

PROGRESSIVENESS OF FARMERS AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS IN ADOPTING HIGH YIELDING VARIETY OF PADDY*

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Though agricultural sector of Kerala is more commercialized than elsewhere the food production has always been for short of Kerala's requirements. The agricultural department of Kerala has prescribed the package of practices to be followed by farmers. Today the cultivators are responsive to new ideas and are willing to take up improved practices. Even then the rice production has significantly declined. Under these circumstances the study attempts to assess the adoption behaviour of the progressive and non-progressive farmers under the high yielding variety of paddy cultivation and to study the socio-economic characteristics of farmers that are related to adoption of high yielding variety of paddy.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted at Anacode Intensive Paddy Development Unit of Trivandrum district. One hundred and twenty five farmers were randomly selected to measure their progressiveness and adoption behaviours. The data were collected through pre-tested interview schedule. The scale developed by Reddy *et al.* (1974) was used to measure the farmer's progressiveness. The extent of adoption by farmers was calculated as explained by Jaiswal and Dave (1972). The socio-economic characteristic variables were classified by using the mean score of each variable and correlation analysis was employed to find out their relationship with the farmer's extent of adoption.

Results and Discussion

Progressiveness of farmers

Table 1 shows the mean score of 19.40 divides the study sample of 125 farmers as progressive and less progressive farmers. The progressive farmers consisted of 61.60% while 38.40% of the sample groups were less progressive. Thus, two-third of the farmers seem to take lead to follow the package of practices.

Extent of adoption and progressiveness

Table 2 shows that the sample farmers were almost halved equally by the mean adoption score, namely 78.60 under high and low adoption. This is in conformity with Table 3, indicating that the progressiveness of farmers pertaining to

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adoption of important agricultural practices to be high adopters and less progressive farmers as low adopters under high yielding variety programme.

There is no relationship between progressiveness and extent of adoption of improved agricultural practices.

Table 1
Progressiveness of farmers

Progressiveness	Progressiveness score	Number of farmers (N = 125)	Percentage of farmers
Progressive farmers	> 19.40	77	61.60
Less progressive farmers	< 19.40	48	38.40

Mean progressiveness score = 19.40

Table 2

Adopters categorised under high yielding variety programme of paddy cultivation

Adopters categories	Adoption score	Number of farmers (N = 125)	Percentage of farmers
High	> 78.60	63	50.40
Low	< 78.60	62	49.60

Mean adoption score = 78.60

Table 3

Progressiveness and extent of adoption

Adopters category	Progressiveness of farmers		Y Value
	Progressive (N = 77)	Less progressive (N = 48)	
High adopters (N = 63)	33	30	0.0148 N. S
Low adopters (N = 62)	44	18	0.0446 N. S

N. S. = Not Significant

Table 4

Relationship of socio-economic characteristics of farmers with their adoption

Name of characteristics	Particulars of characteristics	Progressive farmers (N=77)		Less progressive farmers (N=48)		Y value
		High adopters	Low adopters	High adopters	Low adopters	
Age	Young upto 35 years	16	16	17	10	0.074 N.S.
	Middle Age 36 to 50 years	10	19	7	6	
	Old Age above 50 years	7	9	6	2	
Extent of holding	>5 acres	1	1	1	0	0.161 N.S.
	2.5 to 5 acres	2	6	5	2	
	<2 5 acres	30	37	24	16	
Education	1 low level	0	2	1	1	0.149 N.S.
	2 to 3 Medium level	17	26	18	15	
	4 High Level	16	16	11	2	
Risk perception	Low	5	3	4	3	0.100 N.S.
	Medium	13	40	24	13	
	High	15	1	2	2	
Perception of cost of innovation	Low	9	1	2	2	0.026 N.S.
	Medium	10	30	20	12	
	High	14	13	8	4	
Perception of profitability	Low	5	5	4	1	0.031 N.S.
	Medium	25	34	23	16	
	High	4	5	3	1	
Social participation	0-2 Low	26	32	16	13	0.116 N.S.
	3-5 Medium	7	11	13	5	
	6-8 High	0	1	1	0	

N S. = Not Significant at 0.05 level of probability

Relationship of socio-economic characteristics of farmers with their adoption

Age

Table 4 showed that there was no relationship between farmer's age and their extent of adoption. It further revealed that almost all the farmers in both progressive (61) and less progressive (40) were coming under middle aged and young farmers out of 125 farmers studied. The old aged farmers are proportionately low in number hence may be the reason for non-relationship with their extent of adoption. The findings also revealed that irrespective of their progressiveness, all farmers of middle age group were cultivating high yielding variety of paddy.

Extent of holding

Table 4 showed that there was no relationship between farmers' extent of holding and their extent of adoption. It revealed that 30 high adopters out of 77 progressive farmers and 24 high adopters out of 48 less progressive farmers had paddy area less than 2.5 acres and thus they were marginal farmers. This was a clear indication that small size of holding will not stand in the way of adopting improved farm technology irrespective of their progressiveness.

Education

Table 4 also evidenced that there was no relationship between farmers level of education and their extent of adoption. Almost all farmers had medium and high level of education, except four, who were at the low level of education. Thirty two farmers out of seventy seven progressive farmers had high level of education, which may be a reason for their progressiveness towards improved technology. At the same time majority of the less progressive farmers, namely 33 out of 48 farmers had only middle school level of education, which might be a reason for their progressiveness.

Risk perception

As per Table 4, no significant relationship was found to exist between farmers' risk perception and their extent of adoption. Fifteen out of 125 farmers had a low perception of risk in adopting improved package of practices in paddy cultivation. Sixty nine progressive farmers took more risk in their farming practices.

Perception of cost of innovation

Table indicated that no significant relationship exists between farmers perception of cost of innovation and their extent of adoption. Table 4 also depicted that 10 progressive farmers and 4 less progressive farmers perceived the cost of innovation under high yielding variety programme of paddy cultivation as low. Only a few farmers perceived high cost of innovation. Hence this might be the reason for the non-relationship with their extent of adoption and perception of cost of innovation.

Perception of profitability

Table 4 showed that there was no relationship between farmers' perception of profitability and their extent of adoption. Fifty eight progressive and thirty nine less progressive farmers belonged to medium level of perception of profitability. Amongst them, it is interesting to note that more farmers in the low adopters' group perceived the profit more than that of the high adopters group. The findings also revealed that the farmers in general had average perception on the profit in cultivating high yielding variety of paddy.

Social participation

There was no significant correlation between farmers' level of social participation and their extent of adoption. Table indicated that the social participation has been quite low both in the case of 58 progressive and 29 less progressive farmers. Only two farmers secured a high social participation. The reason might be due to low income and the standard of living of the small holder.

Summary

Out of the 125 farmers randomly selected for the study, 77 farmers were progressive and 48 farmers were less progressive with the adoption score ranging from 78.60 and above and less than 78.60 respectively, who were considered to be high and low adopters. Regarding their socio-economic characteristics, none was found to be related with their extent of adoption, which may be due to their progressiveness. However, farmers in this area were high risk bearers. They had average perception on the profit in cultivating high yielding variety of paddy.

സംഗ്രഹം

ആനുകോട് ഉൾപ്പെട്ട നെൽകൃഷി വികസന യൂണിറ്റിലെ കർഷകർക്ക് നെൽ ജന്തുസ്സുകളുടെ അനുകരണത്തിനുള്ള പുരോഗമനാശയങ്ങളെയും അവരുടെ സാമൂഹിക സാമ്പത്തിക സ്വഭാവങ്ങളെയും പഠിയ്ക്കുന്ന ഒരു പഠനം നടത്തിയതിൽ ആകെ പഠന വിധേയമാക്കിയ 125 കർഷകരിൽ 77 പേർ ഉയർന്ന അനുകരണ വിഭാഗത്തിലും 48 പേർ താഴെ അനുകരണ വിഭാഗത്തിലും ആണെന്നു കാണപ്പെട്ടു. സാമൂഹ്യ സാമ്പത്തിക സ്വഭാവം അനുകരണ പരിമിതിയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ടതായി കണ്ടു. ഈ പ്രദേശത്തെ നെൽകൃഷിക്കാർ പൊതുവെ പ്രതിസന്ധി അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുന്നവരും മേൽത്തരം ജന്തുസ്സുകൾ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നത് ലാഭകരമാണെന്ന ധാരണയുള്ളവരായും മനസ്സിലായി.

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