
Perception of the problems in farming community at Hyderabad Pakistan

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Mari, J.M., Shahzadi, A.K. and Chachar, Q.I. (2011). Perception of the problems in farming community at Hyderabad Pakistan. *Journal of Agricultural Technology* 7(1): 9-17.

The study on perception of the problems in farming community in District Hyderabad, Pakistan was conducted through a set of questionnaires during 2007. Three hundred respondents (growers) were personally interviewed, their responses were tabulated. Data were collected on the basic information about cotton growers such as their ages, education, tenancy statuses, sizes of farm, farming experiences, and living status was asked which would highly influence the use of communication media for the perception of the problems in farming community. The growers of the area stated that irregular supply of irrigation and lack of visit of extension personnel, non-availability of inputs, and high cost of inputs were common problems of the area. It was also noted that these are the causes for low yield. It is recommended that government should ensure the better facilities for continue supply of irrigation water and pure inputs with minimum rates in the market.

Key words: perception, problems, respondents, cotton and Hyderabad

Introduction

Scientists and researchers working at agricultural universities are generating a considerable amount of improved agricultural technology and research institutes both at national and international levels. Information concerning these technologies must be disseminated to end users in ways which respond to their needs and which ensure that the information transferred is not only better understood and accepted by the client groups but will be properly and effectively utilized by them (Hassan, 1997). Despite hectic struggle by the Agriculture Department and other allied agencies, our agricultural production is much lower than its potential. This low production is mainly due to lack of awareness on the part of farmers about current agricultural technologies (Chaudhary, 1997). There are many factors, which indicate the problems of growers, which impact the adoption of improved agriculture technologies. Farmers can get more benefits from agriculture if they adopt the

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recommendations of the extension services. Extension services play important role in providing information about new technologies for the improvement of agriculture. They need to know about new developed practices of cotton growing i.e. use of proper seed rate, optimum time of sowing, recommended sowing method, recommended irrigation, optimum plant population, recommended fertilizer applications and sufficient plant protection measures. There is well-organized extension service in District Hyderabad, but our farming community is not deriving the benefit from the extension services, to the extent that would have been possible. Why it is so, what are reasons for not adopting recommended practices? To answer these questions the present study is proposed.

Materials and methods

The study Area

The study was conducted in district Hyderabad that is surrounded by districts of Nawabshah and Sanghar in the north, Mirpurkhas in the east, Dadu in the west and Badin and Thatta in the south. The target population was cotton growers of district Hyderabad. Thirteen Tapas were randomly selected for the study. The selected Tapas were Bakhsho Leghari, Hatri, Hoosri, Hussain Khan Thoro, Kathri, Khathar, Moolan, Serii, Tando Fazal, Tando Haider, Tando Jam, Tando Qaiser, and Thahim, each making the sample size of 300 respondents.

In Pakistan different types of land cultivators and owners exist. Three major types of growers were included in the study (i) Tenant: who takes entire land from others against a fixed rent in cash/kind or a share in production, (ii) owner cultivator: who owns and cultivates his own land, (iii) Owner-cum-tenant: who owns and cultivates his own land and hires some land from others against rent or share in production. It should however, be noted that during the sampling, no bias in the technique was observed. All respondents were selected randomly with different aptitude and interests in cultivation processes. The survey method of the study was adopted by selecting respondents and interviewing with the help of a structured questionnaire during the years 1997-98.

Questionnaire

In the structured questionnaire open-ended questions were provided to respondents so that the un-anticipated responses could be incorporated. The information contained in the questionnaire was further supplemented by on-the-spot interviews and observations. A comprehensive questionnaire was prepared

with the help of research advisor and experts. The questionnaire contained queries regarding literacy status, size of land holding and questions pertaining to the various sources of information influencing the adoption of pesticide application technology for cotton crop in the above cited areas. The questions were grouped under eight aspects of pesticide application. After discussions with progressive farmers and experts of the field, eight sources of information were identified and included in the questionnaire. A 1-5 point like art scale was used to measure the responses regarding the effectiveness of each source of information. The explanations attached with five like art scale were: (1) very high, (2) high, (3) moderate, (4) low and (5) very low impact. The data collected from growers of various farms through questionnaire were tabulated and analyzed.

Collection of data

The data were collected by survey of the study areas and the respondents were interviewed personally in the field. Averagely each interview took about 45 minutes. The answers of selected respondents were prepared to record the questionnaire. All the information was collected, classified, analyzed, interpreted and discussed in the results and discussion section. During the data collection work many difficulties were faced. The respondents were reluctant to provide information about their farming activities. They avoided and were unwilling to show their business activities to others. First, they were taken into confidence that their information would be kept confidential. Once assured, the growers gave the required data. Also the main problem was conveyance to reach the selected respondents, because their villages had Katcha (dirt) roads and dirt tracks. Sometimes un-availability of respondents at the farm delayed data collection.

Analysis of data

A code-book was prepared in which all variables were entered for analyses. The data were analyzed on the micro-computer using the Quattro Pro and Stat graphics packages.

Results

This chapter reveals the outcomes of this research that has been performed to know the farmer's knowledge about recommended practices, adoption of recommended practices, constraints in the adoption of recommended practices and the effectiveness of various information sources in the adoption of new agricultural practices.

Age, education, tenancy status, size of farm, farming experience, and living status were the important factors, which highly influenced the use of communication media for the perception of pesticide hazards by the selected cotton growers in Hyderabad district.

Age as a factor helps in the understanding of problems and in decision-making. Many social scientists consider age as negatively correlated with adoption of innovations. Older people who are supposed to be experienced and could try to adopt new innovation for betterment. Respondents were grouped according to their age levels. Of the total 300 respondents, 33.33% were among 25-35 years of age. Fifty percent respondents were between 36-45 years and 50 respondents (16.67%) were between 46-55 years of age (Table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of respondents on the basis of age level grouping.

Age	Respondents No.	Percentage
25 - 35	100	33.33
36 - 45	150	50.00
46 - 55	50	16.67
Total	300	100

Education usually changes the behavior of people. Through education one can understand and think in logical terms. Moreover, philanthropists consider education as positively correlated with the adoption of new approaches and practices through the mechanisms of learning of new ideas. Due to lack of education, a large number of growers does not respond to or welcome modern technology to improve methods of production. The information collected on grower literacy is summarized in Table 2. It is evident that 51% of the total farmers were illiterate. Of the 49% were literate and among the literate 29.34% had primary education, 17% secondary education, 2.33% college level and only 0.33% (only one grower) was a University graduate. It should be noted that education among farmer's community is very low and the farmers were unable to read and /or write. This means that the Extension agents have to devise tactical needs to be continuous in communication of new ideas to the farmers. Extension agent must not depend upon printed material alone.

Result showed that 41% of the respondents were tenants, 15% were owner, cum-tenants and 44% of the respondents were owner-cultivators (Table 3).

Table 2. Distribution of respondents on the basis of educational level.

Educational Level	Respondents No	Percentage
Illiterate	153	51.00
Primary	88	29.34
Secondary	51	17.00
College	07	2.33
University	1	0.33
Total	300	100

Table 3. Distribution of respondents on the basis of tenancy status.

Tenancy Status	Respondents No.	Percentage
Tenant	123	41.00
Owner operation cum Tenant	45	15.00
Owner cultivator (Land Lords)	132	44.00
Total	300	100

In the less developed countries, farm-size is an institutional factor that affects, to a greater extent, most of the important variables involved in production process to be used. It is generally assumed that farm-size help farmers to adopt process of new innovation if they have bigger land under cultivation. Small peasants do not accept new innovation quickly due to dangers of failure. They usually first see themselves then go for adopting.

The majority of respondents as cotton growers was 64% which land holding of 1-12.5 acres and followed by 30% of cotton growers that hold the land between 12.6-50 acres, and only 6% cotton growers hold the land above 51 acres (Table 4).

Table 4. Farm size of sample cotton growers of Hyderabad District.

No.	Size of holding (Acres)	No. Of grower	Percentage
1.	1 to 12.5	192	64
2.	12.6 to 50	90	30
3.	51 and above	18	6
Total		300	100

"Experience makes man perfect". Experience should be considered as an important demographic factor. Moreover, many social scientists consider experience as the most vital factor for every work being started. However, agricultural scientists considered farming experience as the key to adopt new innovations. Whith this, 16% respondents had the experience of farming up to 10 years. About 25% had 11-20 years, 36% growers had 21-30, and 23% 30 years

and more (Table 5). It is noted that the tenants are kept by the owners for their experience and nature of obedience.

Table 5. Distribution of respondents on the basis of Agro farming experience.

Farming Experience (Years)	Respondent No.	Percentage
Up to 10	48	16.00
11 - 20	75	25.00
21 - 30	108	36.00
Above 30	63	23.00
Total	300	100

Marital status is an important social factor having manifestation in the social standing and the sense of responsibility of married individuals in society. Bachelors being free of many liabilities are mostly optimistic and co-operative. It is revealed that all 300 interviewed respondents, 79% married, 21% bachelors, and no one widowed (Table 6).

Table 6. Distribution of respondents on the basis of marital status.

Status of Growers	Respondents No.	Percentage
Married	237	79.00
Single (Bachelor)	63	21.00
Widow	00	00.00
Total	300	100.00

The majority of respondents was 83% and stated that they faced the problem due to shortage of irrigation water, 76% faced problem due to non availability of worker, 72% problems faced due to lack of inputs, 63% due to lack of roads, 60% respondents faced the problem due to lake of money and non-availability inputs while only 40% respondents faced problem due to lack of knowledge (Table 7).

This study revealed that the farmer field was the first choice of 76.66% and second choice of 23.33% that were educated for farmers field schools program. Booklets was (53.66%) respondents first, (38.33%) second and (8%) third choice. Whereas, (61.33%), (23%), (7.66%) and (8%) respondents opinioned their first, second, third and forth choice, respectively for workshops. While radio was (58%) respondent first (18.33%) second (15.33%) third and (8.33%) forth choice (Table 8).

Table 7. What problems faced by respondents.

Problems in Farming	Respondent No.	Percentage
Shortage of irrigation	250	83
Non availability of worker	229	76
Lack of inputs	216	72
Lack of roads	190	63
Lack of money	180	60
Non-availability of inputs	180	60
Lack of knowledge	120	40
Total	300	100

Table 8. What is the best program to educate to farmers.

Program	1 st choice		2 nd choice		3 rd choice		4 th choice	
	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age
Television	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Farmers field	230	76.66	70	23.33	---	---	---	---
Booklets	161	53.66	115	38.33	24	8	---	---
Radio	174	58	55	18.33	46	15.33	25	8.33
Workshops	184	61.33	69	23	23	7.66	24	8

Discussion

This study showed that majority of respondents that faced production constraints due to irregular and shortage in irrigation system and non availability of lining water courses. The result showed that majority of respondents faced production constraints in lack of inputs. Similarly, Bhatia, *et al.* (1994) suggested that protection measures, fertilizer applications and seed rate were urgently needed for the adoption of improved sugarcane production technology. In the same way as Saccharum (1996) found that mechanical operations, varieties, fertilizer applications and insecticide/pesticide caused of development crop production. Whith this Kuntohartono and Roesmanto (2001) had also described that poor quality of planting material, water shortage, high pest disease and weed infestation effect on sugarcane production. Results from this study were also similar to the work of Khan (1965) which stated that high prices of fertilizers and implements unawareness of improved agriculture practices lack of irrigational supply water were the problems of growers and Jelani (1966) stated that the hindrance which fell in the way of farmers were unavailability of production requisites such as seed, fertilizer, scarcity of irrigation water. As this study, Kumar and Rao (2002) also reported that lack of irrigation water, lack of requisite knowledge, skills of cotton cultivation high cost of cultivation, spurious pesticides, tenant farming, low price of cotton in

the market and high labor charges were reasons of social menace. This study showed that majority of the respondents opinioned for farmers field schools should be applied in providing knowledge. Siddiqui (2004) stated that majority of the farmers preferred farmers field schools as better teaching method for providing knowledge in agriculture innovations. Result also showed that majority of the respondents opinioned that irrigation services should introduce a time table of shortage of irrigation water. Research industry and extension might be more effective in developing and implementing more complex issues and change from the research and extension models currently used may be needed to achieve positive resource management outcome were also stated by Christiansen and Hunt (2000).

The major research findings regarded perception of the problems in farming community in District Hyderabad showed that the majority (83%) of respondents which stated that they faced problems due to shortage of irrigation water, 76% faced problem due to Non availability of ext. worker, 72% problems faced due to Lack of inputs, 63% due to lack of roads 60%. On the basis of research findings, it is suggested that irregular supply of water, expensive rates of input causes for low yield. It is recommended that government should ensure scheduled irrigation management and lining water courses, the pure inputs with minimum rates in the market and make better facilities for continue supply of water. It was found that farmers do not care to use recommended land preparation, time of picking and soil and water testing. Therefore, it is recommended that extension worker should stimulate farmers to use than properly. An extension worker must visit farmers' field for their proper guidance. It is also recommended field schools should be used in adoption of improved practices.

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(Received 20 February 2010; accepted 2 July 2010)