

Impact of Paddy Drum Seeder FLDs on Farmers Knowledge and Adoption Levels

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ABSTRACT

Rice is a staple food for millions of people in the world, particularly in developing countries like India. The demand for rice is growing with ever increasing population. Of late, farmers involved in paddy cultivation are facing several problems viz., uncertainty in availability of canal water, paucity of labour availability coupled with hike in labour wages leads to rice cropping becomes lack luster and less profitable. By considering the above prevailing problems KVK, Darsi popularized paddy drum seeder technology through Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) in adopted villages of Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh from 2011 -13. An attempt was made to assess the impact of paddy drum seeder FLDs organized with respect to farmers knowledge and adoption levels. Constraints and perception of the farmers in adopting the technology were analysed for further refinement of the technology. Ninety paddy farmers who adopted the technology were purposively selected for the study purpose. Majority of the paddy farmers had correct knowledge on main field preparation(90.00%),suitable soils and mechanical weeding (86.67%), season (83.33%), variety (80.00%), seed rate (78.89%), seed soaking (77.78%) and water management (76.67%). Regarding adoption levels majority of them were fully adopting variety (91.11%), season (78.89%), seed soaking (71.11%), suitable soils (68.89%) and mechanical weeding (67.78%). Constraints expressed by the majority of the paddy farmers in adopting the technology were perfect leveling of the field (87.78%), weed management (82.22%), non-availability of weeders (75.55%), germination used to be effected by heavy rains (73.33%) and water management (62.22%). Majority of the FLD beneficiaries perceived that 7-10 days time is saved in drum seeder paddy (86.67%), Perfect leveling of the field is very difficult (85.56%), suitable to smaller areas (84.44%),low cost of cultivation (78.89%) and low incidence of pest and disease (68.89%) in paddy drum seeder technology.

Key words : Impact, Drum seeder, FLD, Paddy.