

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

1-30-2021

AWARENESS AND USE OF KRISHIBHAVAN SERVICES BY THE FARMERS: A STUDY FROM KERALA, INDIA

Kadeeja Banu C V

kadeejabanucv@gmail.com

Vishnupriya M

Farook College, priyavishnu12578@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

C V, Kadeeja Banu and M, Vishnupriya, "AWARENESS AND USE OF KRISHIBHAVAN SERVICES BY THE FARMERS: A STUDY FROM KERALA, INDIA" (2021). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 4880. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4880>

AWARENESS AND USE OF KRISHIBHAVAN SERVICES BY THE FARMERS: A STUDY FROM KERALA, INDIA

Kadeeja Banu C V

Research scholar

CHMK Library and research centre

University of Calicut

Corresponding author:kadeejabanucv@gmail.com

Vishnupriya M

Department of LIS

Farook College

Kozhikode

ABSTRACT:

In this world of information explosion, everyone engaged in different activities needs information of one kind or another. Information is available in different sources and in different formats. Indian economy is an agrarian economy. Farmers are demanding various information relevant to their occupation. Krishibhavan is a social institution that is established in panchayaths in Kerala state to satisfy the timely and precise need of farmers. This study is an attempt to investigate the awareness and use of krishibhavan services by the farmers of Ramanattukara panchayath in Kozhikode district, Kerala.90 farmers were selected for the study by using stratified random sampling technique. Majority of the farmers are aware of the krishibhavan and they are utilizing many of its services.

KEYWORDS:

Agriculture, Krishibhavan, Information, Farmers.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture forms the back bone of Indian economy. Agriculture is defined as the art, the science and the business of production, processing, marketing and distribution of crops and livestock for the benefit of human beings.(*Agriculture-Definition*, n.d.) In the most of the developing economies, agriculture contributes significantly in their national income. Thus development of agriculture leads to economic development. Indian economy is predominantly an agricultural economy.

Farmers are certain group of users whose information needs is very precise. The agriculture sector in developing countries is increasingly becoming knowledge intensive. So farmers' access to a reliable, timely and relevant information source is critical to farmers' competitiveness. Information must be relevant and meaningful to farmers. In agriculture

environment, relevant and timely information helps farmers' community to take right decision to continuous growth of agriculture activity. Use of information in agriculture sector is improving farming output in a number of ways. Providing information on weather trends, best practice in farming, timely access to market information helps farmer make correct decisions about what crops to plants and where to sell their product and buy inputs. Therefore information is a powerful tool in addressing the agricultural needs and if it is used properly it could be change nations economic.(Bhagachand Bachhav, 2012)

Krishibhavan:

Krishibhavan was started in all the panchayath in the year 1987. The department deals with formulation and implementation of various programs to enhance production of both food crops and cash crops in the state. It carries out activities among farmers to support scientific method of cultivation, plant protection etc. And also organizes supply of high yielding varieties of seeds, seedlings, planting materials and plant protection chemical to farmers. The department also formulates guidelines and programmes relating to provision of credit to farmers. Agricultural research, education and extension are three important functions of department. (Kerala Institute of Local Administration, 2017).This study is an investigation to krishibhavan of Raamanattukara panchayath in Kozhikode district in Kerala state. In Ramanattukara panchayath, krishibhavan is situated in Kunnampalliparam. Institution has three staff, one agricultural officer, and two agricultural assistants.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Tofi, Tondo & Egbe (2019) identified information needs of Cassava Farmers in Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State. The study investigated the information sources available to them, kinds of information they used and the problems they faced in accessing information. Dankwah & Hawa (2014) made study on meeting Information Needs of Cocoa Farmers in Selected Communities in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The purpose of this study was to investigate the information needs of cocoa farmers in some selected cocoa growing communities in the Eastern Region of Ghana. Bachhav (2012) conducted an investigation to know the information needs of farmers in rural areas. They are in need of information daily for their occupation and they mainly depend on their fellow farmers. Fawole & Olajide (2012) studied the awareness and use of Information Communication Technologies by Farmers in Oyo State, Nigeria.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The present study is being carried out to understand the need and awareness of Krishibhavan services to farmers in Ramanattukara panchayath. Ramanattukara is a Gram Panchayath in Kozhikode district, Kerala. The Krishibhavan provide information about different aspects of farming. So conducting a study about the use and awareness of agriculture information by the people of Ramanattukara panchayath is of great importance. The opinion of the people in the functionary of krishibhavan and the satisfaction of farmers in getting the services would be helpful in modifying the services.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

1. To identify the different channels for dissemination of agricultural information for farming community.
2. To identify the main crops of cultivation by farmers in the Ramanattukara Panchayath.
3. To understand the purpose of visit of krishibhavan by the farmers of Ramanattukara panchayath.
4. To identify the services provided by krishibhavan
5. To identify the utility of services of Krishibhavan by the farmers of Ramanattukara panchayath
6. To study the satisfaction level of farmers in getting the needed information
7. To identify the barriers faced by peoples in the Ramanattukara panchayath in accessing information from Krishibhavan.

METHODOLOGY:

The investigator used stratified random sampling technique for the study. There are 18 wards in Ramanattukara panchayath, selected 5 farmers from each ward by using random sampling method and survey was conducted by using questionnaire. Investigator visited 90 farmers and conducted personal interview on the basis of questionnaire. Percentage method is used for analysis of collected data.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS:

Table 1
Response rate

Number of samples	Sample responded	
	Number	Percentage
90	90	100

The investigator personally visited the farmers and all of them responded to the questionnaire

Year wise engagement of farmers in cultivation

The respondents were asked to indicate the number of years they are engaged in the cultivation. Their response is tabulated in the table 2.

Table 2
Year wise engagement of farmers in cultivation

Year	No of respondents	Percentage
1-5 years	10	11.111
6-10 years	12	13.33
11-15 years	15	16.66
15-20 years	20	22.22
Above 20 years	33	36.67

From table 2 it is clear that a good number (36.67 per cent) of farmers have more than 20 years of experience.

Channels of communication

The farmers gather information on agriculture through various channels of communication. They were asked to indicate the mode they are depending in getting the required information. The data obtained are presented in table

Table 3
Channels of communication of information

Sources of information	No. of respondents	Percentage
Visiting krishibhavan	89	98.88
Farmers meeting	65	72.22
Internet	28	31.11
Newspaper or media	39	43.51
Personal experience	52	57.77
Neighbours or friends	51	56.67
Library	00	00.00

The table 3 indicates that majority of the farmers (98.88 per cent) are visiting Krishibhavan for getting information. 72.22 per cent depends on farmers meeting to get relevant information. More than half of them (57.77 per cent and 56.67 per cent) gets information from personal experience and from neighbours and friends respectively. Nobody uses library facilities for getting agricultural information. This indicates that majority are aware of the krishibhavan and they are depending for their information satisfaction.

Crops of cultivation

The farmers are cultivating different crops such as paddy, vegetables, coconut, plantain, and arecanut. Through this question the investigator ought to know the crops of cultivation they are engaged in and responses are presented in the figure 1

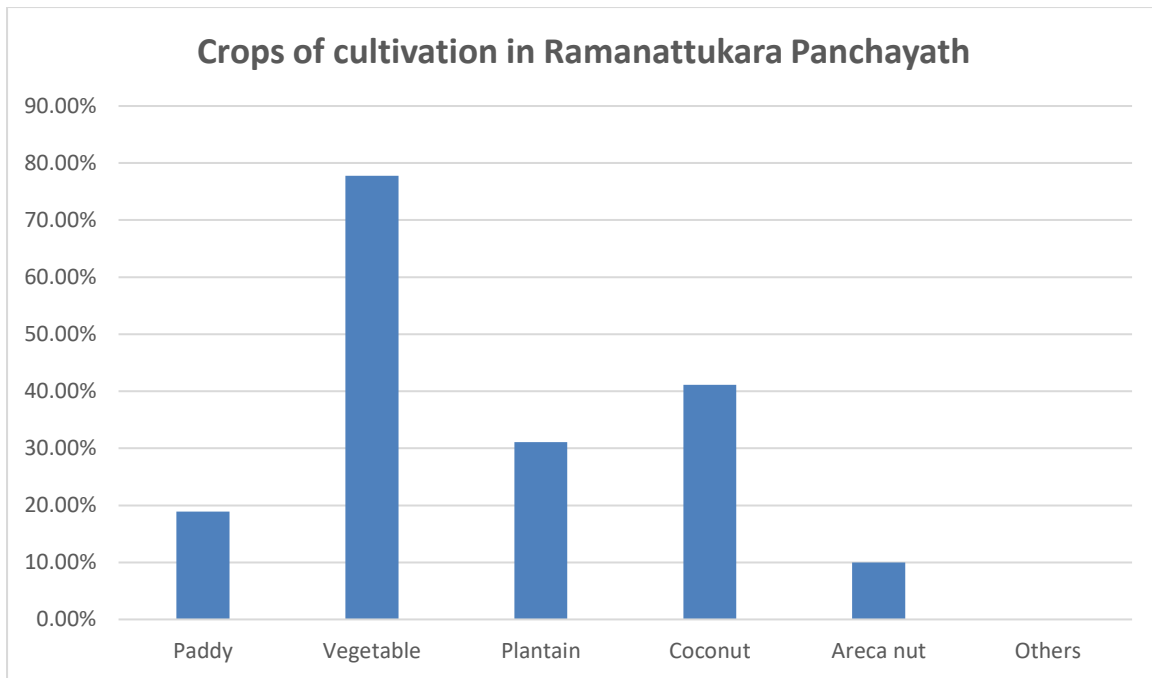


Figure 1

It shows that majority of the farmers are cultivating vegetables followed by coconut, plantain, paddy and arecanut .No one is engaged in cultivation other than vegetables, plantain, paddy, coconut and arecanut.

Purpose of visit to Krishibhavan

Krishibhavan can be visited for different purposes. Through this question it is intended to know the purpose of visit to krishibhavan. Majority of farmers are visiting Krishibhavan for getting information on seed and more than half of the respondents are visiting for information on fertilization which is clearly depicted in the figure 2.

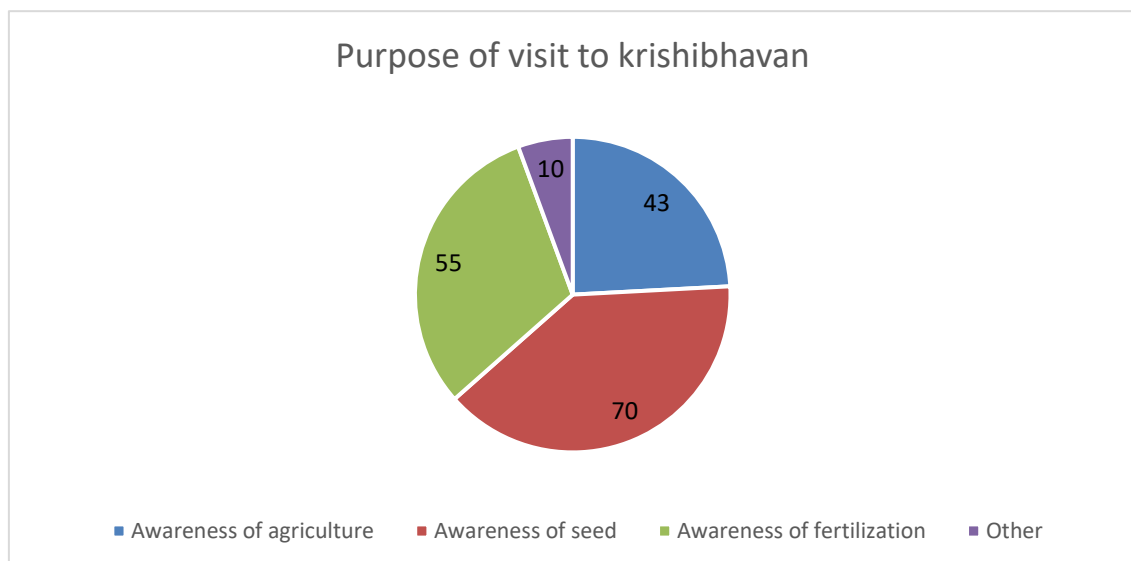


Figure 2

Awareness of the farmers regarding different aspects of krishibhavan

The farmers were asked to express their responses regarding their awareness of different aspects of the Krishibhavan.

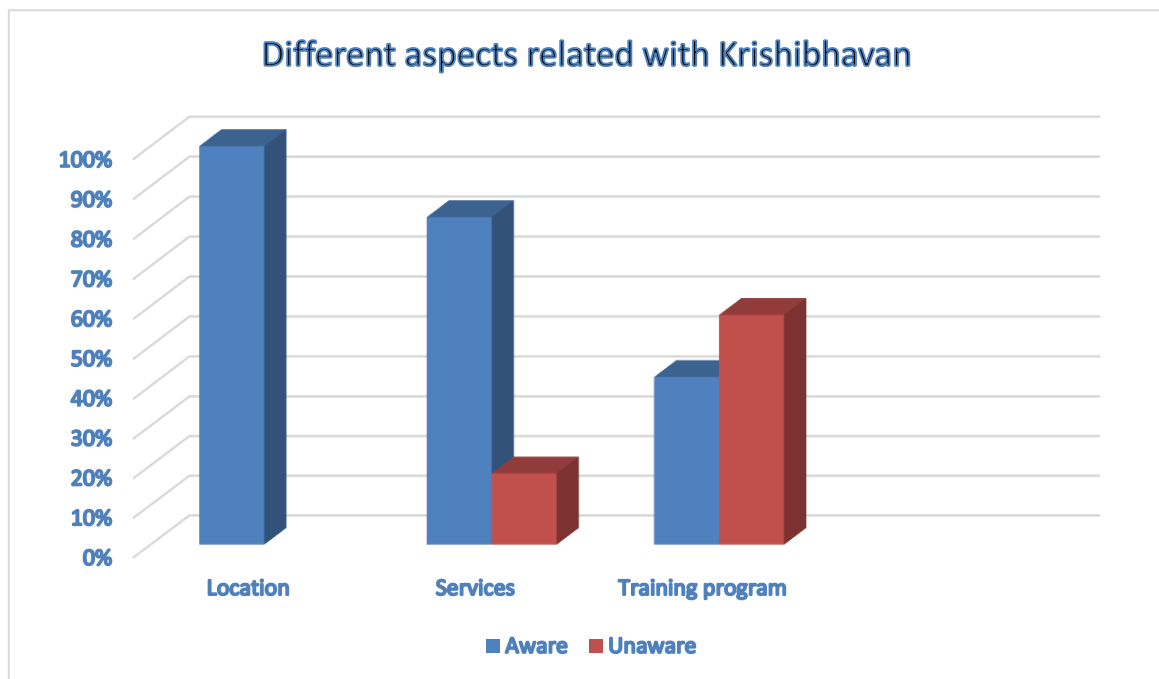


Figure 3

Figure 3 shows that all the farmers are aware of the location of Krishibhavan. Majority of them are aware of the services of Krishibhavan. But more than half of them are unaware of training programs conducted by Krishibhavan. Krishibhavan is known to the users and they are aware of various services.

Awareness of farmers about different types of services

Different types of services are provided by krishibhavan for the betterment of farming. Here the investigator tried to understand the awareness of these services among the farmers.

Table 4**Awareness of farmers about the services provided by Krishibhavan**

Services	Aware		Unaware	
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage
Soil test	74	82.2	16	17.78
Providing production bonus	24	26.67	66	73.33
Subsidies for buying Pump set	32	35.56	58	64.44
Providing farmers' pension	51	56.66	39	43.33
Seed distribution	88	97.77	2	2.22
Providing bio fertilizers	74	82.22	16	17.77
Grow bag (25 packet-Rs500)	68	76.55	22	24.44

Table 4 reveals that large majority of the farmers (97.77 per cent) are aware about seed distribution. Majority of them are aware about the soil testing, providing bio fertilizers and grow bag. More than half of them (56.66 per cent) are aware of farmers' pension. Majority of them are unaware about providing production bonus and subsidies for buying pump set.

Utilization of Services of Krishibhavan

The Krishibhavan provide a number of services for the benefit of farmers the and the below table assess the utilization of these services such as soil testing, providing production bonus, subsidies for buying pumbsets, providing farmers pension, seed supplying, providing fertilizers, grow bag.

Table 5**Utilization of services of Krishibhavan by farmers.**

Services	Yes		No	
	No	Percentage	No	Percentage
Soil test	69	76.66	25	27.77
Providing production bonus	15	16.66	78	83.33
Subsidies for buying pump sets	26	28.88	64	71.11
Providing farmers pension	42	46.67	48	53.33
Seed supply	75	83.33	15	16.66
Providing fertilizer	66	73.33	24	26.66
Grow bag	59	65.55	31	34.44

It is clear from the above table 5 majority of the farmers (83.33 per cent) are collecting seeds, 73.33 per cent are availing fertilizers ,76.66 per cent utilize the soil testing and 65.55 per cent are buying grow bags from Krishibhavan.

Training program

Nowadays Krishibhavan conducts many training programs such as training for horticulture, plant protection training, training for fertilizer utilization, vegetable development program.

Table 6**Training program conducted by Krishibhavan**

Training program	No. of respondent	Percentage
Training for horticulture	10	11.11
Plant protection training	28	31.11
Training for fertilizer utilization	33	36.66
Vegetable development programme	38	42.22

It is referred that out of four programs, about half (42.22 per cent) of the farmers are participating in training program for vegetable development and least (11.11 per cent) are getting training for horticulture.

Satisfaction level of farmers

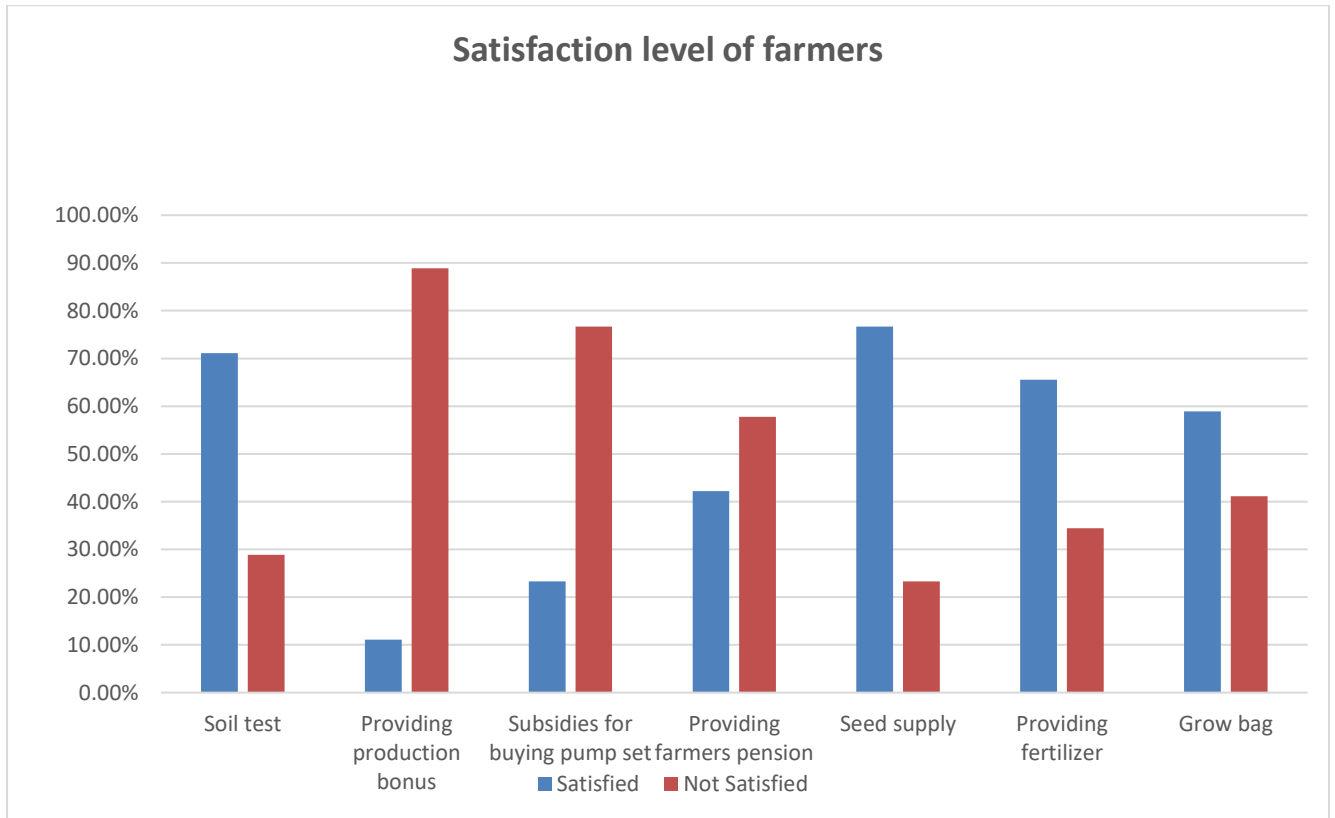


Figure 4

The satisfaction of farmers about the services of Krishibhavan is very important. The response regarding satisfaction level of farmers are graphically show in figure 4. It is found that majority of farmers are satisfied with the services of soil testing and seed supply. The farmers are least satisfied in providing production bonus and subsidies for buying pump sets.

Barriers faced by farmers to get agricultural information from Krishibhavan

Farmers are facing many barriers to avail information from Krishibhavan .So farmers were asked to express their opinion about the difficulty faced to get agricultural information.

Table 7

Barriers faced by farmers to get agricultural information from Krishibhavan

Barriers	No of farmers	Percentage
Lack of time	30	33.33
Distance	5	5.56
Attitude of staff	40	44.44
No barrier	15	16.67

From this table 7 it is evident that about half (44.44 per cent) of the farmers are facing problem regarding attitude of staff and good number of (33.33 per cent) are in the problem of lack of time. However the location of Krishibhavan is convenient as only a few are facing the problem of distance.

Response of farmers regarding attitude of staff.

It is very important to analyse the responses of farmers regarding attitude of staffs. The responses of farmers regarding attitude of staff are graphically shown in figure 6 and it reveals that half of the farmers are partially satisfied and a good number of them are completely satisfied.

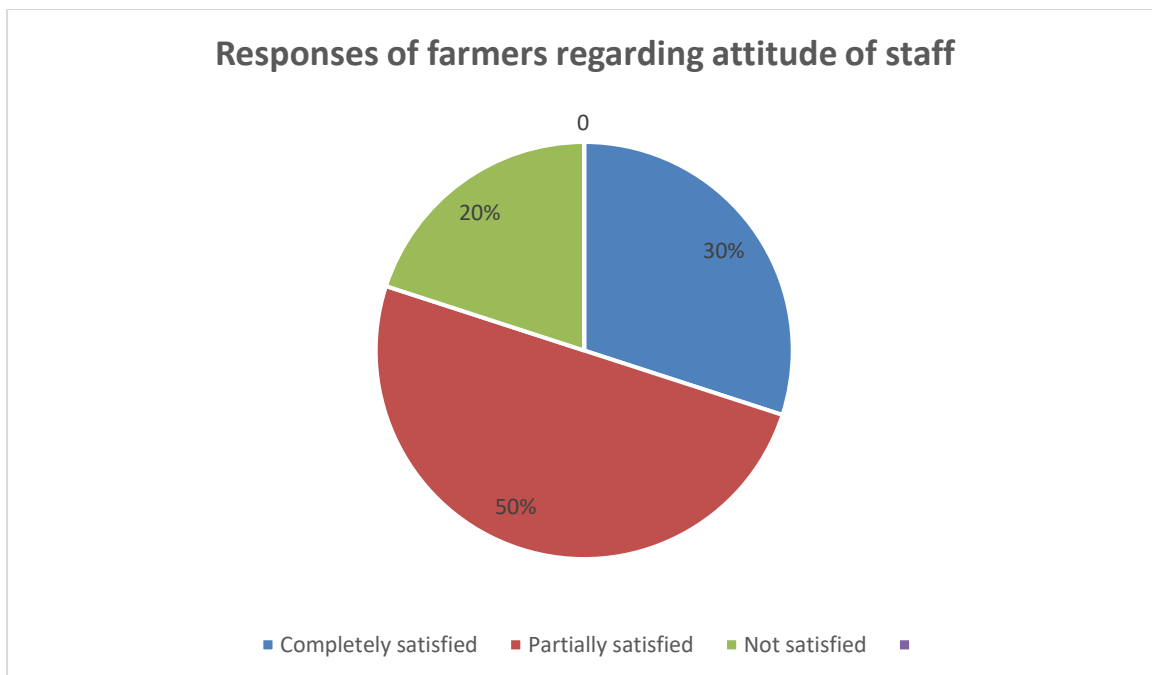


Figure 5

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1. Majority of the farmers are depending on krishibhavan to satisfy the need of agricultural information.
2. Majority of the farmers are cultivating vegetables followed by coconut, plantain, paddy and arecanut.
3. All the farmers are aware of the location of Krishibhavan.
4. Majority of them are aware of the services of Krishibhavan.
5. Majority of farmers are visiting Krishibhavan for getting information on seed and more than half of the respondents are visiting for information on fertilizers.
6. Large majority of the farmers are aware about seed distribution .Majority of them are aware about the soil testing, providing bio fertilizers and grow bag.
7. Majority of the farmers are collecting seeds, availing fertilizers, utilize the soil testing and are buying grow bags from Krishibhavan.
8. Majority of the farmers are unaware of the training programs conducting by krishibhavan.
9. The farmers are least satisfied in providing production bonus and subsidies for buying pump sets.
10. About half of the farmers are facing problem regarding attitude of staff and good number of them are in the problem of lack of time.

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

The investigator put forward the following suggestions for the improvement of use of Krishibhavan services.

- Create awareness about the importance of agriculture among the peoples.
- Maintain good relationship between farmers and staffs of krishibhavan.
- Orientation and training classes should be conducted.
- Enhance the services of krishibhavan.

CONCLUSION:

The present study attempted to assess the awareness and use of Krishibhavan services in Ramanattukara Panchayath. The study recognised that recipients of Krishibhavan services

mainly farmers community have only minimum awareness about services and they face some obstacles in effective use of it. The main problem they indicated is the attitude of staffs and the staffs should maintain a friendly, approachable relationship with the beneficiaries of their institution. The study put forward many suggestions for the improvement of use of Krishibhavan services.

REFERENCES:

- Agriculture-Definition-Importance and scope-Branches of agriculture-Evolution of man and agriculture-Development of scientific agriculture-National and International Agricultural Research Institutes.* (n.d.).
- Agyei Dankwah, D., & Hawa, O. (2014). *Meeting Information Needs of Cocoa Farmers in Selected Communities in the Eastern Region of Ghana.*
<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/1103>
- Bhagachand Bachhav, N. (2012). *Information Needs of the Rural Farmers : A Study from Maharashtra, India: A Survey Information Needs of the Rural Farmers : A Study from Maharashtra, India: A Survey.* <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>
- Fawole, O. P., & Olajide, B. R. (2012). Awareness and Use of Information Communication Technologies by Farmers in Oyo State. *Journal of Agricultural & Food Information, 13*(4), 326–337. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10496505.2012.717003>
- Kerala Institute of Local Administration. (2017). *Administration Manual for Transferred Functions : Krishi Bhavan* (Issue June).
- Simon, T., Cln, T., Iorver, T. R., & Ebute, E. F. (2019). Information Needs of Cassava Farmers In Okpokwu Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-Journal)*, 2981. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>