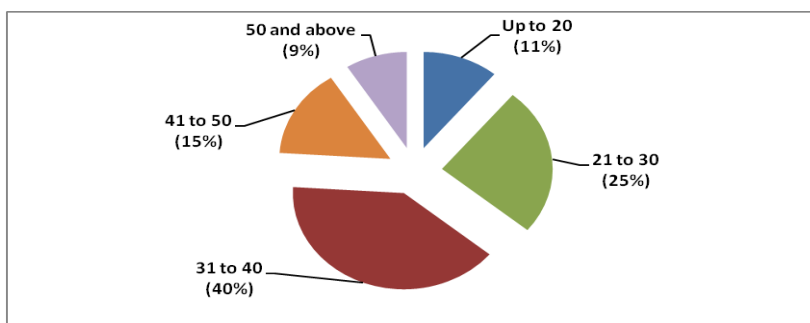
The scientific procedures are a structure of precise rules and methods upon which research is based and against which the claims for knowledge are evaluated (Nachmaise and Nachmaise, 1992). The research methodology is a guideline embodying those principles, plans and procedures, which determine the scope of study, techniques to collect data and its analysis to establish relationship between variables of the study. (Matin, 1989). The designed in this study were utilized by sample survey. The descriptive survey method was suitable to knowing the people perceptions on socio-economic realities and facts in existing condition with current phenomena (Trochim, 2000). The target population for this study was NGOs respondents who are involved the agricultural extension activities. Sample size of one hundred (100) respondents of various NGOs will be drawn with the help of McCall (1980) table of “determining sample size from given population”. Keeping in view objectives of the study a structured and detailed interview schedules were developed. The questions are consisted closed and open ended. So as to verify the validity of the interview schedule it was pre-tested on 15 respondents of various NGOs in study areas. The schedule was finalized after making necessary amendments in light of the objectives of the present study. The raw data collected, tabulated were install into the computer for analysis. The data analysis was accomplished by employing SPSS software (i.e., 12.0 version of Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Descriptive statistics were uses to calculate, interpret and discuss results and formulate the recommendation. The data were summarized and presented in the form of tables.

Results

The fundamental of the present research was to find out the perception of the NGOs representatives (Social Mobilizers) rearing agricultural extension activities in four Districts of Balochistan province.

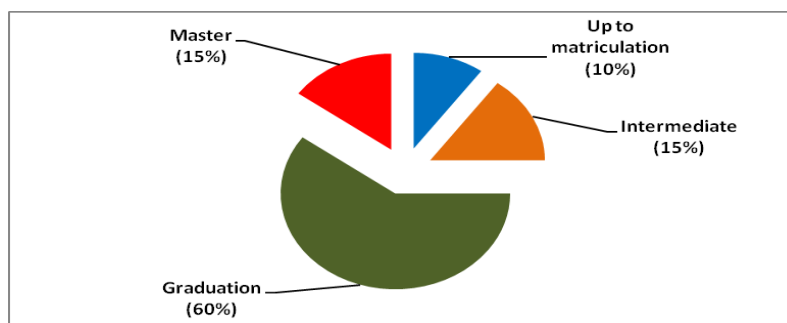
Demographic profile of respondents

Fig-1: Distribution of respondents according to their age (n = 100)



Age is the important demographic variable the data in this aspect presented in **Fig-1**. Most (40%) of the respondents fall in to the age of 31 to 40 years followed by (25%) of the respondents had 21 to 30 years of age. Whereas only (11 and 9%) of the respondents were up to 20 and above 50 years of age.

Fig-2: Distribution of respondents according to their educational level (n = 100)



Educational level is the imperative demographic profile which not only brings about desirable changes in human behavior but also accelerates the adoption process. The data in this regard presented in **Fig-2**. The simple majority (60%) of the respondents received graduation level education. Whereas 15% of the respondents had master degree while only 10% of the community individuals have education up to matriculation.

Extension teaching methods are the important factors most were of the NGOs workers diffused and involved extension teaching methods to their intended beneficiaries. The data these aspects are presented in **Table-1**.

Table-1: Distribution of respondents regarding extension teaching methods rendered by NGOs workers (n = 100)

Statements	Scale ⁺										Mean	S.D ^{**}
	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Undecided		Agree		Strongly Agree			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%		
Field days	3	3.0	19	19.0	65	65.0	3	3.0	1	1.0	3.75	3.00
Agriculture literature	1	1.0	16	16.0	14	14.0	63	63.0	6	6.0	3.57	.867
Seminar	1	1.0	18	18.0	14	14.0	64	64.0	3	3.0	3.50	.858
Demonstration plots	3	3.0	18	18.0	9	9.0	62	62.0	8	8.0	3.54	.978
Field trips	2	2.0	14	14.0	13	13.0	62	62.0	9	9.0	3.62	.907
Farmer days	0	0.0	5	5.0	10	10.0	76	76.0	9	9.0	3.89	.617
Campaign	2	2.0	6	6.0	15	15.0	66	66.0	11	11.0	3.78	.798
Farm visits	0	0.0	10	10.0	16	16.0	65	65.0	9	9.0	3.73	.763

Scale*: 1= Strongly disagree, 2= Disagree, 3= Undecided, 4= Agree, 5= Strongly agree

SD** = Standard deviation

Majority (76%) of the NGOs representative were agreed that they rendered extension teaching methods i.e. (farmer days) to the farmers, followed by 66% of the respondents were of the ideas that they arranged campaign to farmers at districts level. (65, 64, and 63%) of the NGOs representative were agreed that they conducted the farm visits, seminar and agriculture literature to the farmers respectively.

The data regarding adoption of sustainable agriculture practices as perceived by the respondents were depicts in **Table-2**.

Sustainable agriculture practices	NGOs responses in number		Total	%age		Total
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Continuation of soil fertility	25	25	50	70	30	100
Conservation of natural resources	45	05	50	95	05	100
Accelerate the per acre yield	40	10	50	60	40	100
Crop rotation practices	30	20	50	55	45	100
Application of irrigation	45	05	50	60	40	100
Secure environment by less utilization of pesticides	25	25	50	80	20	100
Utilization of latest equipments	40	10	50	90	10	100
Livestock management	30	20	50	50	50	100
By natural control	40	10	50	70	30	100
Utilization of FYM	30	20	50	65	35	100
Integrated pest management	50	00	50	75	25	100
Utilization of green manure	40	10	50	85	15	100

Table-2: Distribution of respondents regarding adoption of sustainable agriculture practices as perceived by NGOs workers (n = 100)

The respondents were asked about the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices as employed by the NGOs respondents. Overwhelming majority (95%) of the NGOs workers help to the farming community regarding conservation of natural resources, followed by (90-85-80-75%) of the NGOs workers were of the view that they facilitate and assist to farmers regarding utilization of latest equipments, utilization of green manure, secure environment by less utilization of pesticides and integrated pest management practices. The respondents were again asked regarding adoption of sustainable agriculture practices. Overwhelming majority (95%) of the respondents were of the view that NGOs workers disseminating information regarding conservation of natural resources followed by 90% of the respondent were of the view that the NGOs workers facilitate and assist to them utilization of latest equipments.

Conclusion

Agriculture is the main stay of Pakistan's economy and majority of the country population lives in rural areas depends directly or indirectly on agriculture. The NGOs collectively plays a crucial role in the overall development of economy by increasing agricultural production. It is generally agreed upon that the success of efforts for agricultural development is mainly dependent on the effective role of NGOs sector.

Recommendations

On the basis of achieved results and findings following recommendation was developed: NGOs personnel should address the need-based and real systematic solution for farmer regarding sustainable agriculture practices. NGOs workers should refreshing and updating knowledge of farmers keeping view in present requirement regarding sustainable agriculture program and conduct workshops, seminars for needy farmers. NGOs personnel should re-structured into information collection/exchange, assembly, development, broadcast and distribution sections regarding sustainable development for farmers at union council and district level.

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