

SYLLABUS FOR RESEARCH ENTRANCE TEST (RET)
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
PAPER-I
(RESEARCH METHODOLOGY)

Unit 1:

Concepts of research methodology

Formulating a Research Problem The research problem and research topic - definitions; Importance of formulating a research problem; Sources of research problems; Characteristics of a good research problem; Research problems in quantitative and qualitative research; Steps in formulating a research problem; Strategies for writing research problem statement; Research purpose statement; Research questions – Types, Criteria for selecting research questions, techniques for narrowing a problem into a research question; Objectives - Meaning, types and criteria for judging the objectives.

Unit 2:

Variables and Hypothesis testing:

Techniques of identifying concepts, constructs and variables - Types of concepts; Types of variables. Concepts in hypothesis and type of hypotheses. Characteristics of good hypotheses; Measurement – Meaning, levels of measurement – nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio; Criteria for choosing measurement levels for variables.

Unit 3:

Research designs

Definition, purpose and functions; Criteria for selecting a suitable Research Design; Choosing right research design, Classification of research designs: Quantitative designs - experimental, descriptive, survey, ex-post facto. Qualitative designs -Action research design. Research methods: Designing research Instruments – questionnaires, interview schedules, participatory rural appraisal

Unit 4:

Sampling and Data Collection

Sample, sampling unit, and subject; Principles of sampling; Methods of drawing a random sample, Sampling with or without, Types of sampling – Probability- Simple random sampling, Cluster sampling, Systematic sampling, Stratified random sampling Non- probability Sampling - Purposive or judgmental sampling, Snowball sampling, and Quota sampling. Collecting Data The process of collecting data – Selection, training, supervision, and evaluation of field investigators; Online data collection.

Unit 5:

Reliability and Validity

Types of validity – Content validity: Face and content validity, Criterion-related validity: concurrent and predictive validity, Construct validity: convergent, and discriminant validity, factorial validity, and nomological validity; Types of reliability Test-Retest, Parallel forms, Inter-item consistency reliability, Split-half reliability. Factors affecting the validity and reliability of research instruments.

UNIT WISE ITEM COMPOSITION (TOTAL -35 items)

Unit-I: 07

Unit-II: 07

Unit-III: 07

Unit-IV: 07

Unit-V: 07

SYLLABUS FOR RESEARCH ENTRANCE TEST (RET)
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
PAPER-II
(SUBJECT CONTENT)

Unit 1:

Extension Landscape

Extension and Advisory Services (EAS)- Meaning (embracing pluralism and new functions) New Challenges before farmers and extension professionals. Climate Smart Agriculture, Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture including promotion of agri-preneurship and agri-tourism; Urban and peri-urban farming, and Farmer distress. Agricultural Knowledge and Information Systems (AKIS); strength and limitations; Agricultural Innovation Systems (AIS). Market led extension, Mobilising resources for extension: public investments, donor support (grants/loans); Monitoring and Evaluation of Extension.

Unit 2:

Applied Behaviour Change

Human behaviour – Meaning, importance and factors influencing human behaviour; Biological bases of human behaviour – Nervous system, brain, endocrine system and genes. Motivation – foundations, approaches, theories, managing human needs and motivations; perceiving others – impression, attitude, opinions; Emotions - foundations, types and functions, measuring emotional intelligence. Learning – foundations, approaches and theories; Cognitive approaches of learning – meaning, principles theories and models; Memory – foundations, types; Behavioural approaches of learning – foundations and theories - classical conditioning, operant conditioning. Attitudes - meaning, assumptions, types, theories and models of attitude formation; methods of changing attitudes. Decision-making – Meaning, problem analysis; steps and techniques of decision-making under different contexts.

Unit 3:

Organisational Behavior and Development

Introduction to organizations-concept and characteristics of organizations; Typology of organizations; Theories of organizations: nature of organizational theory, Classical theories, Modern management theories. Self-awareness, Perception and Attribution, Learning, and Personality. Foundations of group, group behaviour and group dynamics, Group Development and Cohesiveness, Group Performance and Decision Making, Intergroup Relations; Teams in Organizations-Team building experiential exercises, Interpersonal Communication and Group. Leadership: Meaning, types, Theories and Perspectives on Effective Leadership, Power and Influence, managing Conflict and Negotiation skills, Job/ stress management, decision-making, problem-solving techniques.

Organizations Structure- Need and Types, Line & staff, functional, committee, project structure organizations, centralization & decentralization, Different stages of growth and designing the organizational structure. Concept of Organizational Development (OD), Importance and Characteristics, Objectives of OD, History and Evolution of OD, Implications of OD Values.

Unit 4:

Capacity Development

Training, capacity building, capacity development and HRD-Meaning and differences; Need and principles of capacity development; Types and levels of capacities. Types of capacity building - Based on structure (structured, semi-structured & unstructured). Components of capacity development; Capacity development cycle.

Steps in Designing and Planning of Capacity Development- Step 1. Select the participants, Step 2. Determine the participants' needs, Step 3. Formulate goal and objectives, Step 4. Outline the content, Step 5. Develop instructional activities, Step 6. Prepare the design, Step 7. Prepare evaluation form, Step 8. Determine follow-up activities; Organising capacity development programme; Operational arrangements at different stages- Before the programme, During the programme, Middle of the programme, At the end of the programme, After the programme, Follow up; Stakeholders' responsibilities.

Data Collection Methods in Identifying Needs - Rational Methods (Observation, Informal talks, Complaints, Comparison, Analysis of report, Opinion poll, Buzz session, Analysis of the new programme), Empirical Methods (Job analysis, Performance evaluation, Checklist or Questionnaire Method, Tests, Critical Incident Technique, Card Sort Method, Focus Group Discussion, Interview, SWOT Analysis); Information and Skills required in Need Analysis; Identification of Needs through Task Analysis - Task identification, Task Analysis, Gap Analysis.

Capacity Developer (Trainer): Meaning and concept, Project Proposal: Concept and Meaning; Steps in Project Formulation, Capacity Development Methods –Lecture, Discussion, Syndicate, Seminars, Conference, Symposium, Role Play, Case study, Programmed Instruction, T - group/ Laboratory methods. HRD: Meaning, Importance and Benefits; Types of HRD Systems & Sub-systems Career system (Manpower planning, Recruitment, Career planning, Succession planning, Retention), Work system (Role analysis, Role efficacy, Performance plan, Performance feedback and guidance, Performance appraisal, Promotion, Job rotation, Reward).

Unit 5:

ICTs for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services

ICTs- meaning, concepts, basics of ICTs, global and national status, types and functions of ICTs, innovations, meaning of e-Governance, e-learning, m-Learning, advantages and limitations of ICTs. ICTs in Knowledge Management Knowledge management-meaning, approaches and tools. Role of ICTs in Agricultural Knowledge Management. e-Extension initiatives in Agriculture and allied sectors e-Extension, overview on Global and national e-extension initiatives, Inventory of e-Extension initiatives in Agriculture and allied sectors from Central and State governments, ICAR, SAUs, private sector and NGO initiatives in India.

Knowledge centres (tele centres), digital kiosks, websites and web portals, community radio, farmers call centres, mobile phone based advisory services and mobile applications, social media, digital videos, Market Intelligence and Information Systems- ICT enabled Supply-Chains and Value-Chains/ e-Marketing (e-NAM, Agmarknet, etc.). Expert System/ Decision Support System/ Management Information Systems, Farm Health Management & Intelligence System for Plant Health, Animal Health, Soil Health, Fishery, Water, Weather, etc. Farmer Producers Organisations (FPOs)/ SHGs/ Farmers Groups.

Open technology computing facilities, System for data analytics/ mining/ modelling/ Development of Agricultural simulations; Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS, Information Utility (AIU); disruptive technologies- Analysis; Internet of Things (IoTs), Drones, Artificial intelligence (AI). Video conference, live streaming and webinars, types and functions of social media applications, guidelines for preparing social media.

Unit 6:

Evaluation and Impact Assessment

Concept of Evaluation: Meaning and concept. Credibility of Evaluator: Role as educator, facilitator, consultant, interpreter, mediator and change agent. SWOT Analysis – Concept, origin and evolution; SWOT As a Programme Management Tool; Conducting SWOT Analysis - Common Questions in SWOT Analysis; Advantages and Disadvantages of SWOT; Bar Charts (Gantt Charts and Milestone Charts) - Characteristics, advantages and limitations.

Networks – Introduction, origin and widely used networks (Programme Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT) and Critical Path Method (CPM), differences between PERT and CPM, advantages and disadvantages. Networks Terminology – Activity, Dummy activity, Event (predecessor event, successor event, burst event, merge event, critical event), Earliest Start Time (EST), Latest Start Time (LST), Critical Path, Critical Activity, Optimistic time (To), Pessimistic time (Po), Most likely time (TM), Expected time (TE).

Introduction to Bennett's hierarchy – Background and description; Relation between programme objectives & outcomes at 7 levels of Bennett's hierarchy – Inputs, activities, participation, reactions, KASA changes, practice and behaviour changes, end results. Advantages and Disadvantages of Bennett's hierarchy. Extension management (POSDCORB) in public sector, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), SAUs, ICAR Institutes, Private sector, Cooperatives, NGOs, FPOs etc.

Unit 7:**Enabling Innovation**

Origins of the innovation systems concept-Innovation vs Invention; Agricultural Innovation System (AIS) -ToT, FSR, AKIS and AIS. Role of Communication in Innovation Process; Role of Extension in AIS. Role of enabling environment: Policies and institutions in enabling innovation; Role of Government-Innovation Policy: Achieving coordination and policy coherence; Innovation Platforms.

Unit 8:**Gender Mainstreaming**

Gender related concepts and divides: Understanding of the concepts of gender, gender equality and equity, gender balance, gender blindness, gender relations, gender neutrality, gender bias and discrimination, gender rights, gender roles and responsibilities. Gender budgeting, Gender divides and their implications such as gender digital divide, gender access to resources and inputs divide, gender mobility divide, gender wage divide, Gender needs: practical and strategic. Gender mainstreaming: Importance of gender mainstreaming in agriculture. Gender analysis: Importance, usage, prerequisites, techniques of gender analysis- Tools for gender analysis.

Entrepreneurship development for women: Women entrepreneurship development in agriculture and agro processing: current status, women led enterprises, supporting organizations and schemes, Govt. policies, entrepreneurship development programme and process for women in agriculture.