Standard test to measure knowledge of dry direct seeded rice farmers in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Dry Direct Seeded Rice (DDSR) has gained recognition as a resource-saving substitute for the traditional method of transplanting seedlings into puddled fields. However, whether this practice spreads widely among farmers depends heavily on how completely they grasp the recommended cultivation guidelines. The current study was conducted in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh to develop and validate a reliable tool for measuring growers' understanding of scientific DDSR production methods. With guidance from researchers, technical experts, master trainers and grassroots extension workers, a preliminary collection of fifty statements was compiled and then reviewed for suitability and lucidity. This refined set was administered to thirty farmers outside the main sample, after which each statement underwent item analysis employing the difficulty index, discrimination index and point biserial correlation. Statements showing difficulty between thirty and seventy per cent, discrimination ranging from 0.30 to 0.70, and point biserial values significant at one or five per cent were kept. Ultimately, thirty qualifying statements were chosen and presented through three answer formats. A split-half reliability figure of 0.86 verified the instrument's consistency, whereas the point biserial method confirmed its validity. This finalized test gives extension organisations a trustworthy way to assess knowledge and identify gaps requiring targeted training.

Key Words: *Dry direct seeded rice, Difficulty index, Discrimination index, Item analysis, Knowledge test and Point biserial correlation*