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Constraints and Suggestions Perceived by Rice FFS Farmers

Key words : Constraints,Farmers Field School, Rice, Suggestions

Rice is an important food crop and is a staple food for over 75 per cent of population in India. In Andhra Pradesh, Agricultural Department has organized first Farmers Field School (FFS) on rice in Krishna district in the year 1998, later on FFS training programmes were extended to other rice growing districts. At present 6223 villages and 56,250 farmers empower on FFS in rice cultivation in the state. The FFS farmers of rice were encountering the several constraints/problems. When implementing the FFS programme on rice, constraint is the item of difficulty faced by the FFS farmers in cultivation of rice. The perceived constraints of the FFS farmers were identified and their suggestions to overcome the constraints were recorded and ranked them based on its intensity of problem.

The study was conducted in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh purposively where FFS on rice is implemented. The Ex-post-facto research design was used. The present study has been taken up in two revenue divisions covering six mandals and 12 villages over a sample of 120 rice farmers. The FFS trainees were given a set of adoption constraints and asked them to mark the problems perceived by them in the adoption of recommended FFS practices and suggestions to overcome them. The data were collected through well structured pre-tested interview schedule, which was coded, tabulated and analysed by using frequency and percentage.

Majority of the respondents revealed that non-availability of seeds at the time of sowing (81.16%) was the major constraint, which was followed by failure of rodent management as mass approach (80.00%), seed treatment not adopted by all farmers (75.83%). The other problems indicated by the respondents were unaware of different symptoms of pests and diseases (68.33%), lack of multiple resistant varieties (65.00%), low usage of green manures and farm yard manure (55.00%), non-availability of neem seeds for 5% NSKE (Neem Seed Kernal Extract) preparation (50.00%), lack of awareness about bio-fertilizers (48.33%), difficulty in remembering of Economic Threshold Level (46.66%), non-availability of bio-control agents (45.00%), untrained facilitators (42.50%), Difficulty in calculating pesticide doses (35.00%), inadequate supply of pheromone traps (7.50%) and only 1 or 2 FFS for a Mandal (5.83%), which were ranked in order of magnitude. Simalar results were reported by Arunachalam (2000), Gogoi *et al.,* 2000, Vamini Varma (2006), Raja (2004), Pandey *et al.,* 2004, Saurabh Sharma *et al.,* 2001.

Suggestions given by the FFS farmers to overcome the problems for effective implementation of FFS programme in rice cultivation

The FFS respondents were requested to offer their suggestions to overcome the problems and for effective implementation of FFS programme in rice cultivation. The suggestions offered by them are presented in frequency and percentages based on their magnitude were calculated and assigned ranks.

Majority of the respondents suggested providing good quality of seed at subsidized rate (80.83%), followed by strengthening rodent management as mass approach (77.50%), wide publicity on seed treatment uses (65.00%), organized more field visits by extension personnel (62.50%), develop pest and disease resistant varieties (55.83%) and more demonstrations organized on green manure and FYM (54.16%), simple procedure to remember ETL (50.83%), availability of bio-control agents at village level (47.50%), trained facilitators to organize FFS (44.16%) and easy ways to solve pesticide doses (40.00%), supply of pheromone traps on subsidy (32.50%), required more number of FFS per Mandal (15.83%), an outlet open at village level for neem seeds (12.50%) and create awareness about bio-fertilisers through mass media (10.00%) were ranked in the order of magnitude.

Non availability of seeds at the time of sowing (81.16%) was the major constraint, which was followed by failure of rodent management as mass approach (80.00%) and seed treatment not adopted by all farmers (75.83%). Majority of the respondents were suggested providing good quality of seeds at subsidized rate (80.83%), followed by strengthening of rodent management as mass approach (77.50%) and wide publicity on seed treatment uses (65.00%).

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