

Relationship of Profile Characteristics of Sri Farmers with their Level of Knowledge on SRI Technology in Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu

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ABSTRACT

Rice is an important staple food crop for the Asian region and India is center of origin with a wide variability. In India, out of the total 604 districts, rice is grown in 560 districts, indicating its importance as a food crop. As rice alone consumes 63.00 per cent of the total irrigated area in Tamil Nadu state, necessitated the need for developing the alternative methods of its cultivation to reduce the stress on this dwindling natural resource. SRI (System of Rice Intensification) is a suitable alternative method of cultivating rice which not only reduces water usage and external inputs like fertilizers but also has a better yield potential. In spite of many concerted efforts since 2000, by Dr. Thiyagarajan of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Department of Agriculture, and NGOs, the spread of SRI with in Tamil Nadu was relatively slow. Recently, it was accelerated by the state government in order to attain the goals of National Food Security Mission and Sustainable Agriculture and the pace has been altered now. Hence, a study was taken up to find out the profile characteristics of SRI farmers and the relationship of these characteristics with their knowledge level on SRI Technology in Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu. The result of the study revealed that, Education, Training Undergone, Social Participation, Extension Contact, Economic Motivation, Scientific Orientation, Management Orientation, Achievement motivation, Innovativeness, Mass media exposure and Risk orientation were found to be positively significant at 0.01 level of probability with their Level of Knowledge in SRI method of cultivation. Age and Farming experience were found negatively and significantly related whereas; Land holding had non-significant relationship with their Knowledge in SRI method of cultivation.

Key words : Knowledge, Profile, Relationship, SRI technology in Rice.