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Constraints in Adoption of IPM Practices by the Paddy Farmers

Key words : IPM Practices, Paddy farmers

The degree to which farmers adopt IPM practices depends on their characteristics, the specific symptoms and damage caused by the pest, familiarity with recommended practices and availability of resources for executing them. The present study was undertaken to know the constraints in adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices by the paddy farmers.

The study was conducted during 2006-07 and 2008 in Khammam district of Andhra Pradesh. Two mandals namely Wyra and Thallada were selected randomly from the district. From the selected mandals two Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) adopted villages each were randomly selected and from each village 15 rice farmers were selected randomly for the study. Thus, the total sample constitute 60 rice farmers. Data were collected by using a pretested interview schedule. The collected data were analyzed using frequency and percentage.

Non- availability of fine quality seed with blast and BPH resistant varieties was the most important constraint reported by 63.30 per cent of respondents. Fine quality seed with blast and BPH resistant varieties seeds were not available in adequate quantity to fulfil the framers needs. Heavy pest and disease incidence ranked as second important constraint by 51.66 per cent of the farmers. Some of the respondents faced heavy damage due to stem borer, neck blast and sheath blight in their crop. High cost of hybrid seeds was experienced as a constraint by 45.33 per cent of the respondents. Most of the respondents reported that they were not having enough quantity of seed for future use.

Complexity of new practices and occurrences of heavy weed growth were ranked fourth and fifth, respectively. Most of the respondents thought that the adoption of new practices required specialized knowledge and skills, new implements and more labour. Weed growth was considered as one of the main factors, responsible for declining paddy yield in these areas.

High cost of labour was expressed as a constraint by 73.0 per cent of the respondents as the labourers were demanding higher wages irrespective of nature of work. High cost of inputs was also considered as a constraint by 60 per cent of the respondents. Most of the farm labourers were not properly trained in rice farming right from sowing to post-harvest skills.

Non- availability of credit facilities was reported by 53.3 per cent respondents. Lack of minimum support price was reported by 50.83 per cent of the farmers. Lack of subsidies for input was seen as a problem by 46.67 per cent of the respondents. Some of the respondents expressed that the subsidy amount given by government was very low compared to the actual sale price and various inputs recommended.

Lack of conviction in new technology was experienced by 35.0 per cent of the respondents. Non- availability of desired technology was seen constraint by 31.6 per cent of the respondents in rice cultivation. The recommended rice technology may not be suitable to all the seasons.

Lack of knowledge and awareness about certain technologies was the response given by the 21.67 per cent of the respondents with regard to adoption of rice technologies in their farm.

Weak extension activities at village level were reported by 60 per cent of the respondents and lack of communication, information supplies and services offered by the state government was the institutional constraint, expressed by 53.3 per cent of the respondents. Lack of regulated market as constraint was experienced by 43.3 per cent of the farmers. The entire farming community in the study depends on private traders for the purchase of the inputs and for selling their produce. Due to the absence of regulated market at village level, farmers sell their produce to middle men and get lower price for their produce.

Insufficient training programmes reported by 40 per cent of the respondents and lack of proper communication system was reported as a constraint by 30 per cent of the respondents. Due to the inadequacy of agricultural programmes in radio and TV, print publications *etc.,* the respondents were not aware of yield gap and how to eliminate it (Table).

Table. Constraints of rice production technology.

Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
Bio physical Constraints			
Non-availability of fine quality seed of blast and BPH resistant varieties	38.00	63.30	I
High cost of hybrid seeds	27.00	45.33	III
Complexity of new practice	25.00	41.67	IV
Heavy weed growth	23.50	39.17	V
Pest and disease incidence	31.00	51.66	II
Socio Economic Constraints			
High cost of inputs	36.00	60.00	II
High cost of labour	44.00	73.00	I
Non-availability of trained labour	33.00	55.00	III
Non-availability of credit facilities	32.00	53.30	IV
Lack of subsidy for inputs	28.00	46.67	VI
Lack of support price	30.50	50.83	V
Technological Constraints			
Lack of awareness about IPM technology	13.00	21.67	III
Lack of conviction	21.00	35.00	I
Non-availability of desired technology	19.00	31.60	II
Institutional Constraints			
Weak extension at village level	36.00	60.00	I
Unaware of supplies & services offered by Govt	32.00	53.33	II
Insufficient skill training programmes	24.00	40.00	IV
Lack of proper communication	18.00	30.00	V
Lack of regulated market	26.00	43.30	III
Lack of transport facilities	18.00	30.00	V

It is evident from Table that in respect of adoption of recommended cultural practices non-availability of seeds and fertilizers in the village (98%), non-availability of skilled labour in the peak season (93%) and lack of knowledge about IPM practices (93%) were the major constraints experienced by the rice farmers.

In case of mechanical practices lack of literature (98%), lack of knowledge about IPM practices (93%), non-availability of labour (87%) and costly technology (73%) were the important constraints faced by the respondents. With regard to biological practices, lack of knowledge about IPM practices (98%), non-availability of literature (97%), IPM practices being costly (92%) were the major constraints indicated by the paddy farmers.

Further, in Adoption of chemical practices major constraints experienced by rice farmers were non-availability of literature (98%), non-availability of chemicals in the village (97%) and lack of knowledge about IPM practices (88 %) were the important constrains by rice growers.

Majority of the farmer's expressed non-availability of fine quality seed of blast and BPH resistant varieties. High cost of labour, lack of conviction in the new technologies and weak extension activities at village level were the major constraints faced by the farmers. In respect of adoption of IPM practices non-availability of quality seed and fertilizer, non- availability of plant origin products in village level, non-availability of chemical and literature and non-availability of labour are major

constraints in adoption of IPM practices by rice farmers. Simailar findings were reported by Lakshminarayana (1998) and Thyagarajan (1996).

These constraints can be overcome by organizing timely training programmes, demonstrations, field visits at the village level by Subject Matter Specialists of KVK's and Agricultural Scientists.

Printed material regarding IPM practices should be developed in local languages and made available to the farmers to reinforce and support the messages given through other extension approaches. Therefore, it was necessary to intensify the extension efforts to increase their knowledge level and adoption of recommended rice technologies, which would help in increasing the yield of rice at farm level.

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Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Wyra, Khammam 507 165.
Andhra Pradesh

M S Rao
M Satyanarayana
Ch Pragathi Kumari

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