



CONSTRAINTS EXPERIENCED BY THE PADDY FARMERS IN EXTENT OF ADOPTION OF CULTIVATION PRACTICES

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Abstract

Paddy is one of the main crop in Ariyalore district of Tamilnadu. Hence Ariyalore district was selected purposively for this study. A respondents size of 120 was fixed for the considering the limitation of time and other resources. From the list of farmers in each villages, farmers cultivating paddy were identified. A total number of 120 samples were identified from the selected six villages by using the proportionate random sampling. Majority of the growers volunteered the constrains vi, in adequate power supply, labour scarcity, high wages of labour, pest and disease attack, high cost of agricultural inputs and failure of annual rainfall. The other constraints experienced by below seventy percent of the respondent were in adequate credit facilities and non – availability of farm machinery in time.

Keywords: Constraints, Paddy Farmers

Introduction

Rice one of the important grains of India. Moreover, this country has the major area under paddy cultivation, as it is one of the important food crop. Rice is mainly cultivated in rain fed areas that receive heavy annual rainfall. The adoption of Technologies is complete pattern of mental and physical activity. Several personal psychological, economic and social factors largely determine the extent and nature of adoption and also continuance of the technology so for this in efficiency, lack of proper and timely training for extension personal was forecast reasonable (Sargunam1987). This paper focus to study the constraints obtained by the growers in extent of adoption paddy cultivation.

Material and Methods

Paddy is one of the main crop in Ariyalore district of Tamilnadu. Hence Ariyalore district was selected purposively for this study. A respondents size of 120 was fixed for the considering the limitation of time and other resources. From the list of farmers in each villages, farmers cultivating paddy were identified. A total number of 120 samples were identified from the selected six villages by using the proportionate random sampling. Majority of the growers volunteered the constrains vi, in adequate power supply, labour scarcity, high wages of labour, pest and disease attack, high cost of agricultural inputs and failure of annual rainfall. The other constraints experienced by below seventy percent of the respondent were in adequate credit facilities and non – availability of farm machinery in time.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 : Extents of adoption constraints focused by respondents in paddy cultivation

(n=120)

S. No	Constraints	Number of respondents	Per cent
1	In adequate power supply	115	95.33
2	non-availability of labour	105	87.50
3	High wages of labour	97	80.83
4	Pest and disease attack	93	77.50
5	High cost of agricultural inputs	91	75.83
6	Failure of annual rainfall	90	75.00
7	In adequate credit facilities	80	66.66
8	Non-availability of farm machinery in time	71	59.16

Table 1 reveals that most of the respondents encountered the constraints viz. inadequate power supply (95.33 per cent), non-availability of labour (87.50 per cent), high wages of labour (80.83 per cent), pest and disease affected(77.50 per cent), high cost of agricultural inputs (75.83 per cent), and failure of annual rainfall (75.00 per cent). The other problem focused by below seventy per cent of the growers were inadequate credit facilities (66.66 per cent), non-availability of farm machinery in time (59.16 per cent).

‘Inadequate power supply’ was the constraint reported by 95.33 per cent of the respondents. The respondents revealed that the power supply was so erotic for the last three years and hence they could not make use of power when they are in need. Because of this, they could not irrigate their crops during critical stages. This finding is in agreement with the results of Chahal and Kataria (2010).

More than eighty per cent of the respondents expressed 'labour scarcity' and 'high wages of labour' as their constraints. Rice cultivation requires more number of labours from sowing to harvesting operations. The respondents reported that skilled labours were not available for carrying out such operations. Moreover, the agricultural labours were demanding high salary irrespective of the nature of work. Also, all of them would prefer to go for 100 days employment scheme implemented by the Government as they could get higher wages with minimum work. Hence labour scarcity arose as the major problem. This might have enabled majority of the respondents to report these as important constraints. This finding is in line with the findings of Manikandan (2010).

Pest and disease affected was the constraint expressed by 77.50 per cent of the respondents. The paddy crop was severally damaged by the pests like shoot fly, stem borer and leaf folder, BPH, GLH, and disease like leaf blast and leaf spot, tungro virus. The damage caused by pest and diseases would have resulted in poor yield and also poor quality of the produce. In addition the inadequate knowledge about symptoms of pest and diseases and their economic threshold levels, high cost of pesticides and non-availability of plant protection equipments and inadequate man power to handle plant protection equipments would have constrained the farmers to take remedial measures for these pest and diseases. This condition in turn would have enabled them to report this constraint.

The constraint expressed by 75.83 per cent of the respondents was 'high cost inputs'. This may be due to the fact that the price of inputs viz., certified seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc., is increased every year whereas; the price of the produce has not increased proportionately. This would lead to high cost of production and less profit. As most of the respondents are small farmers with moderate annual income, they do not have adequate savings for the purchase of inputs. This would have necessitated them to purchase inputs from local input dealers on loan basis. By using this condition, the dealers sell their inputs at high cost to the farmers. This finding is in agreement with the results of Dhanasekaran (2007).

'Failure of annual rainfall' was expressed as a constraint by three-fourth of the respondents (75.00 per cent). The farmers revealed that they depend mostly on annual rainfall for irrigation. But sometimes the rainfall fails in the season and hence led to unassured irrigation. This in turn would have resulted in poor yield. This might be the possible reason for the reported constraint. This finding derives support from the results of Pawar *et al.* (2010).

'Inadequate credit facilities' was the constraint expressed by 66.66 per cent of the respondents. The farmers could not avail of the credit facilities from banks because of its tedious and time consuming procedure. They could not borrow money from non-institutional sources because of high interest rates. This finding is in agreement with the results of Eswaran (2012).

'Non availability of farm machineries in time' was experienced as the constraint by 59.16 per cent of the respondents in paddy cultivation. It was ascertained by the researcher during survey that most the respondents are resource poor farmers with smaller land holdings and hence could not afford to purchase of machinery such as tractors, combined harvester, etc., they always hire these implements from nearby town. During peak seasons, these implements were not available and hence they had to pay high cost per hour for its operation. All these would have led to delay in harvest and poor quality produce. This condition might have enabled them to express this constraint. This finding is in conformity with the results of Dhanasekaran (2007).

Conclusion

The extension workers, planners and policy makers, should make arrangements to overcome the constraints focused by the rice cultivators and enable them to take up adoption of cultivation practices in paddy like in adequate power supply, non-availability of labour, high wages of labour, pest and disease affected, high cost of agricultural input and failure of annual rainfall. This will ultimately enable them to get more profit.

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