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VISION

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NOTION OF FARMERS ABOUT THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL AGENCIES: AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR SATISFACTION LEVEL

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Email id: harmilap_barring@yahoo.co.in **DOI:** 10.5958/2278-4853.2025.00023.7

ABSTRACT

The present paper examines the notion of farmers regarding the role of agricultural agencies, namely the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), in promoting agricultural development in Punjab. The primary objective of the study is to assess the level of satisfaction of farmers with the services, guidance, and initiatives provided by these agencies, and to evaluate their effectiveness in meeting the needs of the farming community. The study adopts a descriptive research design and relies on primary data collected through structured interview schedules administered to farmers across selected regions of Punjab. The interview schedule was designed to capture information on farmers' experiences, accessibility of services, efficiency of extension programmes, and overall satisfaction with the agencies' functioning. In addition, secondary data sources such as reports, publications, and government documents were used to supplement the findings. The analysis provides insights into the strengths and shortcomings of the Department of Agriculture and Punjab Agricultural University, highlighting the gap between policy initiatives and farmers' expectations. The findings aim to contribute towards improving the functioning of agricultural agencies, thereby ensuring better administrative efficiency and enhanced support for farmers in Punjab.

KEYWORDS: Farmers' Notion, Agricultural Agencies, Department of Agriculture (DOA), Policy Implementation.

INTRODUCTION

Administration set goals for itself which are achieved through the organisations. The routine, size and scope of organizations depend upon the type of functions these are supposed to perform. An organisation is established to achieve the set goals and is in blue print, hence, termed as formal organisation which further is split in different divisions, departments, bureaus, sections and positions. The organisations are synonyms with term government agencies at times. The government agencies are administrative units of governments that are created to perform specific responsibilities. The agencies/organisations exist within the framework of any government and can be in hundreds with variety of objectives and roles to meet the laid down objectives. Likewise, the government of Punjab has established several organizations/agencies from time to time to achieve the set goals of the government.

The government of India consists of several administrative units/organisations or agencies to perform different functions e.g. Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Finance or Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Agriculture and so on. These agenices are set up on specific patterns involving certain principles such as division of work, unity of command,

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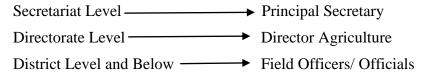
principle of hierarchy, span of control, principle of decentralization and centralization and so on. Agricultural agencies have also been listed. The present paper covers two of these agriculture agencies namely:

- 1. Department of Agriculture, Punjab
- 2. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana

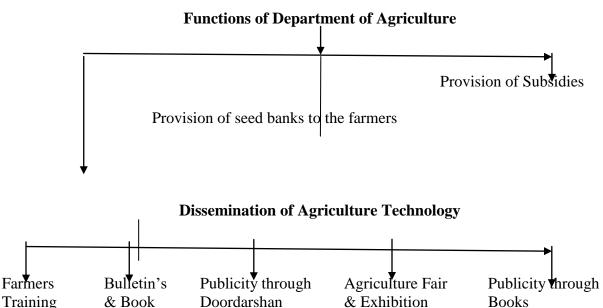
Before assessing the satisfaction of the farmers with the role and services provided by these select agencies, it is of interest to discuss some of the initiatives and programmes provided by these select agencies.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DOA):

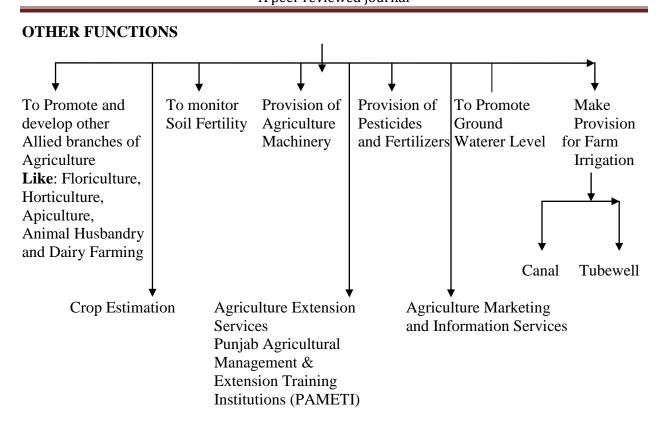
The Agriculture department of Punjab is one of the important organization or the agency of the state to look after all the matters related to Agriculture and farming. It is a fully state owned agency which is directly under the control of the state government. The department like any other department is functioning at the three levels:



The department has many fold functions and is a line agency which directly ensures the sustainability of agriculture along with exercising preventive and curative measures to check the damage to the crops by imparting knowledge to the farmers of the state. The major functions of the department are presented through the diagram below:

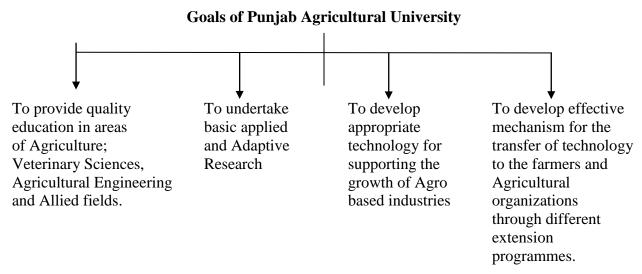


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PUNJAB AGRICULTURE UNIVERSITY, LUDHIANA

The Punjab Agricultural University came into being in 1962 at Ludhiana as a state university with autonomous functioning. The basic purpose of creating this university in Punjab was to improve the lot of agriculture in the state. The University is ever since committed to the cause of improvement of productivity and profitability of agriculture and allied sectors by achieving the goals which are presented through a figure:



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The PAU is widely acclaimed as the Best Agricultural University in Asia. Basically the university has thrust on Research and development besides promoting education through various courses:

To provide Quality Education in:

- 10 undergraduate and graduate programmes
- 34 Master degree programmes
- 05 Integrated MSC (Honours)
- 27 Doctorate
- 02 Diploma Programmes
- 01 Certificate course
- I. The quality teaching programmes of the university are run through its four constituent colleges at Ludhiana:
- 1. College of Agriculture (COA)
- 2. College of Basic Sciences and Humanities (COHS)
- 3. College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology (COA&T)
- 4. College of Home Science (COHS) and
- 5. Institute of Agriculture at Gurdaspur
- II. To undertake Basic Applied and Adaptive research
 - 1. Crop improvement
- 2. Biotechnology
- 3. Seed technology
- 4. Crop production
- Disease Management
- Nutrient Management
- i. Plant Protection
- Weed Management
- i. Food Science & Technology
- ii. Post Harvest Technologies

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- III. To develop effective mechanisms for the transfer of techniques to the farmers and agriculture organizations through different extension programmes.
- i) Kisan Melas
- ii) Adaptive Research Tools
- iii) Training/ Camps/exhibitions
- iv) Demonstrations
- v) Workshops
- vi) Farmers organisations
- vii) Field Days/ Technical guidance
- viii) Plant Clinic
- IV. To develop appropriate technology for supporting the growth of agro based industries:
- i) To promote Agriculture engineering by developing and designing machinery to facilitate Agriculture.

Research Methodology

The discussion about the functions and role of these agencies has given us insight about their importance. These services are meant for betterment of Agriculture in all the aspects in the state and, thus, are the prime concern of the farming community.

The provisions of services and programmes don't give us idea as to what extent these are utilized by the stakeholders or as to what extent these are beneficial to the farming class. The notion of the farmers about the services and programmes provided by these select agencies is of immense importance to the agriculture Administration. Therefore, in the present paper, an effort has been made by the researcher to draw the responses of the farmers to assess the role of these agencies in terms of the services and programmes provided by these select agencies. A sample of 55 farmers from the three select districts was taken by using convience sampling technique. However, 49 respondents from Amritsar and Sangrur responded meaningly whereas in case of Jalandhar district, 54 respondents explicitly responded.

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Table 1: It is easy	ta annraach	agricultural	evnerts for	advice in select	t agencies
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											p
Attributes	Attributes Variables		Amritsar			Sangrur			Jalandhar		
		Yes	No	Not	Yes	No	Not	Yes	No	Not	
				Sure			Sure			Sure	
Academic	Under	28	9	5	25	9	4	26	8	11	0.693
Qualification	Graduate	(66.7)	(21.4)	(11.9)	(65.8)	(23.7)	(10.5)	(57.8)	(17.8)	(24.4)	
	Graduate	4	2	1	6	2	3	5	2	2	
		(57.1)	(28.6)	(14.3)	(54.5)	(18.2)	(27.3)	(55.6)	(22.2)	(22.2)	
Per Capita	Less than	11	1	0	15	4	1	8	2	0	0.017
Income	1 Lakh	(91.7)	(8.3)	(0.0)	(75.0)	(20.0)	(5.0)	(80.0)	(20.0)	(0.0)	
	1-5 Lakh	11	8	4	8	1	3	16	3	7	
		(47.8)	(34.8)	(17.4)	(66.7)	(8.3)	(25.0)	(61.5)	(11.5)	(26.9)	
	Above 5	10	2	2	8	6	3	7	5	6	
	Lakh	(71.4)	(14.3)	(14.3)	(47.1)	(35.3)	(17.6)	(38.9)	(27.8)	(33.3)	
Land	Below 5	20	8	3	19	4	5	24	6	8	0.520
Ownership	Acres	(64.5)	(25.8)	(9.7)	(67.9)	(14.3)	(17.9)	(63.2)	(15.8)	(21.1)	
	6-15	7	1	2	7	3	1	3	2	4	
	Acres	(70.0)	(10.0)	(20.0)	(63.6)	(27.3)	(9.1)	(33.3)	(22.2)	(44.4)	
	Above 15	5	2	1	5	4	1	4	2	1	
	Acres	(62.5)	(25.0)	(12.5)	(50.0)	(40.0)	(10.0)	(57.1)	(28.6)	(14.3)	
Total	•	32	11	6	31	11	7	31	10	13	
		(65.3)	(22.4)	(12.2)	(63.2)	(22.4)	(14.2)	(57.4)	(18.6)	(24.1)	

Source: Computed from Primary Data. Figures in parentheses are percentages. p<0.05

The data presented in the Table 1 indicated that whether it is easy to approach agricultural experts for advice of select agencies. On analyzing the data it was found that majority of respondents agreed with the view point.

Academic Qualification:

Amritsar: Fair majority of Under Graduate respondents (66.70 per cent) as compared to the majority of Graduate respondents (57.10 per cent) favored the poser.

Sangrur: Fair majority of Under Graduate respondents (65.80 per cent) as compared to the majority of Graduate respondents (54.50 per cent) favored the poser.

Jalandhar: Majority of respondents (above 50.00 per cent) irrespective of the academic qualifications agreed with the poser.

Statistically no significant association was found between the variable qualification and the statement.

Per Capita Income

Amritsar: Highly significant majority of respondents (91.70 per cent) with per capita income less than 1 lakh and high majority of respondents (71.40 per cent) with per capita income above 5 lakh as compared to the high proportion of respondents (47.80 per cent) with per capita income 1-5 lakh favored the view point.

Sangrur: High majority of respondents (75.00 per cent) with per capita income less than 1 lakh and fair majority of respondents (66.70 per cent) with per capita income 1-5 lakh as against the

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high proportion of respondents (47.10 per cent) with per capita income above 5 lakh agreed with the facet.

Jalandhar: Significant majority of respondents (80.00 per cent) with per capita income less than 1 lakh and fair majority of respondents (61.50 per cent) with per capita income 1-5 lakh as against the high proportion of respondents (38.90 per cent) with per capita income above 5 lakh agreed with the facet.

Statistically significant association was found between the variable per capita income and the statement.

Land Ownership

Amritsar: High majority of respondents (70.00 per cent) with 6-15 acres of land as against the fair majority of respondents (above 60.00 per cent) in the remaining two categories of this variable agreed with the statement.

Sangrur: Majority of respondents (50.00 per cent) with above 15 acres of land and fair majority of respondents (above 60.00 per cent) in the remaining two categories of this variable provided their assent to the issue.

Jalandhar: Fair majority of respondents (63.20 per cent) with less than 5 acres of land and majority of respondents (57.20 per cent) with above 15 acres of land as against the high proportion of respondents (33.30 per cent) with 6-15 acres of land favored the view point.

Statistically no significant association was found between the variable land ownership and the statement.

Finding: Varying majority of respondents of all the districts opined that it was easy to approach the experts for advice.

Amritsar - 65.3 Sangrur - 63.2 Jalandhar - 57.4

Table 2: You are satisfied with attitude of the experts while answering the queries of the farmers.

											P
Attributes	Variables	Amritsar			Sangrur			Jalandhar			
		Yes	No	Not	Yes	No	Not	Yes	No	Not	
				Sure			Sure			Sure	
Academic	Under	16	20	6	6	9	23	12	14	19	0.093
Qualification	Graduate	(38.1)	(47.6)	(14.3)	(15.8)	(23.7)	(60.5)	(26.7)	(31.1)	(42.2)	
	Graduate	5	1	1	3	5	3	4	4	1	
		(71.4)	(14.3)	(14.3)	(27.3)	(45.5)	(27.3)	(44.4)	(44.4)	(11.1)	
Per Capita	Less than	4	7	1	1	7	12	1	2	7	0.006
Income	1 Lakh	(33.3)	(58.3)	(8.3)	(5.0)	(35.0)	(60.0)	(10.0)	(20.0)	(70.0)	
	1-5 Lakh	7	12	4	2	3	7	7	8	11	
		(30.4)	(52.2)	(17.4)	(16.7)	(25.0)	(58.3)	(26.9)	(30.8)	(42.3)	
	Above 5	10	2	2	6	4	7	8	8	2	
	Lakh	(71.4)	(14.3)	(14.3)	(35.3)	(23.5)	(41.2)	(44.4)	(44.4)	(11.1)	
Land	Below 5	11	17	3	4	9	15	8	12	18	0.002

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Ownership	Acres	(35.5)	(54.8)	(9.7)	(14.3)	(32.1)	(53.6)	(21.1)	(31.6)	(47.4)	
	6-15	4	3	3	1	3	7	2	6	1	
	Acres	(40.0)	(30.0)	(30.0)	(9.1)	(27.3)	(63.6)	(22.2)	(66.7)	(11.1)	
	Above	6	1	1	4	2	4	6	0	1	
	15 Acres	(75.0)	(12.5)	(12.5)	(40.0)	(20.0)	(40.0)	(85.7)	(0.0)	(14.3)	
Total	•	21	21	7	9	14	26	16	18	20	
		(42.9)	(42.9)	(14.2)	(18.3)	(28.6)	(53.1)	(30)	(33.3)	(37.0)	

Source: Computed from Primary Data. Figures in parentheses are percentages, p<0.05

On analyzing the responses presented in the Table 2 it was found that higher proportion of respondents from Sangrur and Jalandhar district remained unsure about the aspect whereas high proportion of respondents from Amritsar in equal proportion agreed and disagreed with the issue.

Academic Qualification:

Amritsar: High majority of Graduate respondents (71.40 per cent) agreed with the issue but high proportion of Under Graduate respondents (47.60 per cent) disagreed with the view point.

Sangrur: Fair majority of Under Graduate respondents (60.50 per cent) remained unsure whereas high proportion of Graduate respondents (45.50 per cent) disagreed with the aspect.

Jalandhar: High proportion of Under Graduate respondents (42.20 per cent) were unsure about the issue whereas high proportion of Graduate respondents either agreed (44.40 per cent) or disagreed (44.40 per cent) with the view point.

Statistically no significant association was found between the variable qualification and the statement.

Per Capita Income

Amritsar: High majority of respondents with above 5 lakh of income agreed with the poser whereas majority of respondents in the remaining two categories of the variable disagreed with the statement.

Sangrur: Fair majority of respondents (60.00 per cent) with less than 1 lakh of income and majority of respondents (58.30 per cent) with 1-5 lakh of income as compared to high proportion of respondents (41.20 per cent) with above 5 lakh of income were not sure about the issue.

Jalandhar: High majority of respondents (70.00 per cent) with less than 1 lakh of income and high proportion of respondents (42.30 per cent) with 1-5 lakh of income remained unsure about the view point whereas high proportion of respondents (44.40 per cent) either agreed or disagreed with the issue.

Statistically highly significant association was found between the variable per capita income and the statement.

Land Ownership

Amritsar: Majority of respondents (54.80 per cent) with below 5 acres of land disagreed with the statement on the other hand the high proportion of respondents (40.00 per cent) with 6-15 acres of land and high majority of respondents (75.00 per cent) with above 15 acres of land disagreed with the statement.

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Sangrur: Fair majority of respondents (63.60 per cent) with 6-15 acres of land as against majority of respondents (53.60 per cent) with below 5 acres and high proportion of respondents (40.00 per cent) with 6-15 acres of land and high proportion of respondents (40.00 per cent) with above 15 acres of land were not sure about the statement.

Jalandhar: Significant majority of respondents (85.70 per cent) with above 15 acres agreed with the facet, fair majority of respondents (66.70 per cent) with 6-15 acres of land disagreed with the issue and high proportion of respondents (47.40 per cent) remained unsure about the statement.

Significant highly association was found between variable land ownership and the statement.

Finding: No clear trend of the responses was available in each of the select district except that high proportion of respondents of Amritsar district was satisfied with the attitude.

Amritsar - 42.9 Jalandhar - 30.0 Sangrur - 18.3

Table 3: Agricultural Extension Officers of the select agencies visit the farmers regularly to advise them on Agriculture related issue.

											P
Attributes Variables		Amritsa	ar		Sangrur			Jalandhar			
		Yes	No	Not	Yes	No	Not	Yes	No	Not	
				Sure			Sure			Sure	
Academic	Under	13	14	15	4	8	26	13	18	14	0.156
Qualification	Graduate	(31.0)	(33.3)	(35.7)	(10.5)	(21.1)	(68.4)	(28.9)	(40.0)	(31.1)	
	Graduate	0	4	3	0	2	9	2	4	3	
		(0.0)	(57.1)	(42.9)	(0.0)	(18.2)	(81.8)	(22.2)	(44.4)	(33.3)	
Per Capita	Less than	6	2	4	1	3	16	1	6	3	0.474
Income	1 Lakh	(50.0)	(16.7)	(33.3)	(5.0)	(15.0)	(80.0)	(10.0)	(60.0)	(30.0)	
	1-5 Lakh	2	11	10	1	3	8	8	7	11	
		(8.7)	(47.8)	(43.5)	(8.3)	(25.0)	(66.7)	(30.8)	(26.9)	(42.3)	
	Above 5	5	5	4	2	4	11	6	9	3	
	Lakh	(35.7)	(35.7)	(28.6)	(11.8)	(23.5)	(64.7)	(33.3)	(50.0)	(16.7)	
Land	Below 5	8	12	11	2	6	20	9	14	15	0.893
Ownership	Acres	(25.8)	(38.7)	(35.5)	(7.1)	(21.4)	(71.4)	(23.7)	(36.8)	(39.5)	
	6-15	2	4	4	1	3	7	3	4	2	
	Acres	(20.0)	(40.0)	(40.0)	(9.1)	(27.3)	(63.6)	(33.3)	(44.4)	(22.2)	
	Above	3	2	3	1	1	8	3	4	0	
	15 Acres	(37.5)	(25.0)	(37.5)	(10.0)	(10.0)	(80.0)	(42.9)	(57.1)	(0.0)	
Total		13	18	18	4	10	35	15	22	17	
		(26.6)	(36.8)	(36.8)	(8.1)	(20.4)	(71.4)	(27.8)	(40.8)	(31.4)	

Source: Computed from Primary Data. Figures in parentheses are percentages. p<0.05

The data presented in Table 3 examines the issue that whether the agricultural extension officers visit farmers regularly to advise the farmers and the analysis highlighted that high proportion of respondents in Amritsar and Jalandhar disagreed with the issue and the fair majority of respondents in Sangrur were unsure about the issue.

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Academic Qualification:

Amritsar: Majority of graduate respondents (57.10 per cent) disagreed with the issue and the responses of the under graduate were nearly equally divided in all the three options; agreed (31.0%), disagreed (33.3%) and undecided (35.7%).

Sangrur: Significant majority of graduate respondents (87.80 per cent) in comparison to fair majority of Under Graduate respondents (68.90 per cent) were undecided about the issue.

Jalandhar: High proportion of Graduate (44.40 per cent) and Under Graduate (40.00 per cent) respondents disagreed with the poser.

Statistically no significant association was found between the variable qualification and the statement.

Per Capita Income

Amritsar: Majority of respondents (50.00 per cent) with less than 1 lakh of income agreed with the statement and in contrary to this high proportion of respondents (47.80 per cent) with 1-5 lakh of income disagreed with the issue. Further, the respondents with above 5 Lakh income agreed and disagreed with the issue.

Sangrur: Significant majority of respondents (80.00 per cent) with less than 1 lakh of income and fair majority of respondents (above 60.00 per cent) in remaining two categories of this variable were unsure about the statement.

Jalandhar: Fair majority of respondents (60.00 per cent) with less than 1 lakh of income and majority of respondents (50.00 per cent) with above 5 lakh of income disagreed with the view point. Further high proportion of respondents (42.50 per cent) with 1-5 lakh of income was unsure about the issue.

Statistically no significant association was found between the variable per capita income and the statement.

Land Ownership

Amritsar: High proportion of respondents irrespective of the sub-category of the variable remained undecided about the view point.

Sangrur: Significant majority of respondents (80.00 per cent) with above 15 acres of land and high majority of respondents (71.40 per cent) with below 5 acres of land in comparison to fair majority of respondents (63.60 per cent) with 6-15 acres of land remained undecided with the point of view.

Jalandhar: Majority of respondents (57.10 per cent) with above 15 acres of land as against high proportion of respondents in the remaining categories of this variable disagreed with the poser.

No association was found statistically between the variable land ownership and the sttaement.

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Finding: No clear trend of responses was found in all the select districts, however high proportion of respondents of Amritsar and Jalandhar district agreed with the aspect whereas respondents of Sangrur district were unsure.

 Jalandhar
 48.1

 Amritsar
 42.9

 Sangrur
 28.6

FINDINGS

- Varying majority of respondents was aware of the services and programmes provided by DOA and PAU.
- Varying majority of the respondents of select districts opined that they got help and support from the select agencies in Agriculture related matters.
- Majority of the respondents of Amritsar and Jalandhar district disagreed with the aspect that select agencies were properly coordinating with each other in matters of programme implementation whereas the respondents of Sangrur district were unsure of the aspect.
- No clear trend of responses was found in all the select districts, however, high proportion of respondents of Amritsar and Jalandhar district agreed with the aspect whereas respondents of Sangrur district were unsure.
- The majority respondents in Jalandhar and higher proportion of respondents in Amritsar and Sangrur district were not aware of the available help lines for the farmers.
- Varying majority of the respondents were not sure of the aspect thus indicating their dissatisfaction.
- No clear trend of responses was found in all the select districts, however high proportion of respondents of Amritsar and Jalandhar district agreed with the aspect whereas respondents of Sangrur district were unsure.
- High proportion of respondents of the select districts was satisfied with the relations between the field officials and the cultivators. However, proportion of unsure responses affected the results.
- Varying majority of the respondents opined that Agricultural Extension officers made the farmers aware about latest farming techniques.
- Varying majority of the respondents agreed that expert of the select agencies provided them timely directions to harvest the crops.
- Varying majority of the respondents opined that select agencies informed the farmers about the upcoming exhibitions and Kisan Melas.
- Majority of the respondents of Sangrur and Jalandhar district opined that training camps were organized by the experts of select agencies to exhibit the use of Agro-implements whereas the respondents of Jalandhar district disagreed with the aspect.
- No clear trend of responses was found. The responses differed from district to district. The high proportion of the respondents of Sangrur and Jalandhar district opined that seeds were provided but respondents of Amritsar denied the same.

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- No clear trend of responses was found as in two districts of Jalandhar and Amritsar, the respondents were of the opinion that knowledge regarding new varieties was not given whereas high proportion of respondents of Sangrur district opined that knowledge was provided.
- No clear trend of the responses was available. The responses varied district wise. However, higher proportion of respondents of Amritsar district disagreed whereas the higher proportion of respondents of Sangrur and Jalandhar were not sure.
- No clear trend of the responses was available in each of the select district except that high proportion of respondents of Amritsar district was satisfied with the attitude.
- No clear trend of the responses was available yet the except Jalandhar district in which the majority respondents denied any such information whereas in other two districts.
- Varying majority of the respondents agreed that they were provided information about the pesticide use to control the crop disease.
- No clear trend of responses was available as the responses varied from district to district. High proportion of respondents of Amritsar and Sangrur disagreed with the aspect whereas the high proportion of respondents of Jalandhar was not sure.
- Varying majority of respondents of all the districts opined that it was easy to approach the experts for advice.

CONCLUSION

The study clearly reflects that the notion of farmers towards agricultural agencies such as the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) is shaped by their experiences with service delivery, extension programmes, and accessibility of institutional support. While both agencies have played a significant role in disseminating knowledge, promoting innovations, and assisting farmers in adopting improved agricultural practices, the satisfaction level of farmers varies across regions and services. The findings suggest that although a majority of farmers acknowledge the contribution of these agencies, there remain gaps in communication, timely service delivery, and alignment of programmes with farmers' real needs. Strengthening farmer—agency linkages, ensuring effective extension services, and making policies more farmer-centric are essential to enhance trust and satisfaction. Overall, the assessment underscores the need for greater responsiveness, transparency, and participatory approaches in agricultural administration. By addressing existing challenges, the DOA and PAU can further empower farmers, promote sustainable agriculture, and contribute to the socioeconomic development of Punjab's rural communities.

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