MOOCs for agriculture

Introduction

- Agriculture is a crucial sector of India
- Demands attention in terms of human resource development and capacity building
- Massive Open Online Courses (**MOOC**) **can satisfy the needs**
- An online platform that provides free access to numerous high quality basic as well as advanced courses in the domain
- The courses are offered by renowned faculty from the premier institutes of the country

MOOCs Means

- **MASSIVE**

Allows access to a large number of learners

- **OPEN**

open to everyone and without any prerequisites

- **ONLINE**

Offered via internet and No need of physical attendance at a classroom Can access anytime-anywhere

- **COURSE**

Has learning objectives to be achieved by learners after certain activities within in a given period of time

Agricultural Education in India

- e-Mediated efforts in education
  - e-PG Pathashala
  - agMOOCs
  - SWAYAM
  - NPTEL
  - MANAGE / NAARM
- Objective : To assess the learners perception and feedback about the courses offered on agMOOCs platform

Attributes of agMOOCs platform

- User friendly format
- Simple registration process
- Has access to all courses offered
- Contents in Video, Audio and PDF
- agMOOCs app made access simple
- Mechanism of monitoring attendance
- Offline availability of contents
- Announcement provided latest info
- Static as well as dynamic resources
- Forum to put views and get answers to doubts
- Hangout for chat with fellow learners

Methodology

- 14 courses offered under agMOOCs platform,
  - Fundamentals of Agricultural Extension and
  - Integrated Disease Management
  - offered from 20 Feb 2018 to 31 May 2018, registration of 4884 learners across the country.
- Whole enumeration method; Provision of feedback on the platform itself
- Of the 1098 active registered learners 952 learners (87 per cent) participated in the survey

Results and Discussion

Age Groups	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
17 - 24	114	290	404
25 - 34	82	242	324
35 - 44	28	116	144
45 - 54	6	46	52
55 - 64	3	21	24
Above65	0	2	2
Below17	0	2	2
Total	233	719	952

Table-1. Crosstab of age and gender participation in agMOOCs courses

"p" = 0.043 Association is significant, Age and gender participation are not independent of each other.

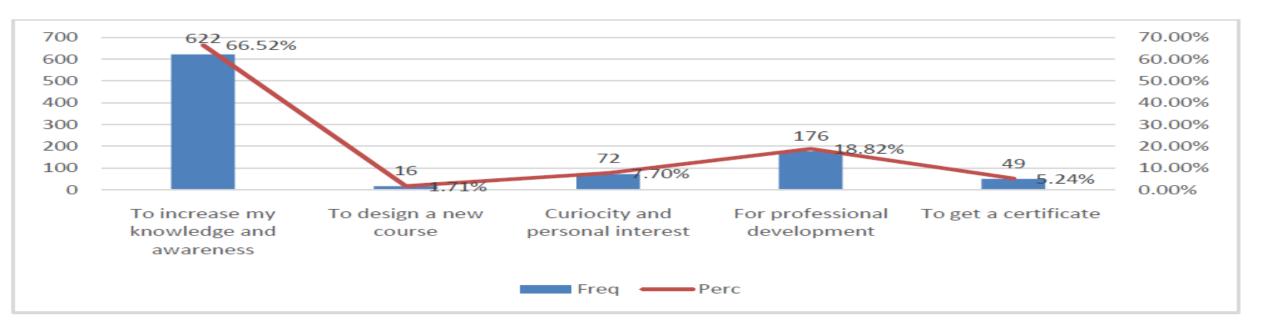Fig-4 Distribution of learners based on their profession

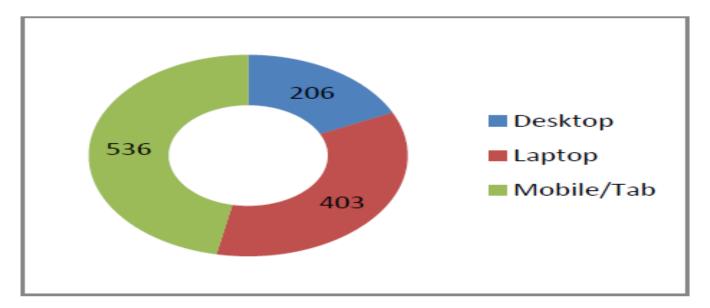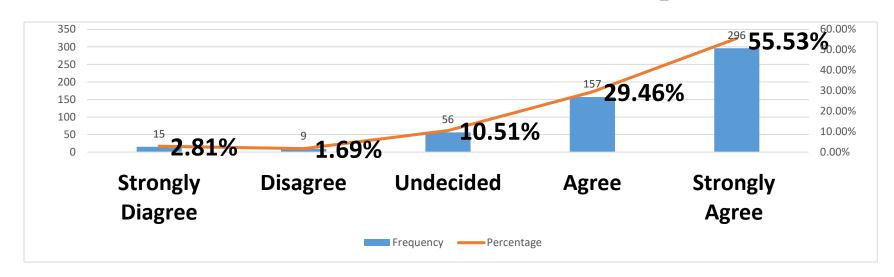Fig-6 Distribution of learners based on revealed reasons for participating in the course

Fig-9 Distribution of learners based on devices used to access the agMOOCs courses

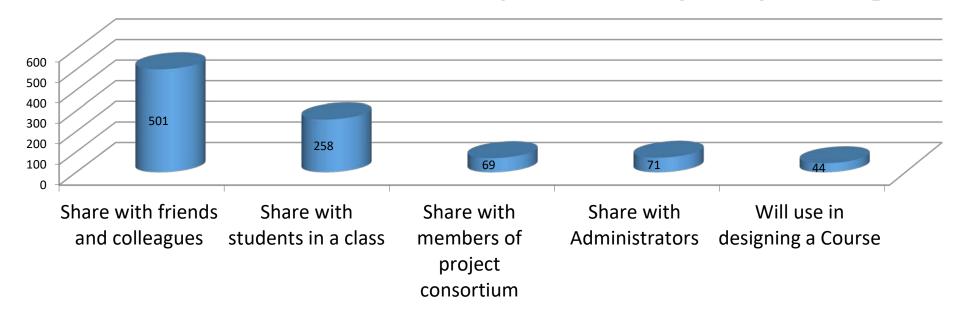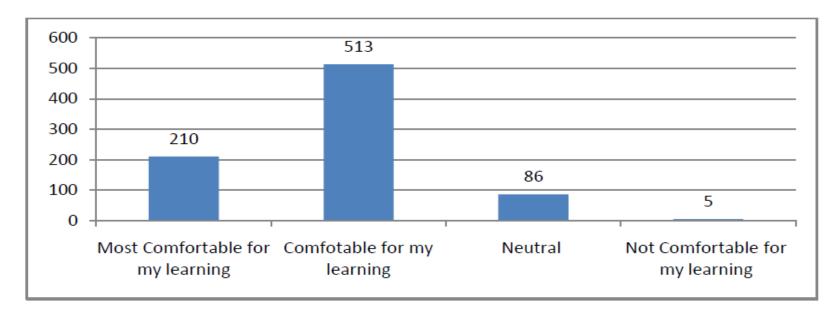# Distribution of learners based on Perception on easiness of agMOOCs app

'p' =0.923

Association is non-significant

"There is no Association between Gender and Perception of learners regarding easiness of agMOOCs platform"
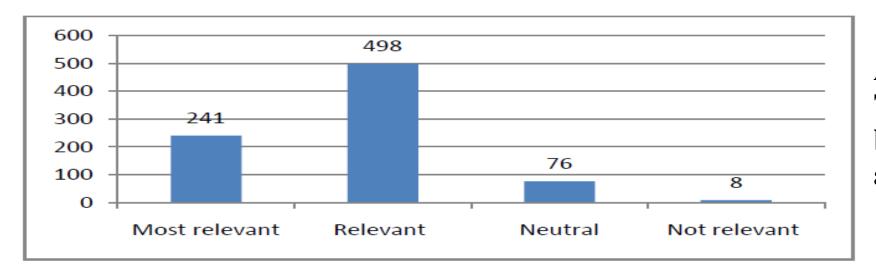
Distribution of learners based on us of the gained knowledge on agMOOCs platform

'p'=0.0045
Association is significant
"There is no association between range of learners and pace of content delivery"

Fig-16 Distribution of learners based on Perception regarding pace of content delivery on agMOOCs platform

'p' = 0.0001
Association is significant
There is no association between learners profession and frequency of quiz

Fig-19 Distribution of learners based on perception regarding Relevancy of Quiz conducted on agMOOCs platform

Conclusion

- Gender and age neutral technology with ease of use has higher penetration rate in the society

- Findings are encouraging for instructors

- Excellent opportunity to reach the unreached

- Provide such platforms to intended communities and motivate the population to harness the benefits of the concept
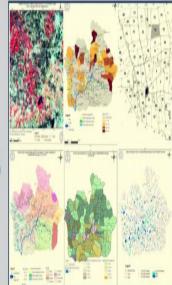
agMOOCs

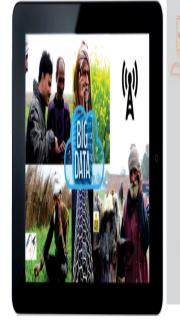**Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

agMOOCs

GIS in Ag-Essentials and Applications

agMOOCs

Weather Forecast in Agriculture and Agro-advisory

agMOOCs

Nutrition, Therapeutics and Health

agMOOCs

ICT Basics

BIG DATA

agMOOCs

फसल उत्पादन के मूलभूत सिद्धान्त