

Adoption of improved agricultural practices by farmers

RAM KARAN SINGH

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Dhamora, Rampur, U.P. (S. V. P. Univ. of Agri. & Tcch., Meerut)

Abstract

New Agricultural Technologies generated by the Agricultural Scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Agricultural Universities and Scientists of NGO's etc. are no use unless they are understood and put into practice by the farming community. The present study was conducted in Rampur District of Uttar Pradesh to find out to what extent the villagers are adopting improved agricultural practices in adopted village as compared to non-adopted village. Twenty farmers were selected randomly from each village. Two major crops i.e. paddy and wheat were selected for the adoption of improved agricultural practices among the farmers. The findings of the investigation revealed that adoption behavior of farmers with respect to improved agricultural practices was different from practice to practice and crop to crop in adopted and non-adopted villages.

Key Words : Adoption, Improved Agricultural Practices, Techno-extension Gap, Sources of Information

Introduction

There exists still a wide gap between the technology available at the research and its use in farmer's field. It is therefore highly important that the new technology generated should find immediate application on the farmers' field, so that so-called techno-extension gap is reduced to the minimum. The present study was conducted in Rampur District of Uttar Pradesh to find out to what extent the villagers are adopting improved agricultural practices in adopted village as compared to non-adopted village.

Methodology

The study was conducted in purposely selected Rampur District of Uttar Pradesh. Two villages were selected for the study. One Village (Brijpur) has been adopted as per village adoption Scheme of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (S.V.B.P. Univ. Of Agri. & Tech., Meerut) Rampur. The other village (Jadonpur) was taken to compare the adoption behavior of the farmers with adopted village. The farmers of these villages were respondents. Twenty farmers were selected randomly from each village. Two major crops (Paddy & Wheat) were selected for the adoption of improved agricultural practices among the farmers. The questionnaire were developed with the consultation of scientists, S.V.B.P. Univ. of Ag. & Tech., Meerut. It was tested and improved after discussion with the farmers. The data were analyzed using mean percentage.

Results and Discussion

Characteristics of respondents :

The characteristics of respondents in adopted and non-adopted villages are presented in Table 1. The

table 1 shows no difference in characteristics of respondents with respect to age, education, occupation, land holding, family size and family type.

Table 1: Characteristics of respondents (%)

Factor	Category	Adopted Village	Non-Adopted Village
Age	Young (<35 Yrs.)	20	10
	Middle (35-50 Yrs)	50	55
	Old (>50 Yrs)	30	35
Education	Illiterate	50	55
	Up to Primary	30	25
	Up to Matric	15	15
Occupation	Above Matric	05	05
	Main (Agriculture)	80	75
Land Holding Size	Secondary	20	25
	Marginal	50	55
	Small	30	35
Annual Income	Big	20	10
	Low (<20000)	25	30
	Medium(20000-40000)	55	60
Family Size	High (>40000)	20	10
	Small (<5)	30	25
	Medium (5-8)	50	55
Family Type	Big (>8)	20	20
	Joint	40	45
	Nuclear	60	55

Sources of Information

It is obvious from the Table-2 that there were 11 sources of information for the farmers in both the villages. These are Fellow Farmers/Friends/Relatives, Shopkeeper, Radio, Extension Personnel, Demonstration, Meeting, Pamphlet, KVK Scientists,

Local Leaders, News Papers and Fair/Exhibition. There was distinct difference between adopted and non-adopted villages. It can be seen that KVK Scientists, Radio and Meeting were the major sources of agriculture technology for adopted village. In Non-adopted village, Extension Personnel Specially Gram Panchayat Vikas Adhikari, Shopkeeper and Fellow Farmers/Friends/Relatives were the sources of agriculture technology.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to the sources of information

S. No.	Sources	Adopted Village(%)	Non-Adopted Village (%)
1.	Fellow Farmers/Friends/Relatives	30	60 II
2.	Shopkeeper	25	40 III
3.	Local Leaders	20	30
4.	Radio	60 II	30
5.	Extension Personnel	40	70 I
6.	Demonstration	40	15
7.	Meeting	50 III	25
8.	Pamphlet	25	10
9.	KVK Scientists	70 I	15
10.	News Paper	5	—
11.	Fair/Exhibition	20	10

Extent of adoption of improved agricultural practices

It is evident from the table 3, that the adoption of

Table 3: Extent of adoption of improved agricultural practices among the farmers (%)

S.No.	Improved Practices	Crop			
		Wheat		Paddy	
		AV	NAV	AV	NAV
1.	Use of newly released high yielding varieties	70	40	60	30
2.	Sowing of varieties at recommended time	90	50	80	45
3.	Use of balance fertilizer	70	25	60	45
4.	Use of insecticides/fungicides	—	—	75	50
5.	Use of herbicides	80	60	90	65

AV – Adopted Village

NAV – Non-Adopted Village

newly released high yielding varieties of crops i.e. wheat and paddy varies 60 to 70 per cent in adopted village, while it was 30 to 40 per cent in non-adopted village. Sowing of high yielding varieties at recommended time was adopted by a large number of farmers (80 to 90%) of these crops, while in non-adopted village it was far below (45 to 50%). The use of balanced fertilizer was encouraging in both the villages. In adopted village, the use of balanced fertilizer varied from 60 to 70 per cent for paddy & wheat crops. Similarly the adoption of balance fertilizer varied from 25 to 45 per cent in non-adopted villages. It was revealed that the adopted village was far ahead in

application of insecticide/fungicides to the crop (25%). The use of herbicides was also encouraging in both the villages. In adopted village, the use of herbicides varied from 80 to 90 per cent for wheat and paddy crops. Similarly the use of herbicides varied from 60 to 65 per cent in non-adopted village. The above findings clearly show a wide gap in adoption of improved agricultural practices in adopted and non-adopted villages.

References

- Bhimawat, B.S. and Gupta, Aabha (2005). Adoption of improved Soyabean cultivation technology by farmers of chittorgarh District. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 5 (1): 4 - 6.
- Chapke, Rajendra (2001). Knowledge and adoption behavior of farmers about the attributes of bio-control measures. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 1 (2): 43 - 46.
- Khan, P.M. and Chauhan, Jitendra (2005). Adoption pattern of farmers towards new farm technology. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 5 (1): 1 - 3.
- Kushwah, Raj Singh and Thakur, P. (2001). Socio personal characteristics of farmers and adoption of farm practices. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 1 (1): 66 - 68.
- Rathore, S.S.; De, Deepak and Chauhan, Jitendra (2002). Factors affecting the adoption of improved agricultural practices of mustard cultivation. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 2 (2) : 17 - 19.
- Sachan, R.C., Sharma, A.K. and Jha, S.K. (2005).

- Adoption pattern of recommended mustard production technology in Bharatpur District of Rajasthan. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 5 (1): 27 - 30.
- Singh, Baldeo and Kushwah, R.K. (2002). Characteristics of small farmers and adoption of modern farm technology. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 2 (1): 44 - 47.
- Triveni Dutt and Mishra, Ballabh (2002). Corralates of level of adoption of pulse production technology. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 2 (1): 97 - 100.
- Yadav, V.P., Bhela, S.L. and Raman, R.S. (2002). Yield gap in Paddy and extent of adoption of improved paddy technologies. *Ind. Res. Jr. of Ext. Edu.* 2 (2): 37-39.