

## ATTITUDE OF THE CONTACT FARMERS TOWARDS FIELD ASSISTANTS IN TRAINING AND VISIT PROGRAMME

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### ABSTRACT

The Training and Visit Programme has been initiated after considering its superiority over the conventional one in minimizing the gap between the farmer and the field staff particularly the field assistants. The study was undertaken in 20 randomly selected villages of Vehari Tehsil and 200 contact farmers were interviewed at random. The analysis of data revealed that most of the respondents were not fully satisfied with the knowledge level of field assistants. It was also disclosed that the field assistants neither arranged sufficient meetings nor took farmers to the demonstration plots frequently. Thus, the difference between the working of conventional and the training and visit programme cannot be regarded a vital one.

### INTRODUCTION

In order to cope with the needs of rapidly increasing population at the rate of more than 3%, the targets of crop production are always revised year by year. For the year 1988-89, agricultural growth was estimated at 6.1 per cent with classified target for major and minor crops. Though there was some increase in the total production, but the production of wheat, gram and minor crops lagged far behind the potential target (Government of Pakistan 1988-89) and thus food requirements were met by imports. The said situation is not praise-worthy for a country having agro-based economy.