

MULTIDIMENSIONAL STUDY ON SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN SCHEMES FOR THE SCHEDULED CASTE FARM FAMILIES

By

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THESIS

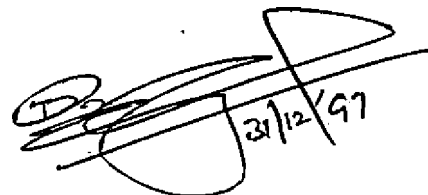
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1997

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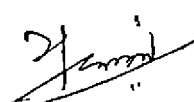
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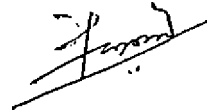
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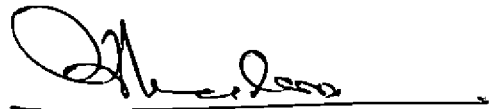
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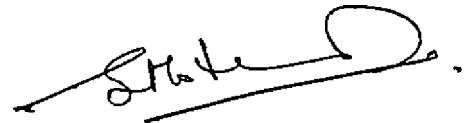


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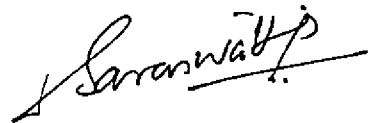
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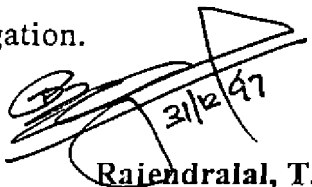
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INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Scheduled castes constitute the most deprived and oppressed section of Indian society. There are some important features that are associated with the Scheduled Castes. These are the stigma of untouchability, lower social status, poverty and unemployment, lack of education, general backwardness, low level of living and inferior quality of life, less privileged and lack of mobility. Scheduled castes in India form about 16.48 per cent of the total population.

In pursuance of the recognition of scheduled castes as vulnerable group, the Constitution of India has incorporated certain provisions and safeguards for the protection and upliftment of scheduled castes in social, economic, educational and service fields. Since then the 'Development of Scheduled Castes' has remained on the agenda of Indian state and society.

Since the beginning of planning era, efforts have been made towards the welfare of 'Backward Class Sector' through Five Year Plans. It was presumed that the real benefits of normal developmental programmes would be gained subsequently by the targeted audience. However, over a period of time it was realised that the benefits accruing from these general programmes to scheduled

castes were very much negligible. Considering their sad state of affairs, the Special Component Plan (S.C.P.) was incorporated in Sixth Five Year Plan for the development of scheduled castes.

In Kerala scheduled caste accounts for about 9.92 per cent of the total population. Among the scheduled castes 53.78 per cent are agricultural labourers and 3.10 per cent are cultivators. Majority of them live in rural areas and mainly depends on agriculture for their livelihood. S.C.P. as an effective instrument for bringing the scheduled castes to the main stream of economic activity by raising their economic status was implemented in the state by the Department of Agriculture since 1979-80.

The S.C.P. scheme of the Agriculture Department is intended to effect improvements in the infrastructure facilities in scheduled caste habitations, providing opportunities of income and employment to the poor scheduled caste households. Composite programmes with relevant inputs, managerial, organisational and financial are being implemented in such a way to generate an additional regular stream of income in agricultural sector.

The progress in agriculture, primarily depends on timely and proper application of technology or scheme by the farmers. The technology or scheme must be scientifically sound, economically feasible, socially applicable, culturally compactable, physically suitable, free from risk and enduring. Further a proper understanding of the scheme and the skill of the beneficiaries

are a pre-requisite for their successful acceptance or adoption of the above schemes. The existing differences in agro-climatic and aforesaid factors do cause variations in the level of perception, attitude and acceptance by the scheduled caste farm families.

The perception, attitude and acceptance in the positive or negative direction of any scheme depends upon a multitude of factors such as personal, agro-climatic, socio-economic and psychological, qualities related with the schemes and the like.

Though the Department of Agriculture implements the S.C.P. schemes year after year for the benefits of the scheduled caste farm families, it is noted that some of them may fail to reach the targeted group, impress and get their positive attitude and acceptance due to various factors.

The trend of perception, attitude and acceptance in the positive or negative direction as the case may be of S.C.P. schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture, if made available in hand would act as a good feed back for streamlining the present process of innovation generation and introduction by the Department of Agriculture to suit to the needs of the scheduled caste farm families.

Hence a study of this kind is of immense necessity to further augment the Special Component Plan schemes in a much more effective way and to do social justice to the most discarded sections of our society. The present study comprises of the following objectives.

1. To study the perception of scheduled caste farm families about the Special Component Plan (S.C.P) schemes implemented through the Department of Agriculture, Kerala
2. To study the attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the Special Component Plan schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala.
3. To study the acceptance of Special Component Plan schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala by the scheduled caste farm families.
4. To delineate the factors influencing the perception, attitude and acceptance of Special Component Plan scheme by the scheduled caste farm families
5. To study the constraints if any perceived by the scheduled caste farm families in the acceptance of the Special Component Plan scheme and to suggest solutions to overcome the constraints.

Need for the study

Scheduled caste form an important group among the weaker sections of the State. Their upliftment is highly essential and for that Government of Kerala has implemented various development schemes, out of which Special Component Plan (S.C.P) is the most important one. In spite of the implementation of S.C.P. schemes by the Department of Agriculture, Kerala

for the last eighteen years (from 1979-80 to 1996-97), the progress made by the scheduled caste farm family is very meagre. A research investigation into the perception of scheduled castes about the S.C.P. scheme, their attitude towards the S.C.P. scheme, acceptance of S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled castes and constraints if any in the acceptance of the scheme by the scheduled caste farm families will enable the formulation of suitable measures to ensure the effective functioning of S.C.P. schemes for the scheduled caste farm families.

Eventhough the State Planning Board, and KIRTADS - Kozhikode have conducted some evaluation studies in this line, these studies were mostly exploratory in nature. Hence this study assumes particular significance in the light of the fact that this is a pioneering research attempt in this area.

Scope of the study

It is important to see whether the S.C.P. schemes implemented by the Agriculture Department for the scheduled caste farm families, function as it is intended, whether the target group perceive it properly, whether they have a favourable attitude towards the scheme and whether they have accepted and adopted the scheme. The present study may help to understand the above facts and throw more light to the problems in the implementation of the scheme. This study may help the planners and administrators in devising a suitable strategy for effective implementation of the S.C.P schemes for scheduled caste farm families.

Limitations of the study

With a scheduled caste population of 28.87 lakhs and 108 different scheduled caste communities distributed in almost all the districts of the state, it was rather impossible to cover all the districts and all the scheduled caste habitats of the State. Considering the limited time and other resources available at the disposal of the researcher, the study was limited to only Palakkad district, the criteria for selection being the district having largest scheduled caste population and largest fund spent under the S.C.P. scheme and to that extent generalisation of the study is likely to be effected. The variables for the study were also limited to a manageable size. In spite of these limitations, much more care has been taken to make the study as objective as possible. Moreover, since the study was based on the expressed opinion of the respondents, it may not be free from their individual biases and prejudices.

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**THEORETICAL
ORIENTATION**

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL ORIENTATION

A review of the existing literature on a topic helps the researcher to develop the theoretical frame-work of the study and assess the nature and quantum of research studies already undertaken in the area of his research. Keeping this in view, an attempt is made to review the related literature. The main objective of this chapter is to portray in broad outlines the conceptual frame of references that has been used for the study. This will provide a theoretical basis for the emperical investigation. It also assists in evaluating one's own research efforts by comparing them with the related efforts of others. The literature that appeared relevant are presented under the following heads.

- 2.1. Concept of scheduled castes
- 2.2. Concept of Special Component Plan (S.C.P)
- 2.3. Concept of Special Component Plan Schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala
- 2.4. Evaluation of Special Component Plan Schemes
- 2.5. Dependent variables (Perception, Attitude and Acceptance)

- 2.6. Independent variables (Personal, economic and socio- psychological variables influencing perception, attitude and acceptance)
- 2.7. Constraints perceived by the scheduled castes in the acceptance of Special Component Plan Schemes

2.1. Concept of 'Scheduled Castes'

'Scheduled Castes' is basically a constitutional concept. The term 'Scheduled Castes' was coined and used by the British Government for legal and administrative purposes. The Constitution of India further standardised and adopted the term.

In April, 1936, the British Government issued an order specifying certain castes, races and tribes communities earlier known as depressed classes as scheduled castes. These castes, races and tribes were socially and economically depressed, they were listed in the 'Schedule' so as to ascertain their accurate numbers. The purpose was also to provide special benefits to them through legislative and executive means.

The Constitution of India does not define the term 'Scheduled Castes'. It is essentially a Juridical category. Article 341 of Indian Constitution, empowers the President to notify by an order the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall for the purposes of the constitution be deemed to be 'Scheduled Castes' with respect to individual states and union territories.

Profile of Scheduled Castes in Kerala

According to 1991 Census report, there are 28.87 lakhs Scheduled Castes population in Kerala accounting for 9.92 per cent of the total population. The Scheduled Castes household number is about 5.93 lakhs. The literacy rate of scheduled caste is 79.66 per cent. The work participation rate of the scheduled castes in the state is 41.21 per cent and the work distribution rate of scheduled castes shows that 53.78 per cent of them are agricultural labourers and 3.10 per cent are cultivators. Number of operational holdings of scheduled caste in the state is 5.21 lakhs and the area operated by the scheduled caste is 50264 hect. (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1. Profile of Scheduled Castes in Kerala

Total scheduled castes population in Kerala	28.87 lakhs
Percentage of scheduled castes to the total population	9.92 per cent
Total number of scheduled castes households	5.93 lakhs
Literacy rate of scheduled castes	79.66 per cent
Work participation rate of scheduled castes in the state	41.21 per cent
Work distribution rate of scheduled castes cultivators	3.10 per cent
Agricultural labourers	53.78 per cent
Total number of operational holdings of scheduled castes	5.21 lakhs
Total area operated by the scheduled castes	50264 ha.

2.2. Concept of Special Component Plan (S.C.P.)

With the advent of Five Year Plans, a number of developmental as well as welfare schemes were undertaken by Central and State Governments for the upliftment of scheduled castes. Despite this, at the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan, it was observed that the developmental effort had not made any significant effect on the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled castes and that majority of them remained highly vulnerable and live below the poverty line.

By the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan period it was realised that the strategy for the development of the scheduled caste should be based on a comprehensive economic and human resource development. It was also realised that this oppressed section of society should be made to participate in the developmental process on equal terms and receive a reasonable share of the fruits of general economic development. To achieve this strategy, Special Component Plan (S.C.P.) was evolved during the Sixth Five Year Plan period with emphasis on family and beneficiary oriented developmental schemes for the development of scheduled castes.

2.3. Concept of Special Component Plan Schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala

Scheduled castes contribute 9.92 per cent of the total population of Kerala and majority of them engaged as agricultural labourers and live in rural areas. In Kerala, the Department of Agriculture has started to implement

the S.C.P. schemes since 1979-80. S.C.P schemes of the Department of Agriculture aims at the comprehensive development of the scheduled castes in the state.

The following are the major objectives of S.C.P schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Kerala.

- To take up location specific agricultural production programme to improve the standard of living of scheduled caste farmers on colony basis.
- To maximise the farm income of the scheduled castes through intensive cropping
- To create self-employment of scheduled castes and schemes for creating assets of scheduled castes
- To provide training to scheduled caste farmers on improved farm technology / practices.

Formulation and implementation of S.C.P schemes

In Kerala state, the S.C.P. scheme was prepared for the first time during 1979-80. Under the S.C.P., the Agricultural Department would earmark a certain percentage of its plan outlay for programmes benefiting scheduled castes. From 1983 onwards, the formulation and implementation of S.C.P.

schemes got decentralised as per G.O (M.S) No. 27/83/P&EA dated 16.01-1983. The decentralised procedure ensures that the schemes for the benefit of the scheduled castes are location based, family oriented and co-ordinated and integrated at the level of the scheduled castes habitat and family.

A working group in each district has been constituted with the District Collector as the Chairman, District Planning Officer as the Secretary and District Development Officer Scheduled Castes, Assistant Development Commissioner and Joint Director of Agriculture as the members.

The working group has to ensure that each scheme is properly integrated with the rest of the plan and that the habitat level and family level co-ordination is properly effected.

The Agricultural Officers of the Krishi Bhavans will visit the scheduled castes colonies / habitats and prepared the need based, location specific agricultural development schemes and submit the same to the Joint Director of Agriculture. The Joint Director of Agriculture (JDA) will consolidate the S.C.P. schemes of all the Krishi Bhavans in a district and formulate the district level schemes according to the S.C.P outlay for the year and submit the scheme for approval of the working group. The guide line issued by the Director of Agriculture will be adhered to in formulating the schemes. After discussion in the District Working Group, the Annual Action Plan of S.C.P scheme will be finalised.

The draft plan should be placed before the District Advisory Committee for scheduled castes before it is taken up for implementation. The technical sanction will be issued by the JDA and administrative sanction will be issued by the District Collector. Finally the sanctioned scheme will be implemented by the Agricultural Officer of the Krishi Bhavans in the scheduled caste habitat selected by the working group in each year. Now the S.C.P scheme benefits are limited only to those scheduled caste families in the I.H.D.P. (Integrated Habitat Development Programme) colonies / habitats selected by the District Working Group.

The major S.C.P. schemes implemented by the Agriculture Department for the last seventeen years (ie., 1979-80 to 1995-96) are listed below.

Distribution of seeds and planting materials which include the supply of paddy seeds, coconut seedlings, vegetable seeds, rooted pepper cuttings, banana suckers, cashew seedlings, cocoa seedlings, clove seedlings, pineapple suckers, turmeric seed rhizomes, kacholam rhizomes, kuttimulla cuttings and fruit plants etc.

Distribution of agricultural implements like Spade, Hand hoe, Pickaxe, Sickle etc.

Distribution of fertilizer to existing crops

Construction of irrigation well

Installation of irrigation pumpsets

Construction of Agro-service centres

Scheme for training to scheduled castes farmers

Distribution of agricultural machineries like Tractor, Power tiller, Rocker sprayer, Knapsack sprayer, power sprayer etc.

All the above mentioned schemes have been implemented by the Krishi Bhavans at hundred per cent subsidy / free of cost.

From the above mentioned schemes, four major schemes which are implemented in the year 1994-95 have been selected for study purpose after consulting the officials of the Agriculture Department. The selected schemes are

1. Distribution of coconut seedlings
2. Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings
3. Distribution of agricultural implements
4. Distribution of vegetable seeds and fertilizers

The physical and financial achievements under S.C.P. in the state during the year 1994-95

Name of scheme	Nos.
No. of coconut seedlings distributed	41480 Nos.
No. of rooted pepper cuttings distributed	1.33 lakh Nos.
Banana suckers	7270 Nos.
Cashew seedlings	2113 Nos.
Rubber budded graft	6069 Nos.
Mango graft	1128 Nos.
Arecanut seedlings	19533 Nos.
Clove seedlings	10755 Nos.
Vegetable seed kits	3497 Nos.
Bush jasmine	36170 Nos.
Fertilizer (worth Rs.)	5.42 lakhs
Agricultural Machinery	
Tractor	6 Nos.
Power tiller	6 Nos.
Rocker sprayer	1975 Nos.
Knapsack sprayer	254 Nos.
Metal storage bins	1962 Nos.
Agricultural Implements	
Manvetty	2592 Nos.
Palm climber	32 Nos.
Thoomba	55 Nos.
Sickles	104 Nos.
Irrigation well constructed	1156 Nos.
Biogas plant constructed	303 Nos.
Farm house constructed	150 Nos.
Agro-service centres constructed	2 Nos.
Total No. of S.C. colony benefited	3256 Nos.
Total No. of S.C. family benefited	64967 Nos.
Total area benefited	7844.40 ha.
Total amount spent under S.C.P. in the state	701.46 lakhs
Amount spent under S.C.P. scheme in Palakkad district	92.07 lakhs

Amount spent under S.C.P. scheme (year wise)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount spent
1979-80	40.936
1980-81	54.868
1981-82	90.188
1982-83	83.291
1983-84	136.676
1984-85	165.869
1985-86	138.528
1986-87	240.310
1987-88	252.810
1988-89	222.291
1989-90	250.530
1990-91	281.037
1991-92	320.000
1992-93	551.813
1993-94	640.354
1994-95	701.458
1995-96	1098.700
1996-97	850.082
Total	6,119.741

(Annual Progress Reports, (1979-80 to 1996-97) Department of Agriculture, Kerala)

2.4. Evaluation of Special Component Plan Schemes .

It is observed that Rs. 6119.741 lakhs had been already spent under the S.C.P. schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala for the last eighteen years (ie., 1979-80 to 1996-97). In spite of this massive expenditure of funds, no scientific study has been conducted so far to study the impact of S.C.P. schemes in Kerala. Hence some of the related studies are reviewed here.

In a study conducted by Yadav (1981) on "Impact of Farm subsidies on Tribal Development" stated that the farm subsidies distributed to the tribals under Tribal Development Agency in Dantewada Tahsil of Madhya Pradesh showed an increase in farm employment days. The income from crop production rose by 10.17 per cent during the period of 1974-75 to 1978-79. Assets on an average showed an increase of 7.7 per cent in the value of total assets as well as farm assets.

Sripal (1983) studied the impact of Tribal Development Programme reported that majority of the tribes (79 per cent) agreed that employment opportunities in farm have considerably increased.

Sripal (1983) again reported that supply of fruit seedlings was utilized to the maximum extent (93.5 per cent) under I.T.D.P (Integrated Tribal Development Project) followed by supply of inputs viz., seeds, pesticides and fertilizers (55.5 per cent) and supply of agricultural implements (11.5 per cent).

Raju Joseph (1987) studied the Impact of Lab to Land Programme on Tribal beneficiaries reported that majority of beneficiaries fell under old aged group. Majority of them (72.5 per cent) belonged to medium level adopters followed by 17.5 per cent low level and 10 per cent high level. There was remarkable increase in the adoption of practice of application of fertilizers after the introduction of the scheme.

Annual report (1990-91) of All India Co-ordinated Project on Scheduled Castes Area Research, Wandoor (under Kerala Agricultural University) reported that the Scheduled Castes beneficiary farmers were able to earn an additional income of Rs. 3000/- from an area of 25 cents by adaptive trial on sesamum cultivation. They have gained deeper motivation to cultivate pulses in garden land according to the module identified by the centre. The project on developing model kitchen gardens yielded good results among the scheduled castes farmers.

The S.C.P. schemes of the Agricultural Department has been evaluated by the KIRTADS (Kerala Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes), Kozhikode and also by the Project Evaluation Unit of the State Planning Board, Kerala.

In 1992, Evaluation study of KIRTADS on S.C.P. schemes at Malappuram district reported that during the year 1985-86 to 1989-90, agricultural implements and coconut seedlings were distributed regularly in a number of scheduled castes habitats. In some cases the beneficiaries were

not interested to nurture the seedlings supplied whereas in some other cases, the seedlings thus supplied had not survived the unfavourable geographical conditions.

KIRTADS study in 1992-93 at Nilampathi Ambedkar Gramam (Krishi Bhavan - Karulai, Malappuram District) on scheme for community irrigation, reveals the following facts.

Amount spent for construction of a community well	Rs. 12000/-
Amount spent for installation of pumpset	Rs. 5000/-
Amount spent for construction of pump house	Rs. 1500/-
Amount spent for construction of overhead tank	Rs. 6500/-
	Rs. 25000/-

But it is noted that although the pump house constructed and pumpset purchased, electricity connection to run the motor has not been given till date due to non-receipt of sanction by the Electrical Wing of the Agricultural Department. Hence pumpset is left idle in one of the houses in the scheduled castes colony.

State Planning Board, Kerala (1993) reported that training programmes designed and taken up on a "Comprehensive package basis" and "need based" turned out to be more effective and beneficial in terms of immediate

employment opportunities to the scheduled castes (90.47 per cent). According to the Kerala State Planning Board, all the five scheduled caste youths trained in Horticulture in Thiruvananthapuram District were employed as Gardners in Children's Park at Akkulum Tourist Complex.

KIRTADS (1994-95) reported that according to the scheme for irrigation facilities to cultivable land available with the scheduled castes house holds during 1990-91, Agriculture Department has spent a sum of Rs. 1.89 lakhs in Mekkodam Ambedkar Gramam (Kasaragod District). In order to supplement this, Minor Irrigation Department has also spent Rs. 2.5 lakhs in the same scheme. But it is observed that pumpset installed for the purpose is lying idle in the pump house for the last few years and so far no land has been brought under irrigation.

KIRTADS (1994-95) reported that the schemes for supply of coconut seedlings and fertilizer at free of cost to each of the beneficiaries in majority of the scheduled caste habitats in Kasaragod district, could not evoke much interest among the scheduled caste beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are not bothered to nurture the coconut seedlings and it often perished totally.

In another study conducted by KIRTADS in the year 1994-95 reported that out of the 27 Knapsack sprayers supplied by the Agriculture Department for scheduled caste families, 25 are found being used by the beneficiaries and it has generated additional income and employment to the scheduled caste beneficiaries.

2.5. Dependent variables (Perception, Attitude and Acceptance)

Perception

Barnett (1953) stated "the perception given to a new idea was not so fortuitous and unpredictable as it some times appears to be"

According to Crow and Crow (1956) perception is the meaningful sensation that assumes an important role in the life of an individual.

Bohlen and Beal (1960) postulated that an individual's response or action is the result of perception of the stimulus which implies the behaviour as motivated by a stimulus.

Jaiswal and Roy (1968) found that farmer's perception of all the six characteristic ie., profitability, cost, physical compactability, cultural compatability, complexity and communicability, significantly influenced their level of adoption of the agricultural innovations.

Tully (1968) stressed that a farmer does not become interested in any information, if he does not perceive it as relevant to his own farming situations, his resources and his goals. The farmers perception will dependent on his value, beliefs and attitudes. These are likely to differ some what from person to person and between farmers and extension workers.

Thakur *et al.* (1970) while studying the extension personnel's perception of package programme observed that majority of the respondents lacked correct understanding of the concept of package programme.

According to Kuppuswamy (1973) perception was a process of

becoming aware of objects or events or characteristics by means of sensory operations. Previous experiences influence present perceptions.

Chandrakandan (1973) found that if the farmers perceived a practice to be more efficient in saving time, labour and money in producing more, it increased their adoption.

Chandrasekharan *et al.* (1975) found that farmers are likely to adopt farm practices when they perceive the practices to be more communicable, simple to adopt, less costly, highly divisible and more profitable.

Arriffin (1975) from his study with Malay peasant farmers, concludes that the farmer is more inclined to accept a recommended agricultural practice if he perceives that the practice is relevant to his situation.

Mitchel (1978) stated that perception is that factor that shapes and produces what we actually experience.

Perception of farmers on development schemes

Balu (1980) stated that 75 per cent of participants of IADP perceived that method of availing benefits was more complicated.

Muthukrishnan (1981) found that majority of the users (93 per cent) of biogas plants had better perception towards the attributes of biogas plants.

Sivaramakrishnan (1981) reported a strong correlation between favourable perception of the attributes of practices and final adoption in the case of recommended practice of paddy, coconut and rubber.

Sudha (1987) conducted study on Lab to Land Programme found that about 55 per cent of the non tribals and 75 per cent of the tribals belonged to the high perception group.

Balan (1987) reported that majority (72.73 per cent) of the farmers were found to have medium level of perception about utility of soil test recommendation. The main reason as perceived by farmers in relation to non adoption of soil test recommendation was the non receipt of results in time.

Khanna (1987) reported that about 90.70 per cent households felt that as a result of IRDP, their family employment had increased, 88 per cent reported that their income had increased and about 77 per cent of selected households felt that their consumption level had increased.

Singh (1988) reported that 90 per cent of sample households expressed the view that as a results of IRDP, their income and family employment had improved, 77 per cent reported that their consumption level had increased and 49.4 per cent reported that they were able to cross the poverty line.

Sharma (1989) found that majority of the beneficiaries of IRDP expressed that the assets provided had helped to generate more income.

Kalivaradhan (1990) inferred that majority of the women beneficiaries of IRDP expressed that they got increased income.

The studies reviewed above show that farmers had different levels of perception about different development schemes.

In this study, an attempt is made to know the perception of scheduled caste farm families about special, Component Plan schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Kerala.

Attitude

Any development programme aimed at the welfare of the people, calls for maximum people's participation. To achieve this participation, the beneficiaries of the programme should have a positive attitude towards the development programme.

Allport (1935) stated that attitude is a mental and neural state of readiness organised through experience, exerting a directive or dynamic influence upon the individual's response to all objects and situations with which it is related.

Thurstone (1946) defined attitude as the degree of positive or negative affect associated with some psychological object towards which people can differ in varying degrees.

Guilford (1954) defined attitude as a predisposition on the part of individual to evaluate some concept, relationship or object in a positive or negative fashion.

Kuppuswamy (1964) stated that attitudes are learned in the course of life experience which make the individuals behave in characteristic ways towards persons, objects or issues to which they get related.

Dahama (1970) stated that attitudes are learned responses and since

they are always found in relation to objects, ideas and persons, they play an important role in determining human behaviour.

Sureshkumar (1989) defined attitude as a summary statement or label for the individual's entire learning history with respect to attitudinal object.

Attitude towards development scheme

A brief review of studies on the attitude towards development schemes is presented below.

Singh *et al.* (1966) found that the farmer's attitude towards the package programme had positive and significant influence in the level of adoption of package of practices.

Prasad (1978) in his study found positive and significant relationship between attitude of farmers towards functional literacy programme related with agriculture and adoption behaviours.

Ponnappan (1982) found that 27 per cent of the beneficiaries had most favourable, 54 per cent favourable and 19 per cent less favourable attitude towards Fish Farmers Development Scheme.

Sajeevchandran (1989) found significant differences in the level of attitude among beneficiaries towards pepper development programmes.

Nelson (1992) reported that majority of the farmers were having high level of attitude towards Krishi Bhavans in Kerala.

Fathimabi (1993) observed that most of the agricultural labourers had favourable attitude towards the welfare schemes for agricultural labourers implemented by the Government of Kerala.

Results of these studies indicated that there could be difference in the level of attitude among the beneficiaries towards the development schemes.

Acceptance

For the present study, the term acceptance is referred to as part of adoption. Adoption is the acceptance and application of some (or) all the recommended practices by respondents in crop husbandry. Hence, literature related to adoption are reviewed here.

Wilkening (1952) postulated the adoption of an innovation as a process composed of learning, deciding and acting over a period of time. The adoption or a decision to act has a series of action and thought decisions.

Sawhney (1961) examined the factors and forces contributing towards the wide differences in adoption and enhancing the process of acceptance and found that they can be explained better from the social, psychological and economic point of view.

Chattopadhyay (1963) defined adoption as the stage in the adoption process where decision making is complete regarding the use of a practice and action with regard to such a practice commences.

Rogers and Shoemaker (1971) defined adoption as a decision to make

use of the innovation. They considered adoption as a decision to continue full use of an innovation as the best course of action.

Rogers (1983) defined adoption as a decision to make full use of an innovation as the best course of action available, or reject it.

Chauhan *et al.* (1987) considered adoption as the action to make use of the technology which has already been taken and not only initiated.

Acceptance of development schemes

Coleman (1955) in his study on adoption of soil conservation practices by farmers observed that the adoption of farm practices by farmers were influenced by social, psychological and economic factors of the respondents.

Singh and Singh (1974) reported that National Demonstrations were effective in helping scientifically oriented farmers in adoption.

Arrifin (1975) from his study with Malay Peasant Farmers, concludes that the farmer was more inclined to accept a recommended agricultural practice if he perceives that the practice is relevant to his situation.

Mann (1978) reported that farmers have adopted selectively from technological packages and that this selectivity can be associated for example, with the suitability of a technology to soil and rainfall conditions.

Kaleel (1978) reported that high adopters of improved agricultural practices were more in Intensive Paddy Development Programme implemented areas than in other areas.

Samad (1979) found that extent of adoption of improved scientific practice was more in coconut package programme areas, than in other areas.

Sanoria and Sharma (1983) found that majority of the beneficiaries of Agricultural Programmes were in medium level of adoption.

Sudha (1987) found that the extent of adoption of transferred technology was more among tribal participant farmers of lab to land programme, than others.

Hazarika *et al.* (1994) reported that there was growing awareness among the scheduled tribes population for uplifting their economic condition through the schemes provided for them and an attitude of acceptance towards them.

Sikligar (1995) argued that before implementing of any afforestation programme in the tribal areas, the government should make clear the objectives of the programmes to be implemented in their areas. Tribals being close to the forests would immediately accept the afforestation programmes.

These studies indicated that there could be a difference in the extent of acceptance between the beneficiaries of Special Component Plan Schemes.

2.6. Independent variables

Personal, economic and socio-psychological factors influencing the perception, attitude and acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farm families.

Age

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Chathopadhyaya <i>et al.</i>	1967	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Menon and Prema	1976	Rural women	P	Attitude
Kher <i>et al.</i>	1978	Farmers	NS	Attitude
Sushama	1979	Tribes	N	Attitude
Manivannan	1980	Sunflower growers	N	Adoption
Prakash	1980	Tribes	N	Adoption
Vijayakumar	1983	Farmers	N	Adoption
Swaminathan	1986	Farmers	N	Adoption
Prasannan	1987	Contact farmers of T&V system	N	Adoption
Adhiguru	1991	Beneficiaries of IPRD	NS	Adoption
Lekshmi	1995	Beneficiaries of social forestry programme	NS	Adoption

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

N - Negative

Education

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Takur	1966	Farmers of Package programme	P	Adoption
Ravichandran	1980	Sugarcane growers	P	Attitude
Kamarudeen	1981	Farmers	P	Adoption
Muthukrishnan	1981	Farmers	P	Perception
Ranganathan	1982	Farmers	NS	Attitude
Vijayakumar	1983	Farmers of SADU	P	Adoption
Sundaram	1986	Farmers	P	Perception
Swaminathan	1986	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Balan	1987	Farmers	P	Perception
Prasannan	1987	Farmers	P	Adoption
Narayanaswamy	1988	Farmers	NS	Attitude
Anithakumari	1989	Pulses and Oilseed Farmers	P	Adoption
Latha	1990	Biogas users	P	Attitude

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

N - Negative

Farm size

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Das and Sarkar	1970	Farmers	P	Attitude
Pillai	1978	Farmers	P	Attitude
Sushama	1979	Tribals	NS	Attitude
Thangavelu	1979	Tribals	P	Attitude
Prakash	1980	Tribals	P	Adoption
Subburaj	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Kamarudeen	1981	Farmers	P	Adoption
Vijayakumar	1983	Farmers	P	Adoption
Krishnakumar	1987	Farmers	P	Attitude
Prasannan	1987	Farmers	P	Attitude
Anithakumari	1989	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Kunchu	1989	Farmers	P	Attitude

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

Occupation

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Sengupta	1960	Women workers	P	Adoption
Das and Sarkar	1970	Farmers	P	Adoption
Somasundaram & Singh	1979	Paddy growers	NS	Adoption

Annual income

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Das and Sarkar	1970	Farmers	P	Attitude
Pillai	1978	Farmers	P	Adoption
Sushama	1979	Tribals	P	Attitude
Kamarudeen	1981	Farmers	N	Attitude
Viju	1985	Tribals	P	Adoption
Baadgaonkar	1987	Farmers	P	Adoption
Aziz	1988	Farmers	P	Adoption
Sivaprasad	1997	Trained youth in agriculture	NS	Adoption

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

N - Negative

Farming experience

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Jayavelu	1980	Farmers	NS	Attitude
Ravichandran	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Bute <i>et al.</i>	1981	Farmers	P	Adoption
Balasubramanian & Kaul	1982	Farmers	N	Adoption
Kumbar	1983	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Jayakrishnan	1984	Farmers	P	Adoption
Adhiguru	1991	Rice growers	N	Adoption
Rajkumar	1992	Farmers	P	Adoption
Sivaprasad	1997	Trained youth in agriculture	NS	Adoption

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

N - Negative

Social participation

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Pillai	1978	Farmers	NS	Perception
Manivannan	1980	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Ravichandran	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Subburaj	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Muthukrishnan	1981	Biogas users	NS	Perception
Ranganathan	1982	Farmers	NS	Attitude
Krishnamoorthy	1985	Farmers	P	Adoption
Sundaram	1986	Farmers	P	Perception
Latha	1990	Farmers	P	Attitude
Sophia	1991	Farmers	P	Perception
Gangadharan	1993	Pepper growers	P	Adoption
Kumar	1994	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Sharma & Singh	1994	Farmers	P	Adoption
Lakshmi	1995	Farmers	NS	Adoption

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

Economic motivation

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Jayavelu	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Subburaj	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Radhakrishna murthy	1984	Paddy growers	P	Adoption
Balan	1987	Farmers	P	Perception
Sajeevchandran	1989	Farmers	P	Adoption
Sethe <i>et al.</i>	1991	Farmers	P	Adoption
Rajkumar	1992	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Gangadharan	1993	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Jnanadevan	1993	Farmers	P	Adoption
Meera	1995	Farmers	P	Adoption
Sivaprasad	1997	Trained youth in agriculture	P	Adoption

Achievement motivation

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Sivaprasad	1997	Trained youth in agriculture	P	Adoption

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

Cosmopolitaness

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Kamarudeen	1981	Farmers	P	Adoption
Viju	1985	Tribals	P	Adoption
Syamala	1988	Farmers	NS	Adoption
Jalcel	1992	Tribals	P	Adoption

Extension orientation

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Ravichandran	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Sirajudeen	1980	Farmers	P	Attitude
Balan	1987	Farmers	P	Perception
Sundaram	1987	Farmers	P	Perception
Baldeosingh	1990	Farmers	P	Attitude
Govind	1992	Farmers	P	Adoption
Jnanadevan	1993	Coconut cultivators	NS	Adoption
Sivaprasad	1997	Trained youth in agriculture	NS	Adoption

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

Information seeking behaviour

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Prakash	1980	Tribals	P	Adoption
Osuji	1980	Farmers	P	Adoption
Krishnamoorthy	1984	Farmers	P	Adoption
Prasannan	1987	Farmers	P	Adoption
Anithakumari	1989	Farmers	P	Adoption
Sivaprasad	1997	Trained youth in sericulture	P	Adoption

Level of aspiration

Author	Year	Respondents	Significant relationship	Depend variable
Sushamakumari, Menon & Bhaskaran	1981	Tribals	P	Adoption
Sanoria & Sharma	1983	Farmers	P	Adoption

NS - Not significant

P - Positive

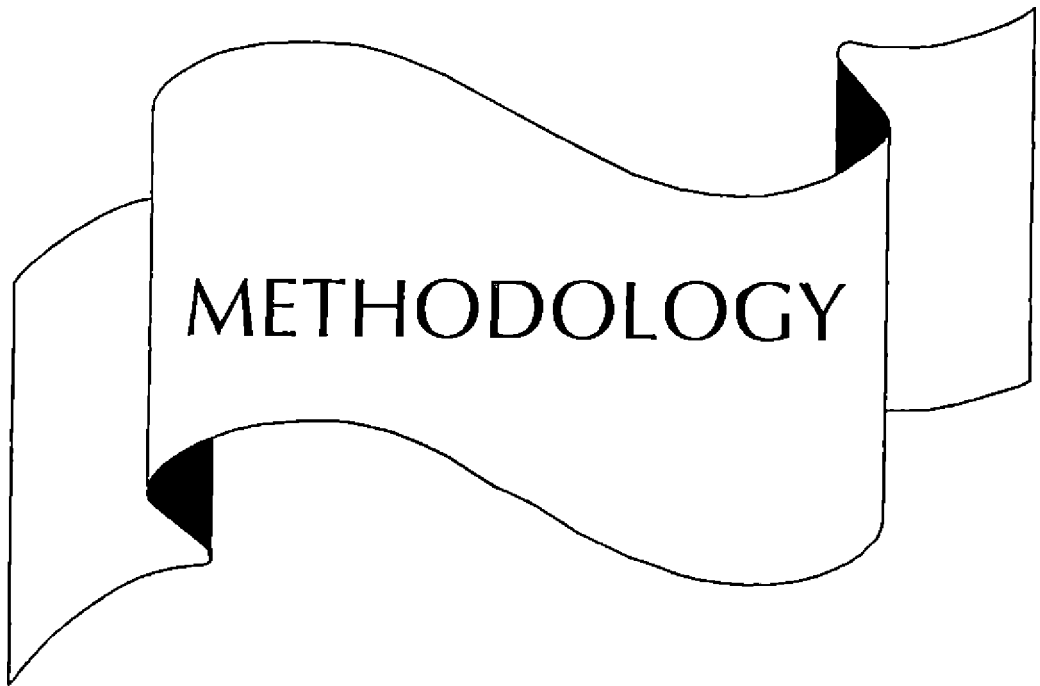
Constraints involved in the acceptance of S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled caste farm families

According to Webster's Third New International Dictionary, to constrain is to check, especially from free or easy indication or expression or to force by structure, restriction or limitation imposed by nature, oneself or circumstances or exigencies.

Pandya and Trivedi (1988) defined constraint as 'those items of difficulties or problems faced by individuals in the adoption of technology'.

Constraints of the related aspects are reviewed below

Author	Year	Respondents	Major constraints
State Planning Board, Kerala	1977	Paddy growers under IPD	Non co-operation of farmers, in difference of farmers on account of excessive fragmentation of holding, spirit of individualism
Kaleel	1978	Paddy growers under IPD	Non-availability of input in time
Duraiswamy	1981	IRDP beneficiaries	Delay in getting the benefits, favouritism, inadequate technical guidance
Ponnappan	1982	FFDA beneficiaries	Supply of input was inadequate and that too at an appropriate time
Ramalingam	1984	IRDP beneficiaries	Non availability of village officials in time, difficulty to get information regarding the scheme and non co-operative attitude of rural work officers
Muthayya <i>et al.</i>	1985	IRDP beneficiaries	Lack of inherent technical facilities
Pillaiar	1985	Weaker sections	Lack of intensive extension service, inadequate supply of inputs, lack of knowledge and lack of credit facilities
Syamala	1988	Farmers under National Demonstration	Lack of follow up, lack of need based training, inappropriate way of conducting field trials
Pillai <i>et al.</i>	1989	Irulas (Tribes)	Poor economic condition, exploitation by settlers and money lenders, inadequate technical assistance
Adhiguru	1991	IRDP farmers	Timeliness of information about subsidy was late
John	1991	Pepper growers	Absence of govt. agency in organising the farmers and providing proper guidance, lack of knowledge and awareness
Jnanadeven	1993	Coconut growers	High labour cost, untimely supply of coconut seedlings, lack of adequate financial assistance and subsidies
Nizamudeen	1996	Kuttimulla growers	Non-availability of inputs, inadequate irrigation facilities, non-availability of credit, absence of practical training and lack of technical expertise



METHODOLOGY

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

This chapter deals with the methodology employed in this study, which are presented under the following subheadings.

- 3.1. Selection of location for the study
- 3.2. Selection of sample
- 3.3. Measurement of variables
- 3.4. Identification of constraints
- 3.5. Data collection procedure
- 3.6. Statistical tools used
- 3.7. Conceptual model for the study

3.1. Selection of location for the study

The study was confined to Palakkad district in Kerala State. This district was purposively selected for the study since the district is having the maximum scheduled caste population in the state (13.11 per cent) and maximum fund spent under the S.C.P. scheme during the year 1994-95.

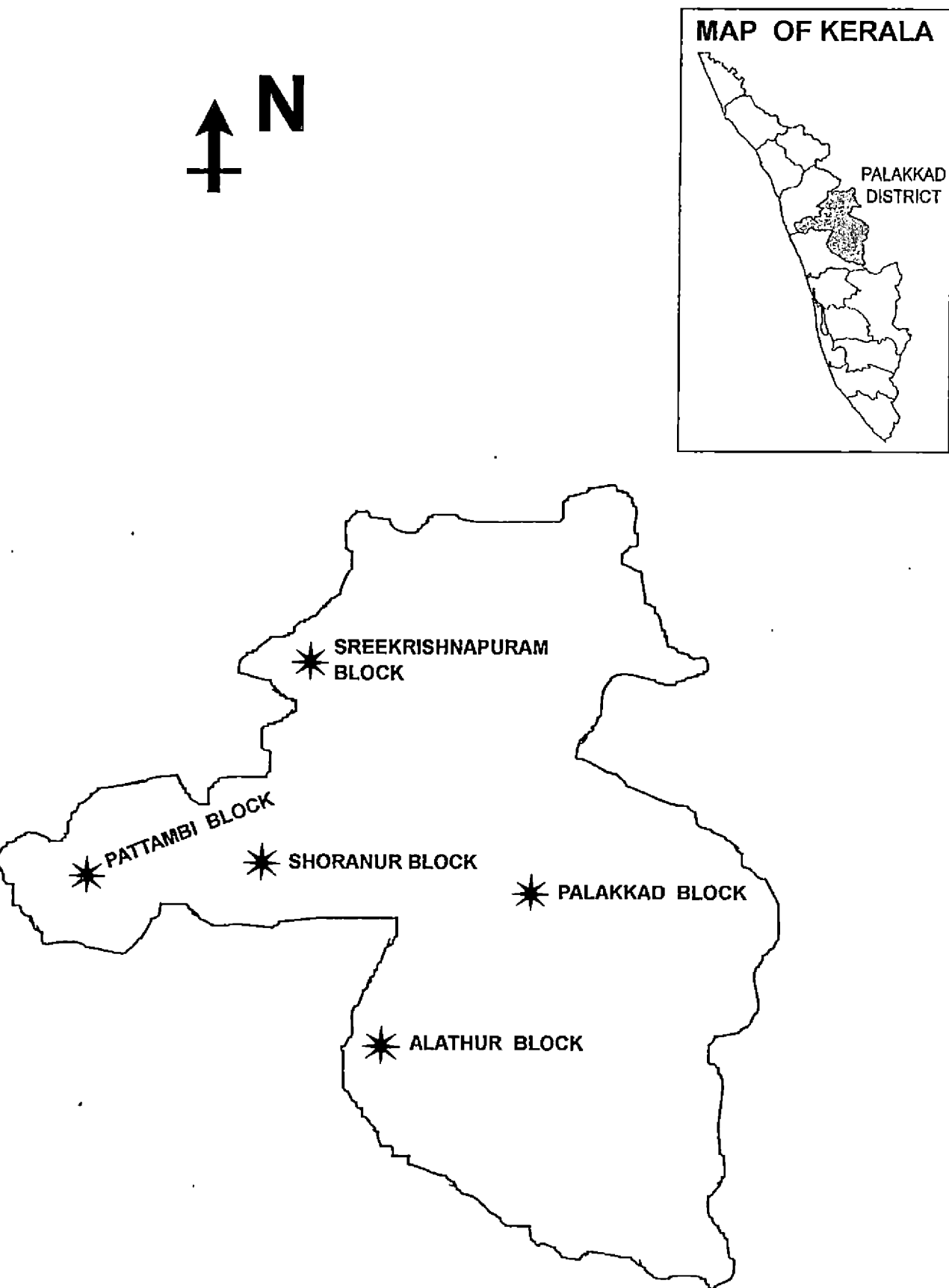


Fig. 1. Map showing the location of the study in Palakkad district

Table 3.1. District-wise population of scheduled castes in Kerala

District	Male	Female	Total	% of total S.C. population
Thiruvananthapuram	167251	176188	343439	11.90
Kollam	150894	154833	305727	10.59
Pathanamthitta	77821	80212	158033	5.48
Alappuzha	93926	96429	190355	6.59
Kottayam	67675	68201	135876	4.71
Idukki	78607	78315	156922	5.44
Ernakulam	120194	121525	241719	8.37
Thrissur	162962	171562	334524	11.59
Palakkad	184850	193698	378548	13.11
Malappuram	126097	129634	255731	8.86
Kozhikode	91547	93073	184620	6.40
Wynad	14192	13643	27835	0.96
Kannur	45418	45085	91223	3.16
Kasaragod	41180	40790	81970	2.84
State	1422614	1463908	2886522	100.00

Source : Census report 1991

Table 3.2. Details of sample size of selected Krishi Bhavans in Palakkad district

Name of Block (Assistant. Director of Agriculture)	Name of Krishi Bhavan	Name of IHDP colony	No. of SC beneficiaries	No. of respondents selected
Pattambi	Pattambi	Chorakannu	41	31
"	Vallappuzha	Cherickal	72	55
Shoranur	Ananganadi	Ezhuthassankalam	43	33
Sreekrishnapuram	Pookottukavu	Kuroolparambu	22	16
"	Trikkaderi	Thalappully	15	11
Alathur	Alathur	Parakunnam	51	39
Palakkad	Mannur	Vengalikunnu Peradikunnu	20	15
Total				200

3.2. Selection of sample

The sample population comprised of 200 number of scheduled caste farmers in different IHDP colonies (Integrated Habitat Development Programme) who have received the components under S.C.P. scheme during the year 1994-95. A two stage sampling procedure was adopted for this study. In the first stage, 7 Krishi Bhavans of Palakkad were randomly selected from within

the 45 Krishi Bhavans where S.C.P. schemes were implemented during the year 1994-95.

In the second stage, scheduled caste farmers in IHDP colonies who have received the components under SCP scheme in the year 1994-95 were randomly selected in proportion to size of the population of scheduled caste in IHDP colonies. Thus 200 number of scheduled caste farmers from seven Krishi Bhavans in Palakkad district were selected as the respondents for the study.

3.3. Measurement of variables

3.3.1. Selection of variables for the study

Based on the objectives of the study, review of relevant literature and discussion with experts both in the Department of Agriculture and Kerala Agricultural University and observations made by the researcher, a list of variables related to the study were prepared. Thus 44 independent variables were framed along with their operational definitions and sent to 60 judges for eliciting their relevancy in a 3-point continuum ranging from 'most relevant' 'relevant' and 'least relevant'.

The scores were assigned as

Response	Score
Most relevant	2
Relevant	1
Least relevant	0

The total score obtained for each variable was worked out and the independent variables having score of 70 per cent and above were selected for the study.

The independent variables thus selected are :

A. Personal variables

1. Age
2. Education
3. Farm size
4. Annual income
5. Farming experiences
6. Occupation

B. Socio-economic and psychological variables

1. Social participation
2. Economic motivation
3. Achievement motivation
4. Cosmopolitaness
5. Extension orientation
6. Information seeking behaviour
7. Level of aspiration

3.3.2. Operationalization and measurement of dependent variables

This part includes a review of methods of measurement of variables used and the empirical measures used in this study.

3.3.2.1. Perception (Perception of scheduled caste farm families about the S.C.P. schemes)

Perception about the Special Component Plan (S.C.P.) scheme is operationally defined as the meaningful sensation of the scheduled caste farmers about the worthiness or value of the S.C.P. schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Kerala.

In the study, perception of scheduled caste farm families about the S.C.P. scheme was measured by using the scale developed by Nair (1969) with necessary modification. It consists of five numbers of characteristics namely awareness, complexity, profitability, suitability and usefulness which were rated in a five-point continuum.

The scoring pattern followed is given below :

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Continuum with score				
1.	Awareness	Very well (5)	Well (4)	Somewhat (3)	Least (2)	Not at all (1)
2.	Complexity	Very easy (5)	Easy (4)	Neither easy nor difficult (3)	Difficult (2)	Very difficult (1)
3.	Profitability	Most profitable (5)	Profitable (4)	Some what profitable (3)	Least profitable (2)	Not at all profitable (1)
4.	Suitability	Most suitable (5)	Suitable (4)	Some what suitable (3)	Least suitable (2)	Not at all suitable (1)
5.	Usefulness	Very useful (5)	Useful (4)	Some what useful (3)	Least useful (2)	Not at all useful (1)

The perception about each characteristics were analysed with respect to the respondents by taking the characteristic wise score alone.

3.3.2.2. Attitude (Attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards S.C.P. scheme)

Attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the S.C.P. scheme was measured by an attitude scale. An attitude scale is one which assess the degree of affect that individuals may associate with some psychological object.

Based on the review of literature and discussion with experts, 65 statements regarding different aspects of S.C.P. schemes were set, so as to make the respondents reflect their attitude through their responses. Then the statements were edited by eliminating those which failed to meet the standard by comparing to the criteria for selection of attitude statements as given by Edwards (1957). Thus 57 statements were finally retained.

The method of Equal Appearing Interval as described by Thurstone and Chave (1929) was used to determine the scale values of attitude statements. For this, the 57 statements were sent to a group of judges comprising of experts of the Department of Agriculture and Kerala Agricultural University. They were asked to respond in terms of their own agreement or disagreement to the statement that whether it will reflect attitude rather than in terms of their judged degree of favourableness or unfavourableness. Thus the responses are obtained on a five-point continuum ranging from most unfavourable, unfavourable, neutral, favourable and most favourable with scores 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and the scoring pattern

was reversed in the case of negative statements. The scores secured on each statement were added and cumulated proportion were computed.

Taking the mean distribution of judgements for each statement as the scale value, the scale value was computed using the formula.

$$S = l + \frac{(0.50 - \Sigma p^b)i}{P_w}$$

where

S - the median or scale value of the statement

l - the lower limit of the interval in which the median falls

Σp^b - the sum of the proportions below the interval in which the median falls

P_w - the proportion within the interval in which the median falls

i - the width of the interval and is assumed to be equal to 1.0

Interquartile range of 'Q' value was also then worked out by finding the 25th and 75th centiles. On the basis of 'S' and 'Q' values, attitude statements were selected, since low 'Q' value indicated a good agreement among the subjects in judging the degree of favourableness or unfavourableness of a statement. Thus 22 statements were finally selected to measure the attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards S.C.P. schemes. The selected 22 statements had almost equal distribution of favourableness or unfavourableness.

Reliability of the scale

In this study, reliability of scale was determined by split-half method. The scale was administered to 30 non-sample scheduled castes of the study area. The scale administered to 30 respondents was divided into two halves, based on odd and even number of statements. Two sets of scores were derived from the same respondents and these were correlated. The co-efficient of correlation (r) between the two scores was found to be highly significant (0.836). Hence it was concluded that the scale was reliable.

Validity of the scale

The developed scale was tested for content validity. The main criteria of content validity is how well the contents of the scale represents the subject matter under study. Since the items selected were from the universe of contents, it was ensured that, the items covered all aspects of S.C.P. schemes.

3.2.3. Acceptance (Adoption)

(Acceptance of S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled caste farm families)

For the present study the term acceptance is referred to as part of adoption. Adoption is the acceptance and application of some (or) all the recommended practices by respondents in crop husbandry as quoted by Kumar. S. Asok (1981). So acceptance is measured by using the procedure developed for measuring adoption process also with necessary modification.

According to Webster's Dictionary, the term to 'adopt' means to take up and practice.

Ban and Hawkins (1990) defined adoption of innovation as the decision to apply an innovation and to continue to use it.

The term 'adoption' in this study was used to mean the proper utilization of S.C.P. schemes of the Agriculture Department by the scheduled castes either fully or partially.

Various researchers have used various methods in the measurement of adoption. Wilkening (1952) used an index for measuring the adoption of improved farm practices. The index of adoption used was the proportion of practices adopted to the total number of practices applicable for that farmer.

Marsh and Coleman (1955) used 'Practice-Adoption Scores' computed as the percentage of applicable practices adopted.

Beal and Rogers (1960) developed a simple adoption scale which was credited to individual with one point for adoption and zero point for non-adoption of a practice.

Singh and Singh (1970) used an 'Adoption Quotient' which was a modification of one developed by Chattopadhyay (1963).

According to this scale, adoption quotient of each respondent was calculated using the formula

$$\frac{\Sigma E/P}{N} \times 100$$

where

Σ - the summation

E - extent of adoption of each practice

P - potentiality of adoption of each practice

N - total number of practices selected

In the present study, the extent of adoption of Special Component Plan schemes by the scheduled caste farm family was measured by an adoption index, developed on the lines of adoption index used by Bhatia (1975) modified by Kumar. S. Ashok (1981) and the researcher. The purpose was to quantify the extent of adoption of S.C.P. schemes. The items selected for finding out the extent of adoption were receipt of different components under S.C.P scheme, planting of seedlings or utilization of components, quality of components, application of manures and fertilizers, application of P.P chemicals and irrigation. All the above items mentioned were selected after conducting a preliminary survey of the beneficiaries in Palakkad district, where the study was conducted.

Every adoption was assigned a unit score of 'one' and non adoption was assigned a score of 'zero'

Level of adoption for individual practice

$$= \frac{\text{Adopted level}}{\text{Recommended level}} \times 100$$

The proportion for all the items were calculated separately. Then the values for all the items were summed up and then divided by total number of items. The resulting value was multiplied by 100 to give the extent of adoption in percentage.

From the adoption score, mean or average was calculated. The score above the average represents high level of adoption and score below the average represents low level of adoption.

3.3.3. Operationalization and measurement of independent variables

The methods used to measure the independent variables are given below:

Age

In the present study, age is defined as the number of calendar years completed by the scheduled caste farmer at the time of interview.

This was measured by directly asking the respondent the number of years he/she has completed at the time of interview.

Education

It is defined as the level of formal education attained by the respondent. Education was measured using the scoring pattern followed by Trivedi (1963).

The scoring pattern used was as follows :

Category	Score
Illiterate	0
Can read only	1
Can read and write	2
Primary level	3
Middle school	4
High school	5
College and above	6

Farm size

In this study, farm size of the respondent was measured as the number of cents of land or area of land in cents cultivated and also owned by him.

Annual income

Annual income is defined as the total earnings of the family for one year. This was obtained by adding the income earned by all adult members of the family and income from land for one year.

Farming experience

Farming experience was measured as the number of years, the respondent has completed in the cultivation of crops, at the time of interview.

Occupation

Occupation of the respondent refers to the position of scheduled caste which provide a source of income and in which he spends major part of his time and attention.

The various categories and scores assigned were as follows :

Category	Score
Agricultural labour	4
Farming	3
Self employment	2
Other source of employment	1

Social participation

Social participation refers to the extent and nature of participation of scheduled caste farmer in various activities of social organisations.

The procedure developed by Lokhände (1973) was used with slight modification, for the purpose of measuring social participation here. The scoring procedure was as follows.

Items	Score
No membership	0
Membership in one organisation	1
Membership in more than one organisation	2
Office bearer in one organisation	3
Office bearer in more than one organisation	4

The score was multiplied by the number of organisation in which the respondents belongs to arrive at the total score.

Economic motivation

It was operationalised in terms of profit maximization and the relative value placed by a respondent on economic ends.

In the present study this was measured using the economic motivation scale by Supe (1969) with slight modification.

The scale consists of five statements. The response were collected in a five point continuum, as strongly agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree with assigned scores of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 respectively for positive statements. The scoring was reversed in the case of negative statements. The score obtained by an individual on all statements were added up to get the economic motivation score of the individual. After calculating the total score, mean of the score were

taken. Scores of the respondents obtained above the mean were considered as high economic motivation and if below the mean as low economic motivation.

Achievement motivation

It refers to the desire for excellence of scheduled caste farmer to attain a sense of personnel accomplishment.

This is measured by a scale developed by Singh (1970) and modified by Monohari (1988). The scale consists of seven statements. The response were measured on a five point continuum as follows.

Response	Score
Strongly agree	5
Agree	4
Undecided	3
Disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1

Total score for each respondent was worked out by summing up the scores on all the items. The possible score range is 7-35.

Cosmopolitaness

Cosmopolitaness is operationalised as the degree to which a scheduled caste farmer is oriented to his immediate outside social system.

In this study the respondents were asked whether they have visited the neighbouring village/town. The responses were collected on a dichotomous pattern 'Yes' or 'No' to which score of 1 and 0 were assigned respectively. To measure the frequency of visit, the following scoring pattern was used.

Frequency	Score
Most frequently	3
Frequently	2
Sometimes	1
Never	0

The purpose of visit was also considered in measuring cosmopolitaness. If the visit is for agricultural purpose a score of 3 and for personal purpose a score of 2 and for entertainment a score of 1 was given. The individual score on cosmopolitaness was calculated by summing up the scores on all the three aspects explained above.

Extension Orientation

This refers to the extent of contact of a scheduled caste farmer with different extension agencies and his participation in various extension activities or programmes like seminar, group discussions, meetings etc.

The extension orientation was measured by summing up the scores for extension contact and extension participation. The extension contact score was obtained by assigning scores 8, 4, 2, 1, and 0 respectively for responses once a week, once a fortnight, once a month, once a year and never, with regard to his

contact with different extension personnel. The scores were added up for all the extension personnel for arriving at the total extension contact score.

Extension participation was measured by summing up the scores obtained by a farmer for his participation in various extension activities. This was qualified by assigning the score 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 respectively for the responses whenever conducted, most frequently, frequently, sometimes and never. The scores were added up for all the extension activities for arriving at the total extension contact score.

The extension orientation score was obtained by summing up the extension contact score and extension participation score of the respondents.

Information seeking behaviour

It was operationally defined as the extent to which the respondent seeks information regarding the S.C.P. schemes from different sources of information.

Information seeking behaviour in the present study was measured using the scale developed for the purpose. Here the respondents were asked to indicate the frequency with which they have contacted the various sources for seeking information regarding the S.C.P schemes and the following scoring pattern was adopted.

Regularly	2
Sometimes	1
Never	0

The sum of the scores obtained on various information sources gives the total information seeking behaviour score of the respondent.

Level of aspiration

It refers to the scheduled caste farmer's over all assessment of his concern for wishes and hopes for the future in his own reality world.

Level of aspiration in this study was measured using the scale developed by Muthayya (1971) with necessary modification. The scale consists of eight statements with three alternatives provided for each item. Relative weights of 1, 2, 3 were assigned for three alternatives. The scores obtained for each item was summated to get the score on level of aspiration. The possible score ranges from 8-24.

3.4. Identification of constraints

One of the objectives of the study was to identify the constraints in the acceptance of the S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled caste farm families.

Various researchers have used different methods to identify the constraints. Notable among them are given below.

Samad (1979) identified constraints in the proper functioning of the coconut package programme using the cumulative index technique.

Ramanathan (1987) developed a constraint index for measuring the constraints in the adoption of high yielding cassava varieties.

Sanjeevchandran (1989) identified constraints in the adoption of recommended agricultural practices under the pepper development programme by asking the respondents to speak out the constraints on a priority basis and based on the frequencies of the pooled constraints they were numerically ranked.

In the present study, constraint is operationalized as those items or difficulties or problems faced by scheduled caste farm families in the acceptance and adoption of Special Component Plan schemes of the Agriculture Department.

After discussion with officials of the department of Agriculture, Kerala, scheduled caste farmers in different habitats and also through a review of relevant literature and based on the experience and observations of the researcher, constraints or problems faced by the scheduled caste farmers who were beneficiaries of S.C.P. schemes were collected. A list containing 24 such constraints were included in the final interview schedule.

The response to each constraint was obtained on a three point continuum viz., most important, important and least important. In order to rank the constraints in the order of importance, a cumulative index was calculated. For this, weightages of 3, 2 and 1 were given to the responses most important, important and least important respectively. The frequency of responses under each category was multiplied with the corresponding weightage and added to get cumulative index for the particular constraint. Based on the cumulative index, the constraints were ranked depending on their degree of importance.

3.5. Data collection procedure

An interview schedule including all aspects mentioned above was prepared in English (Appendix III) and translated to Malayalam for collecting data from the respondents.

The data collection was done during the months of May, June and July 1997. All the 200 respondents were directly interviewed by the researcher. The respondents were contacted in their respective houses in IHDP habitats by creating necessary rapport subsequently questions were asked in a conversational style and responses were transcribed in the schedule itself. In case of responses which were not clear, rechecking was done whenever needed.

3.6. Statistical tools used in the study

Percentage analysis

Percentage distribution of respondents on all variables were worked out by dividing the frequency in each category with the total number of respondents and multiplying by 100. It was done to make simple comparisons wherever necessary.

The respondents were categorised into low and high groups in respect of the different independent and dependent variables by means of the following method.

Class	Description
Low	$< \text{mean}$
High	$\geq \text{mean}$

Simple Correlation Analysis

To study the relationship between each independent variable and dependent variable simple correlation analysis was done.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

ANOVA test was used to compare the difference between four different component schemes under Special Component Plan scheme in respect of perception and acceptance.

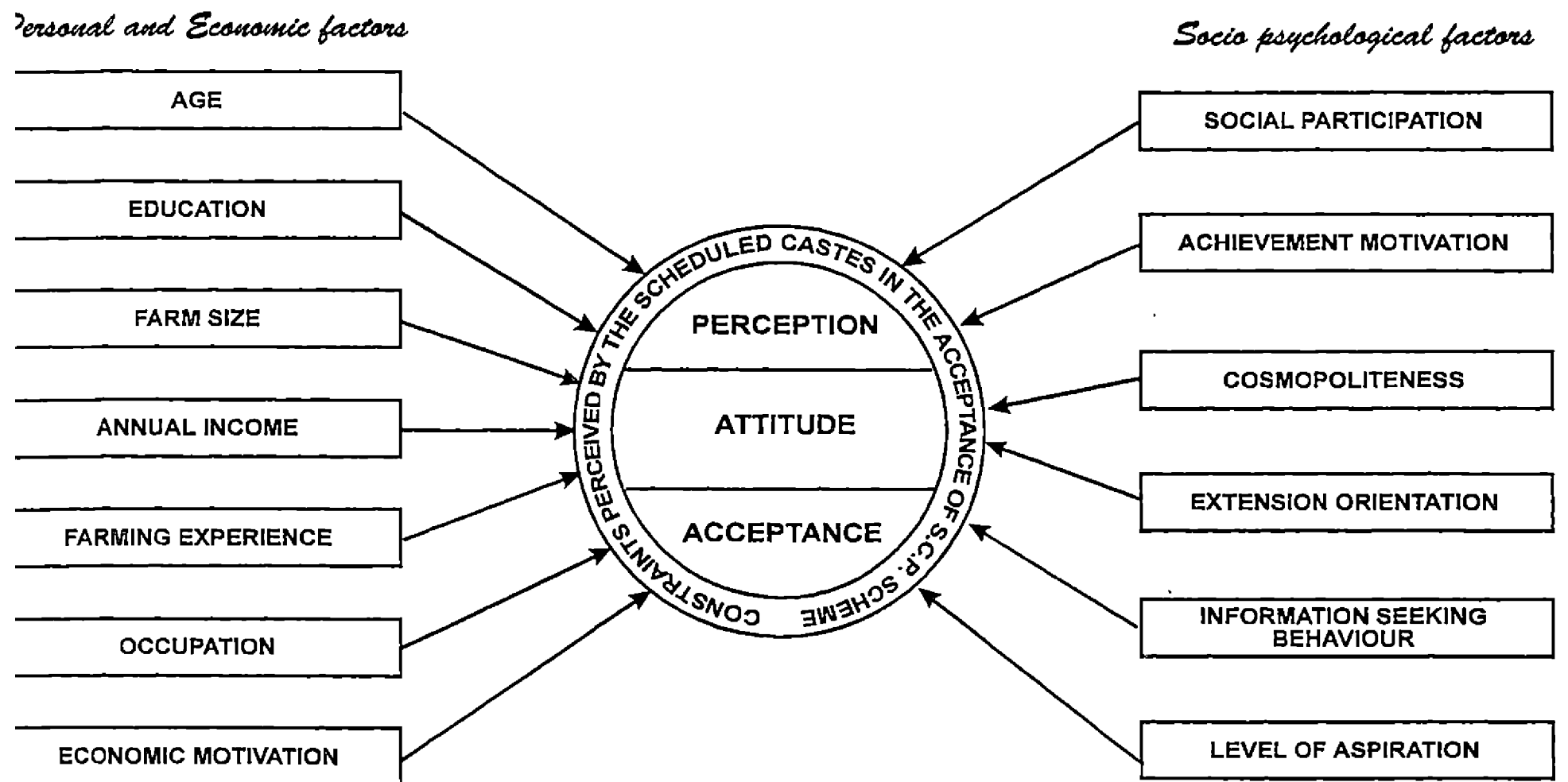
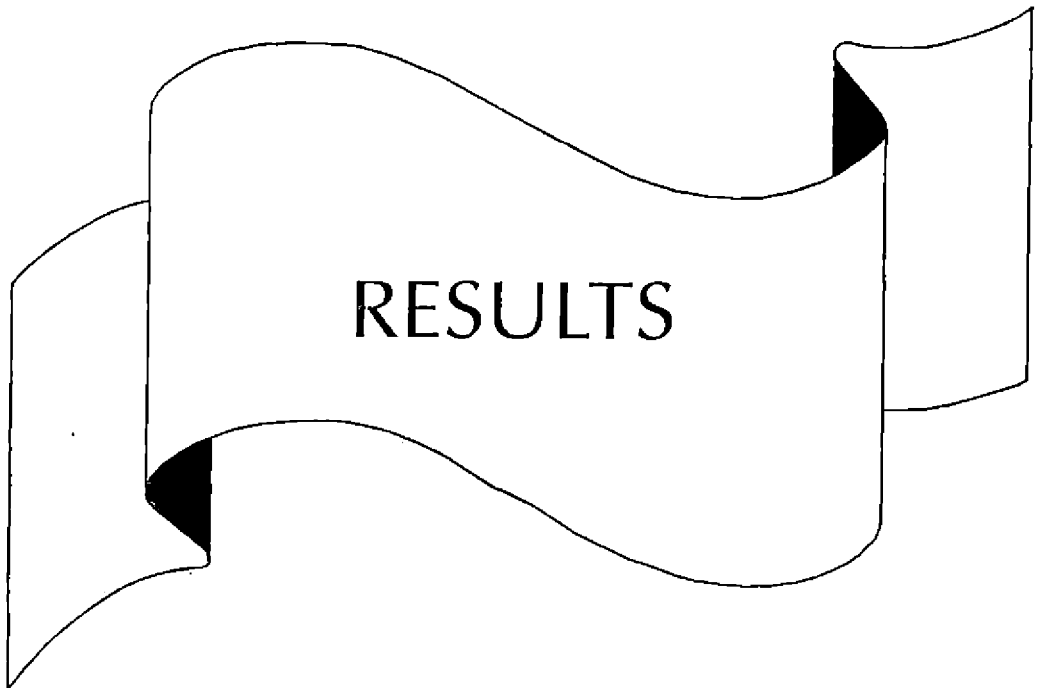


Fig. 2. Conceptual model for the study



RESULTS

CHAPTER IV

RESULTS

The results of the study are presented under the following subheads

- 4.1. Distribution of respondents according to perception, attitude and acceptance of S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farmers
- 4.2. Comparison of the four component schemes under S.C.P. according to perception and acceptance
- 4.3. Personal, economic and socio-psychological factors of the respondents influencing perception, attitude and acceptance
- 4.4. Relationship of perception, attitude and acceptance with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors
- 4.5. Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of different characteristics of perception about S.C.P. scheme (awareness, complexity, profitability, suitability and usefulness)
- 4.6. Acceptance and non-acceptance of individual practice by the scheduled castes farmers of four S.C.P. schemes
- 4.7. Constraints perceived by the scheduled castes in the acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme

4.1. Distribution of respondents according to perception, attitude and acceptance

The perception and acceptance of four component schemes under S.C.P namely scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings, scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings, scheme for distribution of agricultural implements and scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds are studied here and its results are presented in Table 4.1A and 4.1C.

The attitude of the S.C.P. scheme as a whole is studied and its result is presented in Table 4.1B.

A. Perception

1. Scheme for the distribution of coconut seedlings

The perception score of the respondents of the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings under S.C.P ranges from 5-25 with an average score 17.68, of which 47.5 per cent respondents were below the average and 52.5 per cent were above the average.

2. Scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings

Here, 60 per cent respondents were below the average and 40 per cent were above the average score of 11.46 where perception score of the respondents of the scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings under S.C.P. ranges from 5 to 25.

Table 4.1-A. Distribution of respondents on the basis of dependent variable

Sl. No.	Dependent variable Name of the S.C.P. scheme	Average score	No. of respondents (%)	
			Low (< Mean)	High (\geq Mean)
Table 4.1.A. PERCEPTION				
1	Distribution of coconut seedlings	17.865	95 (47.5)	105 (52.5)
2	Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings	11.460	120 (60.0)	80 (40.0)
3	Distribution of agricultural implements	16.230	144 (72.0)	56 (28.0)
4	Distribution of vegetables seeds	14.14	132 (66.0)	68 (34.0)
	Perception about S.C.P. scheme as a whole	58.63	117 (58.5)	83 (41.5)
Table 4.1.B. ATTITUDE				
		69.73	95 (47.5)	105 (52.5)
Table 4.1.C. ACCEPTANCE				
1	Distribution of coconut seedlings	57.53	118 (59.0)	82 (41.0)
2	Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings	49.90	167 (83.5)	33 (16.5)
3	Distribution of agricultural implements	88.02	115 (57.5)	85 (42.5)
4	Distribution of vegetables seeds	63.31	93 (46.5)	107 (53.5)
	Acceptance of S.C.P. scheme as a whole	64.58	102 (51.0)	98 (49.0)

The data in paranthesis denote the percentage mean score.

Scheme for distribution of agricultural implements

The perception score of the respondents of the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements under S.C.P. ranges from 5-25 with an average score of 16.23. 72 per cent of the respondents were below average and 28 per cent were above the average.

4. Scheme of distribution of vegetable seeds

The perception score of respondents of the scheme for vegetable cultivation ranges from 5-25 scores with an average score of 14.14 of which 66 per cent respondents were below the average and 34 per cent were above the average.

Perception of the scheduled caste farm families about the S.C.P schemes as a whole is ranging from 20-100 with an average of 58.63 score. Here 58.5 per cent respondents were below the average and 41.5 per cent respondents were above the average.

B. Attitude

The attitude of the respondents towards the S.C.P scheme as a whole is studied and the results are presented in Table 4.1B.

The attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the S.C.P scheme ranges from the score 22-110 with an average score of 69.73 of which 47.5 per cent were below the average and 52.5 per cent were above the average (Table 4.1B).

C. Acceptance

1. Scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings

Under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings 59 per cent of the respondents were below the average and 41 per cent and respondents were above the average score of 57.53 where the acceptance score of the respondents ranged from 0 to 100.

2. Scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings

The acceptance of the scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings by the respondents ranges from 0-100 score with an average of 49.9 of which 33 per cent were below the average and 83.5 per cent were above the average.

Scheme for the distribution of agricultural implements

The acceptance of the scheme for the distribution of agricultural implements by the respondents ranges from 0-100 score with an average score of 88. Here 57.5 per cent respondents were below the average and 42.5 per cent were above the average.

Acceptance of S.C.P. schemes as a whole by the scheduled caste farm families are ranging from 0-100 score with an average score of 64.58 of which 51 per cent respondents were below the average and 49 per cent were above the average.

Scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds

Under the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds, 46.5 per cent respondents were below the average and 53.5 per cent were above the average score of 63.31 where the acceptance score of the respondents ranged from 0 to 100.

Comparison of the four component schemes under S.C.P. according to perception and acceptance

Perception

The perception of the scheduled caste farm families about different components schemes under S.C.P. differed significantly. The average score is given in Table 4.2 along with S.E. and C.D. value.

The lowest perception score was recorded for the scheme for the distribution of pepper cuttings and highest perception score for the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings followed by the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements. The perception of the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds was lower than the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements but higher than the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings.

Acceptance

The acceptance of the four different components schemes under S.C.P. by the scheduled caste farm families differed significantly. The average or mean score is given in Table 4.2 along with Standard Error and Critical Difference value.

Table 4.2. Comparison of the four component schemes under S.C.P. according to perception and acceptance

Sl. No.	Name of schemes	Mean score	
		Perception	Acceptance
1.	Distribution of coconut seedlings	17.69	57.53
2.	Distribution of pepper cuttings	11.46	49.91
3.	Distribution of Agricultural implements	16.23	88.02
4.	Scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds	14.14	63.31
	SE	0.223	0.925
	CD	0.620	2.566

The acceptance score was highest for the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements, followed by the scheme for vegetable cultivation. The mean score of the scheme for vegetable seeds distribution was higher than that of the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings. The lowest acceptance score was recorded for the scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings.

4.1. Personal, economic and socio-psychological factors of the respondents influencing perception, attitude and acceptance

The respondents were categorised as described in chapter 3 and the results are presented in Table 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 4.3.3.

Age

The age of the respondents ranged from 31 years to 63 years with an average age of 48 years of which 42 per cent of the respondents were below the average and remaining 58 per cent were above the average.

Education

Out of the 200 numbers of respondents 13 per cent respondents were illiterate, 13.5 per cent respondents can read only, 36.5 per cent respondents can read and write, 21.5 per cent were at primary school level, 10.5 per cent were at middle school level and 5 per cent respondents were at High School level (Table 4.3.2).

Farm size

The farm size of the respondents ranged from 5 cents to 95 cents with an average of 15.1 cents of which 72.5 per cent were below the average and 27.5 per cent were above the average.

Annual income

The annual income of the respondents ranged from Rs. 3000 to 10000 with an average of Rs. 4313/- of which 58.5 per cent were below the average and 46.5 per cent were above the average.

Table 4.3.1. Distribution of respondents on the basis of personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

Sl. No.	Character	Average score (score range)	No. of respondents (%)	
			Low (< mean)	High (≥ mean)
1.	Age (years)	48 (31-63)	84 (42.0)	116 (58.0)
2.	Farm size (cents)	15.1 (05-95)	145 (72.51)	55 (27.5)
3.	Annual income (Rs.)	4313 (3000-10000)	117 (58.5)	93 (46.5)
4.	Farming experience (years)	20 (8-30)	109 (54.5)	91 (45.5)
5.	Economic motivation (score)	10.98 (2-23)	112 (56)	88 (44)
6.	Achievement motivation (score)	43.29 (7-32)	126 (63)	74 (37)
7.	Level of aspiration (score)	11.285 (8-22)	128 (64)	72 (36)
8.	Cosmopolitaness (score)	3.38 (0-7)	100 (50)	100 (50)
9.	Extn. orientation	1.88 (0-7)	99 (49.5)	101 (50.5)
10.	Social participation	1.005 (0-3)	170 (85%)	30 (15%)
11.	Information seeking behaviour	1.755 (0-8)	102 (51%)	98 (49%)

Table 4.3.2. Distribution of respondents on the basis of education

Classification	No. of respondents (%)
Illiterate	26 (13.0)
Can read only	27 (13.5)
Can read and write	73 (36.5)
Primary level	43 (21.5)
Middle school	21 (10.5)
High school	10 (5.0)
Total	200 (100)

Table 4.3.3. Distribution of respondents on the basis of occupation

Classification	No. of respondents (%)
Other source of employment	21 (10.5)
Self employment	9 (4.5)
Farming	4 (2.0)
Agricultural labour	166 (83.0)
Total	200 (100)

Data in the paranthesis denote percentage.

Farming experience

Here 54.5 per cent of the respondents were below the average and 45.5 per cent were above the average score of farming experience of 20 years where the farming experience score ranges from 8 years to 30 years.

Occupation

The occupation of respondents were categorised as agricultural labourer, farming, self employment and other source of employment. Out of the 200 numbers of respondents 83 per cent were agricultural labourers, 2 per cent were having occupation of farming, 4.5 per cent were having self employment and 10.5 per cent respondents were engaged in other source of employment (Table 4.3.3).

Social participation

In the case of social participation, of the respondents 85 per cent were below the average and 15 per cent were above the average score of 1.005 where social participation score ranged from 0-3.

Economic motivation

Economic motivation of the respondents ranged from 2 to 23 scores with an average of 10.98 score, of which 56 per cent were below the average and 44 per cent were the above the average.

Achievement motivation

The average score of the achievement motivation of the respondents, were 13.29 with a range of 7 to 32 where 56 per cent were below the average and 44 per cent were above the average.

Cosmopolitaness

Cosmopolitaness of the respondents ranged from 0 to 7 score with an average score of 3.38. Here 50 per cent of respondents were having cosmopolitaness and 50 per cent respondents were having no cosmopolitaness.

Extension orientation

Extension orientation of the respondents ranged from score 0 to 7 with an average of 1.88 score, of which 49.5 per cent were below the average and 50.5% were above the average.

Information seeking behaviour

Information seeking behaviour of the respondents were ranged from 0-8 scores with an average of 1.755 score, of which 51 per cent were below the average and 49 per cent were above the average.

Level of aspiration

Level of aspiration of the respondents ranged from the scores 8 to 22 with an average score of 11.28 of which 64 per cent were below the average and 36 per cent were above the average.

Relationship of perception, attitude and acceptance of respondents with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

The relationship of perception, attitude and acceptance of the scheduled caste farm families about the S.C.P. schemes with their personal, economic and socio-psychological factors are studied and presented in Table 4.4.1, 4.4.2 and 4.4.3.

Relationship of perception with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

A glance at table 4.4.1 reveals that a positive and significant relationship exists between the education, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration. All the above factors were correlated at 1 per cent level of significance. Age and farming experience showed a negatively significant relationship with perception. Farm size, annual income and occupation showed a non-significant relationship with perception and among them farm size and annual income are positively correlated and occupation is negatively correlated.

Relationship of attitude with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

Data presented in table 4.4.2 shows that in the case of attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the S.C.P. schemes, there exists a

negative and significant relationship between attitude and education, farm size, occupation, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration. Except cosmopolitaness and education all other factors mentioned above are correlated at 1 per cent level of significance. The other factors such as age, annual income and farming experience shows a non-significant relationship with attitude.

Relationship of acceptance with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

It is revealed from the table 4.43 that in the case of acceptance of S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled caste farm families, a positive and significant relationship exists between acceptance and education, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration except age which shows a negatively significant relation with acceptance. All the above mentioned factors are correlated at 1 per cent level of significance. There is a positive and non significant relation exists between acceptance and farm size, annual income, farming experience and occupation.

Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of different characteristics of perception about S.C.P schemes

Table 4.4.1. Correlation coefficient of independent variables with dependent variable - Perception

N = 200

Sl. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient (r)
1.	Age	-0.2785**
2.	Education	0.3966**
3.	Farm size	0.0933 ^{NS}
4.	Annual income	0.0916 ^{NS}
5.	Farming experience	-0.1394*
6.	Occupation	-0.1044 ^{NS}
7.	Social participation	0.3465**
8.	Economic motivation	0.3778**
9.	Achievement motivation	0.3578**
10.	Cosmopolitaness	0.2367**
11.	Extension orientation	0.3031**
12.	Information seeking behaviour	0.2553**
13.	Level of aspiration	0.3622**

* Significant at 5 per cent level of probability

** Significant at 1 per cent level of probability

NS Not significant

Table 4.4.2. Correlation of independent variables with dependent variable - Attitude

N = 200

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Correlation coefficient (r)
1.	Age	0.1066 ^{NS}
2.	Education	-0.1716 [*]
3.	Farm size	-0.2128 ^{**}
4.	Annual income	0.0284 ^{NS}
5.	Farming experience	0.0413 ^{NS}
6.	Occupation	-0.2460 ^{**}
7.	Social participation	-0.2117 ^{**}
8.	Economic motivation	-0.2475 ^{**}
9.	Achievement motivation	-0.2518 ^{**}
10.	Cosmopolitaness	-0.1619 [*]
11.	Extension orientation	-0.1844 ^{**}
12.	Information seeking behaviour	-0.3087 ^{**}
13.	Level of aspiration	-0.2049 ^{**}

* Significant at 5 per cent level of probability

** Significant at 1 per cent level of probability

NS Not significant

Table 4.4.3. Correlation coefficient of independent variables with dependent variable -
Acceptance

N = 200

Sl. No.	Independent variable	Correlation coefficient (r)
1.	Age	-0.2900**
2.	Education	0.3396**
3.	Farm size	0.0709 ^{NS}
4.	Annual income	0.0046 ^{NS}
5.	Farming experience	-0.0846 ^{NS}
6.	Occupation	0.0021 ^{NS}
7.	Social participation	0.3005**
8.	Economic motivation	0.3354**
9.	Achievement motivation	0.3458**
10.	Cosmopolitaness	0.2371**
11.	Extension orientation	0.2491**
12.	Information seeking behaviour	0.2924**
13.	Level of aspiration	0.3138**

* Significant at 5 per cent level of probability

** Significant at 1 per cent level of probability

NS Not significant

Awareness

Data presented in Table 4.5.1 shows that majority of the respondents (83.52 per cent) had very well developed awareness about the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings under S.C.P. In the case of the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings 50.56 per cent respondents were having well awareness about the scheme. Under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements, majority of the respondents (60.53) had very well developed awareness about the scheme. Majority of the respondents (51.45 per cent) made an opinion that they were having very well developed awareness about the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds.

Among the four different component schemes, the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings got the highest awareness score.

Complexity

Table 4.5.2 reveals that majority of the respondents (52.45 per cent) had opinion that it was easy to cultivate coconut seedlings supplied under the S.C.P. scheme. In the case of rooted pepper cuttings supplied, majority of the respondents (51.37 per cent) made opinion that it was neither easy nor difficult to cultivate pepper cuttings. About 53.50% of the respondents had opinion that agricultural implements supplied under the schemes was easy to be utilized. In the case of vegetable seeds supplied under the scheme, majority of respondents (54.46%) made opinion that it was very easy for them to cultivate the vegetable seeds. It is very interesting to note that 2% and 3.35% of the respondents expressed their opinion that it was very difficult to cultivate coconut seedlings and rooted pepper cuttings respectively.

Table 4.5.1. Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of perception of awareness about S.C.P. schemes

Name of schemes	Awareness in percentage				
	Very well	Well	Somewhat	Least	Not at all
Scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings	83.52	11.50	4.98	0	0
Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings	15.50	50.56	22.00	11.94	0
Distribution of agricultural implements	60.53	19.97	15.50	4.00	0
Distribution of vegetable seeds	51.45	25.54	17.52	5.49	0

Table 4.5.2. Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of perception of complexity of S.C.P. scheme

Name of S.C.P. schemes	Complexity in percentage				
	Very easy	Easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Difficult	Very difficult
Distribution of coconut seedlings	30.55	52.45	8.5	6.5	2.0
Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings	15.57	19.35	51.37	10.36	3.35
Distribution of agricultural implements	32.0	53.50	14.50	0	0
Distribution of vegetable seeds	54.46	24.54	18.50	2.5	0

Among the four component schemes, scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds got the highest score which means that it was very easy for them to cultivate vegetable seeds.

Profitability

From a glance at Table 4.5.3 it was observed that majority of the respondents (50.56 per cent) made opinion that coconut seedlings supplied under the scheme was some what profitable in their area. Under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings 54.32 per cent of the respondents had also the above opinion that rooted pepper cutting supplied was some what profitable in their area. But in the case of agricultural implements supplied, majority of the respondents (52.76 per cent) expressed their opinion that the use of agricultural implement was profitable. Among the four component schemes, the distribution of vegetable seeds got the highest profitability score (57.53 per cent)

It is very interesting to note that 1.97 per cent of the respondents had opinion that rooted pepper cuttings supplied under the scheme was not at all profitable in their area.

Suitability

40.52 per cent of the respondents under the S.C.P scheme made opinion that scientific cultivation of coconut seedlings supplied was somewhat suitable in their farming situation in view of the resource available at their disposal.

Majority of the beneficiaries of rooted pepper cuttings was perceived to be some what suitable in their farming situation. But 53.65 per cent of the respondents expressed their opinion that agricultural implements supplied under the S.C.P. scheme was suitable in their situation. Majority of the beneficiaries (50.57 per cent) made opinion that vegetable seeds supplied under the scheme was suitable for scientific cultivation in their farming situation considering the resources available (vide Table 4.5.4).

Among the four component schemes, the distribution of agricultural implements got the highest suitability score (53.65 per cent) and it is also noted that 8.51 per cent of the respondents and 15.95 per cent of the respondents respectively for the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings and rooted pepper cuttings under the S.C.P. scheme made opinion that these two component scheme were not at all suitable in their farming situation.

Usefulness

A glance at Table 4.5.5 reveals that majority of the beneficiaries of schemes for distribution of coconut seedlings (51.53 per cent) expressed their opinion that cultivation of coconut seedlings supplied were useful. Majority of the beneficiaries of agricultural implements (57 per cent) and vegetable seeds (50 per cent) were having the opinion that agricultural implements and vegetable seeds supplied under the scheme were useful. Among the four component schemes, rooted pepper cuttings was perceived to be least useful for them.

Table 4.5.3. Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of perception of profitability of S.C.P. schemes

Name of S.C.P. schemes	Profitability in percentage				
	Most profitable	Profitable	Somewhat profitable	Least profitable	Not at all profitable
Distribution of coconut seedlings	20.0	26.0	50.56	3.44	0
Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings	7.46	12.51	23.74	54.32	1.97
Distribution of agricultural implements	24.35	52.76	20.54	2.35	0
Distribution of vegetable seeds	19.62	57.53	16.34	6.51	0

Table 4.5.4. Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of perception of suitability of S.C.P. schemes

Name of S.C.P. schemes	Suitability in percentage				
	Most suitable	Suitable	Somewhat suitable	Least suitable	Not at all suitable
Distribution of coconut seedlings	17.51	22.46	40.52	11.0	8.51
Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings	14.32	16.53	33.69	19.51	15.95
Distribution of agricultural implements	30.53	53.65	9.43	6.39	0
Distribution of vegetable seeds	19.71	50.57	25.00	4.46	1.5

Acceptance and non-acceptance of individual practices by scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings

A perusal of the table 4.6.1 shows that 85.23 per cent of the beneficiaries have planted the coconut seedlings supplied under the scheme. 14.77 per cent of the beneficiaries have not planted the seedlings eventhough 100 per cent of the beneficiaries have received coconut seedlings from the Krishi Bhavan. In the case of quality of seedlings, 80.25 per cent beneficiaries are satisfied with the quality of seedlings, supplied under the scheme. Only 40.5 per cent beneficiaries have accepted the practice of application of manures and fertilizers. 59.5 per cent of beneficiaries have not applied manures and fertilizers. Only 10.65 per cent beneficiaries have applied the recommended Plant Protection (P.P.) chemical and majority (89.35 per cent) have not applied the recommended P.P. chemicals. In the case of irrigation, only 12 per cent of beneficiaries have accepted the practice of irrigation and 88 per cent have not accepted irrigation practice in the summer season.

Acceptance and non-acceptance of individual practices by scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings

A perusal of the Table 4.6.2 shows that 9.5 per cent of the beneficiaries have not planted the rooted pepper cuttings eventhough 100 per cent of beneficiary farmers have received the components. In the case of quality of pepper cuttings, 93.45 per cent of beneficiaries are satisfied with the quality

of rooted pepper cuttings supplied. Only 30.25 per cent farmers have accepted the practice application of manures and fertilizers. Majority of the beneficiaries (79.75 per cent) have not applied the manures and fertilizers. In the case of application of recommended P.P chemicals, majority of the beneficiaries, (87.69 per cent) have not applied recommended P.P chemicals. Acceptance of irrigation practice was done by only 5.35 per cent of beneficiary farmers which is very negligible.

Table 4.5.5. Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of perception of usefulness of S.C.P. schemes

Name of S.C.P. schemes	Usefulness in percentage				
	Very useful	Useful	Somewhat useful	Least useful	Not at all useful
Distribution of coconut seedlings	26.97	51.53	21.50	0	0
Distribution of rooted pepper cuttings	6.35	19.50	20.74	53.41	0
Distribution of agricultural implements	22.00	57.50	14.00	6.50	0
Distribution of vegetable seeds	25.50	50.00	23.00	1.50	0

Table 4.6.1. Acceptance and non acceptance of individual practices by the scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings

Sl. No.	Name of practice	Percentage	
		Acceptance	Non acceptance
1.	Receipt of coconut seedlings	100	0
2.	Planting of coconut seedlings	85.23	14.77
3.	Satisfaction with quality of coconut seedlings	80.25	19.75
4.	Application of manures and fertilizers	40.50	59.50
5.	Application of P.P chemical as recommended	10.65	89.35
6.	Irrigation	12.00	88.00

Table 4.6.2. Acceptance and non acceptance of individual practices by the scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings

Sl. No.	Name of practice	Percentage	
		Acceptance	Non acceptance
1.	Receipt of rooted pepper seedlings	100	0
2.	Planting of pepper seedlings	90.50	8.50
3.	Satisfaction with quality of pepper cuttings	93.45	6.55
4.	Application of manures and fertilizers	30.25	69.75
5.	Application of P.P chemical as recommended	12.31	87.69
6.	Irrigation	5.35	94.65

Acceptance and non acceptance of individual practices by scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements

The results shown in Table 4.6.3 indicate that majority of beneficiaries (60.45 per cent) under the scheme had regularly used the agricultural implements. It is also noted that majority of the beneficiary farmers (60.75 per cent) had accepted the agricultural implements and found that it was helpful in increasing their efficiency in farm and income.

Acceptance and non acceptance of individual practices of scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds

The results shown in Table 4.6.4 indicate that 13.58 per cent of beneficiaries of the scheme had not sown the vegetable seeds supplied even though hundred per cent of the beneficiary farmers had received the vegetable seeds under the scheme. Regarding the quality of vegetable seeds, majority of the farmers (82.5 per cent) had satisfied and accepted the quality of vegetable seeds supplied under the scheme. More than half of the farmers (62.75 per cent) had not accepted the practice - application of manures and fertilizers. It is also noted that a huge majority of the scheduled caste farmers (95.25 per cent) had not accepted the practice of application of recommended P.P chemicals to vegetables. It is interesting to note that nearly 34.31 per cent of farmers under the scheme had accepted the irrigation practice to vegetables even though majority of the farmers (65.69) per cent had not adopted the above practice.

Table 4.6.3. Acceptance and non acceptance of individual practices by the scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements

Sl. No.	Name of practice	Percentage	
		Acceptance	Non acceptance
1.	Receipt of agricultural implements	100	0
2.	Regular usage of agricultural implements	60.45	39.55
3.	Helpful in increasing the efficiency in farm and income	60.75	39.25

Table 4.6.4. Acceptance and non acceptance of individual practices by the scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of vegetables seeds

Sl. No.	Name of practice	Percentage	
		Acceptance	Non acceptance
1.	Receipt of vegetable seeds	100	0
2.	Sowing of vegetable seeds	86.42	13.58
3.	Satisfaction with quality of vegetable seeds	82.50	17.50
4.	Application of manures and fertilizers	37.25	62.75
5.	Application of P.P chemical as recommended	4.75	95.25
6.	Irrigation	34.31	65.69

4.7. Constraints perceived by the scheduled caste farmers in the acceptance of Special Component Plan schemes

The most important constraints as perceived by the scheduled caste farmers in the acceptance and adoption of S.C.P. schemes are listed below. The constraints are ranked after finding out the cumulative index. These constraints are presented according to their rank order (Table 4.7).

From the data presented in table 4.7, it was observed that the 'S.C.P. schemes are not location specific' was the most important constraint as perceived by the scheduled caste farmers closely followed by 'S.C.P. schemes are not problem oriented' with cumulative index of 2.75 and 2.74 and rank 1 and 2 respectively. The third important constraint was 'Planting materials and other agricultural inputs are not supplied in time' with cumulative index of 2.67. Lack of necessary technical intervention and supervision during the implementation of S.C.P. schemes by the extension agents', 'Agriculture Department does not take any effort to make participate scheduled castes in the planning and implementation of S.C.P. schemes' and 'Lack of financial assistance' were ranked 4 to 6 in the descending order with cumulative index of 2.66, 2.62 respectively. The other important constraints are 'the extension personnels are not much devoting their time for the effective implementation of S.C.P. schemes, 'lack of periodic monitoring and evaluation', lack of knowledge and awareness about S.C.P. schemes', 'S.C.P. schemes are not remunerative' which were ranked from 7 to 10 in the descending order with cumulative index of 2.58, 2.57, 2.51 and 2.48 respectively.

Table 4.7. Constraints perceived by the scheduled caste farmers in the acceptance of Special Component Plan schemes

Sl. No.	Constraints	Frequency of response	
		Cumulative index	Rank number
1.	S.C.P. schemes are not location specific	2.75	1
2.	S.C.P. schemes are not problem oriented	2.74	2
3.	Planting materials and other agricultural inputs are not supplied in time	2.67	3
4.	Lack of necessary technical intervention and supervision during the implementation of S.C.P. schemes by the extension agencies	2.66	4
5.	Agriculture Department does not take any effort to make participate scheduled castes in the planning and implementation of S.C.P. schemes	2.62	5
6.	Lack of financial assistance	2.60	6
7.	The extension personnel are not much devoting their time for the effective implementation of S.C.P. schemes	2.58	7
8.	Lack of periodic monitoring and evaluations	2.57	8
9.	Lack of knowledge and awareness about S.C.P. schemes	2.51	9
10.	S.C.P. schemes are not so remunerative	2.48	10

Table 4.7. (Contd...)

Sl. No.	Constraints	Frequency of response	
		Cumulative index	Rank number
11.	S.C.P. schemes are not formulated based on the actual needs and requirements of scheduled caste families in the scheduled caste habitat	2.47	11
12.	S.C.P. scheme lacks co-ordination of different development departments	2.45	12
13.	Non-availability of quality planting materials (seeds and seedlings)	2.42	13
14.	A cordial relationship is not existing between the Department of Agriculture and scheduled caste farmers for the introduction of S.C.P. scheme	2.41	14
15.	Sufficient quality of planting materials are not available	2.40	15
16.	Misutilization of the incentives by the scheduled castes due to unawareness and intervention of middle men	2.37	16
17.	The S.C.P. scheme did not consider the cultural factors and socio-agro climatic conditions of the area before the introduction of S.C.P. scheme in the scheduled caste habitat	2.30	17
18.	Lack of timely technical advice regarding the cultivation of planting materials supplied under S.C.P. scheme	2.28	18

Table 4.7. (Contd...)

Sl. No.	Constraints	Frequency of response	
		Cumulative index	Rank number
19.	S.C.P. schemes have not considered maximum utilization of existing infrastructure facilities	2.18	19
20.	The need of the family labour was not highlighted for the success of S.C.P. scheme	2.09	20
21.	Procedure of getting benefits under the S.C.P. scheme is a time consuming process	2.02	21
22.	The presence of self help groups are not given importance while introducing of S.C.P. schemes	2.01	22
23.	Under S.C.P. scheme effective involvement of fellow farmer was not considered	1.76	23
24.	Arrangement are not made for the majority of the produce under the S.C.P. scheme	1.54	24

A decorative banner with a wavy, ribbon-like shape. The banner is white with a black outline and features the word "DISCUSSION" in a bold, black, serif font centered on it. The banner has a slight 3D effect with black shading on the inner curves of the folds.

DISCUSSION

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

The results obtained in this study are discussed and interpreted in this chapter under the following sections.

- 5.1. Distribution of respondents according to perception, attitude and acceptance of S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farmers.
- 5.2. Comparison of the four component schemes under S.C.P. according to perception and acceptance.
- 5.3. Personal, economic and socio-psychological factors of the respondents influencing perception, attitude and acceptance.
- 5.4. Relationship of perception, attitude and acceptance with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors.
- 5.5. Distribution of schedule caste farmers on the basis of different characteristics of perception about S.C.P. scheme. (awareness, complexity, profitability, suitability and usefulness).

5.6. Acceptance and non-acceptance of individual practice by the scheduled caste farmers of four S.C.P. schemes.

5.7. Constraints perceived by the scheduled castes in the acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme.

5.1. Distribution of respondents according to the perception, attitude and acceptance of S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farmers

Perception

The results of perception of four component schemes under Special Component Plan namely the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings, scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings, scheme for distribution of agricultural implements and scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds are presented in Table 4.1A.

The results revealed that the scheduled caste farmers under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings are having the highest perception score followed by the schemes for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings, vegetable seeds and agricultural implements in the descending order.

It was seen that more than half (52.5 per cent) of the beneficiaries under the S.C.P. scheme were found to have high perception about the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings. This might be due to the high awareness and less complexity and also more profitability, suitability and usefulness

about the scheme. The favourable attitude (52.5 per cent) of scheduled caste farmers towards the S.C.P. scheme might have influenced their sense of perception about the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings. This finding was in line with Sundaram (1986). Under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings, 60 per cent of the respondents were distributed below the average perception score. It might be due to less awareness about the scheme and difficulty to cultivate pepper cuttings in their habitat. Majority of the respondents were distributed below the average perception score under the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds also. This might be due to less profitability and less usefulness of the scheme. The lowest perception score was recorded for the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements. Because, a good majority of the S.C.P. beneficiaries (72 per cent) were distributed below the average perception score. This might be due to less awareness, more difficulty in utilizing the components, less profitability, suitability and usefulness of the scheme.

The result of the total perception of S.C.P. scheme revealed that majority of the scheduled beneficiaries (58.5 per cent) had low perception score. This might be due to their low educational and socio-economic status and less contact with extension agency which might have lead to very less awareness about the profitability and usefulness of the S.C.P. scheme.

Hence, the extension agency of the Agriculture Department should try to make aware the scheduled castes about the profitability and usefulness of S.C.P. scheme.

Attitude

Attitude of scheduled caste farmers towards the S.C.P. scheme as a whole was studied and the results are presented in Table 4.1B.

A glance at table A.1B revealed that more than half of the (52.5 per cent) scheduled caste farmers had favourable attitude towards the scheme. But 47.5 per cent of beneficiaries are yet to develop a favourable attitude towards the scheme. This might be due to certain constraints like, untimely supply of inputs, implementation of the scheme without considering their needs, lack of financial and technical support etc.

This result was in line with Samad (1979) Fathimabi (1993) and Jnanadevan (1993). Timely supply of inputs, planning and implementations of the scheme after considering the actual needs of the beneficiaries, necessary financial and technical support etc. may help to develop a better attitude towards the S.C.P. scheme.

Acceptance

The results of acceptance of four component schemes under S.C.P. presented in Table 4.1C revealed that majority of the respondents (53.5 per cent) comes under the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds with regard to their acceptance. This might be due to the high awareness, knowledge and favourable attitude developed towards the vegetable scheme. Scheduled caste farmers could be able to accept this scheme because of their abundant local available resources very much suited to cultivate vegetables.

Among the four component schemes, very less number of respondents (16.5 per cent) were categorised under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings. This might be due to the reason that the local available resources within the scheduled caste habitat might not be suitable for cultivating pepper. Also they might not have the technical knowledge of cultivation of pepper properly.

The table also revealed that 59 per cent of beneficiaries were under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings and 57.5 per cent beneficiaries under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements. This might be due to untimely supply of the above components, unsuitability of location specific scheme etc.

However, the results of total acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme presented in the table 4.1C revealed that nearly half of the respondents (49 per cent) are distributed above the average level and thereby very much encouraging regarding the acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farm families. This finding was in line with the finding of Lekshminarayanan (1984).

4.2. Comparison of the four component schemes under S.C.P. according to perception and acceptance

The data presented in Table 4.2 shows the comparison between the beneficiaries of the four selected component schemes under S.C.P. in respect to their perception and acceptance.

4.2.1 Perceptions of scheduled caste farmers about S.C.P. schemes

The C.D. Value (0.620) in Table 4.2 clearly indicates that there was significant difference between the beneficiaries of the four component schemes under S.C.P. with respect to their level of perception.

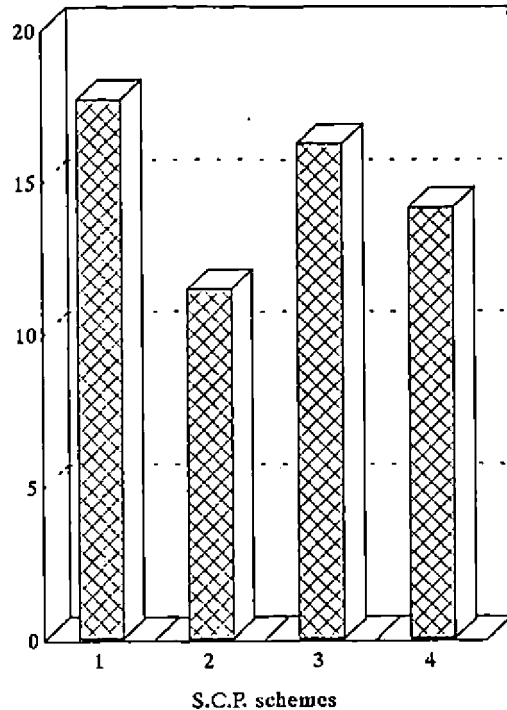
While observing the data critically, it could be noticed that the highest perception was in the case of beneficiaries of scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings (Mean Score Value - 17.69) and the lowest perception was in the case of beneficiaries of the scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings (Mean Score Value - 11.46).

The highest perception related to the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings might be due to high awareness and less complexity of cultivating coconut and more profitability, suitability and usefulness of the scheme. This particular scheme was the major scheme under S.C.P. which was implemented in the scheduled caste habitats continuously over years. That also might be one of the reasons for this high perception.

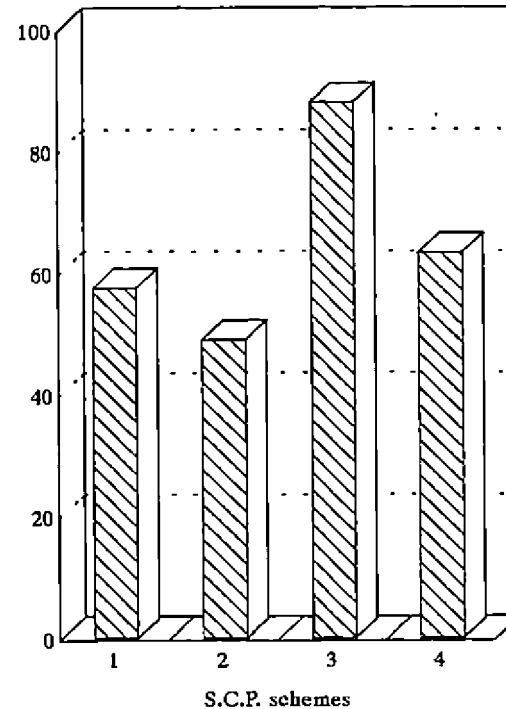
The lowest perception for the beneficiaries under the scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings might be mainly due to the less awareness and more difficulty of cultivating pepper cuttings in their habitats. Less profitabilizing and less suitability of the scheme might have contributed favourably for the low perception.

The perception related to the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements was higher than the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds

PERCEPTION



ACCEPTANCE



1 - Scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings

2 - Scheme for distribution of rooted pepper seedlings

3 - Scheme for distribution of agricultural implements

4 - Scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds

Fig. 3. Mean score of four S.C.P. schemes according to perception and acceptance

which might be due to the suitability and usefulness of the scheme to their occupation. The perception of the S.C.P. beneficiaries under the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds was lower than that of the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements. This might be due to less profitability and less usefulness of the scheme.

4.2.2. Acceptance of S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled caste farmers

The C.D. Value (2.566) in Table 4.2 clearly indicates that there was significant difference between the beneficiaries of the four components schemes under S.C.P. with respect to their acceptance of S.C.P. schemes.

The results presented in Table 4.2 revealed that the highest acceptance score (88.02) was recorded for the beneficiaries of the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements. This might be due to the reason that most of the scheduled caste beneficiaries under the S.C.P. scheme are agricultural labourers (83 per cent) and they might be regularly using these agricultural implements supplied, for their daily work in their farms. So the supply of agricultural implements might have helped them much in increasing their efficiency in their farm helping them to get more income and hence the result. This result is in line with the finding of Jnyanadevan (1993). When compared to the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings, the distribution of vegetable seeds had the higher acceptance. (Mean score 63.31). This might be due to the reason that vegetable crop is a short duration one which requires less inputs like fertilizers and irrigation and less labour involvement. S.C.P. beneficiaries were getting the income within a short period from their vegetable

cultivation. This finding is in conformity with All India Coordinated Project on Scheduled Caste Area Research, Annual Report - 1990-91.

The scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings had less acceptance among the scheduled caste beneficiaries (Mean score 57.53) even though they had high perception about the scheme. This might be due to certain constraints experienced like untimely supply of coconut seedlings, lack of finance, non availability of inputs at free of cost, inadequate irrigation facilities and lack of supervision and technical intervention by the extension personnel. So strengthening the timely input supply and extension support might be the solutions to enhance their acceptance. This finding is in line with the results of Jnyanadevan (1993).

The table 4.2 also revealed that the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings had recorded the lowest acceptance score (49.91) compared to all the other three schemes. This might be mainly due to the low perception about the profitability, suitability and usefulness of the scheme. The scheduled caste farmers might not have planted the standard for growing the pepper cuttings. Also they might have not developed the required technical knowledge about the cultivation of pepper.

4.3 Personal, economic and socio-psychological factors of the respondents influencing perception, attitude and acceptance

4.3.1. Age

An appraisal of the Table 4.3.1 revealed that more than half of the beneficiaries (58 per cent) of S.C.P. scheme, comes under the old age group.

This might be due to the fact that most of the government programmes like S.C.P. concentrate mainly among the beneficiaries having enough land under their possession. In the scheduled caste habitat, land were under the ownership of old aged group of farmers.

4.3.2. Education

Education is life blood in any developmental activity as it helps people understand and practice the ideal preached. With regard to the educational status of the respondents, a wide variation was noticed. It was evident from the Table 4.3.2 that a great majority of the respondents were literate. This points out the fact that the respondents want their younger generation to take up employment with higher status and prestige in the society. This view was also reported by Sakeer Hussain (1993).

4.3.3. Farm size

The results in Table 4.3.1 revealed that majority of the scheduled caste farmers (72.5 per cent) had land holdings below 15 cents. This might be due to the fact that scheduled castes are living in the scheduled caste colony set up and hence they might have possessed less area of land. The average farm size of scheduled castes were very low. This shows that they were not getting good income from the cultivation of crops. The reason behind the low farm size was that they neither inherited much land from their ancestors nor they own much land using their own money because of their high expenditure. Thus it explicitly points out the low economic background



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of scheduled castes. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Sakeer Hussain (1993).

4.3.4. Annual Income

Majority of the scheduled caste families (58.5 per cent) were below the average annual income of Rs. 4313. This might be due to their low economic backwardness. Majority of them were agricultural labourers and they might be getting very limited number of employment days in the farming sector in an year. Since the possession of land for cultivation was very less, there was no scope for more income from farming. This might be the reason for the present result.

4.3.5. Farming experience

As per the Table 4.3.1 majority of the respondents (54.5 per cent) comes under low group of farming experience with an average farming experience of 20 years. This might be due to the fact that scheduled caste farmers had less area for cultivation under their possession and naturally they might have less farming experience regarding the scientific cultivation of crops.

4.3.6. Occupation

The results presented in Table 4.3.3 revealed that majority of the scheduled castes were agricultural labourers (83 per cent) and only two per

cent of the respondents belonging to the farming occupation. Traditionally the scheduled castes were agricultural labourers and their educational and socio-economic background was not so encouraging. This might be the reason for the result obtained.

4.3.7. Social participation

As observed from Table 4.3.1, 85 per cent of the respondents had low social participation. This finding is in agreement with that of Sakeer Hussain (1993). This might be due to the low socio-educational background of the scheduled caste.

4.3.8 Economic motivation

More than half (56 per cent) of the scheduled caste farmers had low level of economic motivation. This might be because of their low educational status, coupled with low level of aspiration. The finding of the study was in accordance with that reported by Shilaja (1990).

4.3.9. Achievement motivation

The study revealed that scheduled caste farmers had very less achievement motivation. Table 4.3.1 Shows that majority of them (37 per cent) were below the average achievement motivation. Achievement motivation is the spontaneously expressed desire of an individual to obtain an inner feeling of personal accomplishment rather than social recognition or prestige.

The low achievement motivation might be due to low economic background and low educational status of the respondents.

4.3.10. Cosmopolitaness

As furnished in Table 4.3.1, the distribution of respondents in the high cosmopolite group and low cosmopolite group was almost equal. However, the mean score for this variable was below the average (3.38). This indicated that the respondents had low level of cosmopolitaness. This might be mainly due to the less educational status or illeteracy. An uneducated or illeterate individual will be naturally less cosmopolite through which he gets latest information.

High cosmopolitaness of the respondents might be the results of their high educational status.

4.3.11. Extension orientation

Regarding extension orientation, the table revealed that more than half (50.5 per cent) of the respondents comes under high group of extension orientation. This could be considered as a commendable consequence accruing in favour of the participant scheduled caste farmers for having participated in the S.C.P. schemes. This finding was in agreement with that of Ramachandran (1992).

4.3.12. Information seeking behaviour

Regarding the information seeking behaviour, the table indicated that more than half (51 per cent) of the respondents had only low information

seeking behaviour. This might be due to the reason that most of the scheduled castes are living in rural areas and employed as agricultural labourers and hence they might not be in a position to gather information from different sources and they might not got time to seek information regarding the scheme since they are engaged for their daily earning. This finding is in agreement with that of Priya Varma (1996).

4.3.13. Level of aspiration

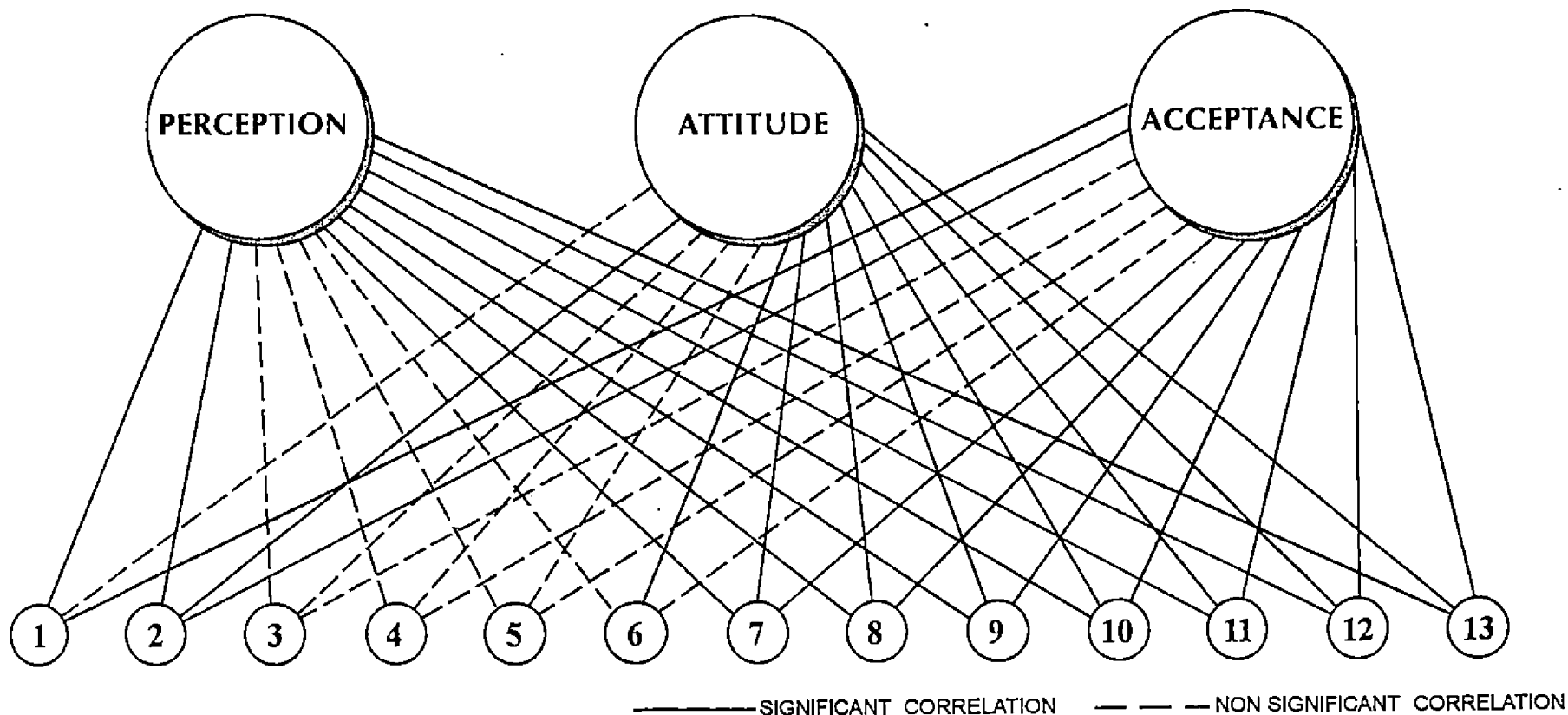
The level of aspiration is found to be low (37 per cent) among majority of the respondents. This means that most of the scheduled caste in the habitat are quite uncertain about their future and they have only limited tendencies to set forth future goals and levels of achievements. As most of them were aged, they could not aspire for more except self actualisation during their last stage in human cycle.

4.4. Relationship of perception, attitude and acceptance with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

4.4.1. Relationship of perception with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

From the results of correlation analysis presented in Table 4.4.1. and Fig. 4, it could be seen that education, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, cosmopolitiness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration were positively and significantly related to the perception of scheduled caste farmers about S.C.P.

Fig. 4. Correlation of Perception, Attitude and Acceptance with the personal, socio-economic and physiological factors



- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Age | 2. Education | 3. Farm size | 4. Annual income | 5. Farming experience | 6. Occupation | 7. Social participation |
| 8. Economic motivation | 9. Achievement motivation | | | 10. Cosmopolitaness | | 11. Extension orientation |
| 12. Information seeking behaviour | | 13. Level of aspiration | | | | |

schemes. This findings is in agreement with that of Jnyanadevan (1993). Age and farming experience showed a negative significant relationship with perception. The remaining factors, farm size, annual income and occupation were found to have no significant relationship with perception.

Educational status of the scheduled caste farmers might have raised the awareness of the farmer about the benefits of the scheme. His power of perception about the effectiveness of S.C.P. schemes might have been favourably influenced by the educational status and hence resulted in positively significant relationship. This result is in agreement with Jaleel (1992) and Viju (1985).

Economic motivation of the scheduled caste farmer was positively correlated with their perception about the S.C.P. scheme. A farmer seeking more monetary gain is likely to invest more money on production inputs. Under the S.C.P. schemes, many number of components were supplied to scheduled caste farmers at free of cost. Once this departmental assistance was availed, the farmer was likely to develop a positive attitude towards S.C.P. scheme. Naturally he might be more inquisitive about the other benefits of the scheme. This would lead to more awareness and perception about the S.C.P. scheme. This finding is in agreement with that of Sundaram (1986) and Balan (1987).

Social participation was found to have positive relationship with the perception of scheduled caste respondents. This might be due to the fact that as social participation increases the farmers establish more contacts with other people. This might have resulted in improving their awareness about the

scheme and its merits, thereby creating a favourable change of attitude within them. This might have resulted in a better perception about the S.C.P. schemes. This result is in line with that of Sundaram (1986).

Extension orientation also showed a positive and significant relationship with perception about the scheme. Krishi Bhavan, which is responsible for implementing S.C.P. schemes in the scheduled caste habitats employ various extension techniques to persuade the scheduled caste farmers to adopt and utilize the schemes in an effective way. In this endeavour, the Agricultural Officer and other field staff of the Krishi Bhavan might try to make the beneficiary farmers convinced about the effectiveness of S.C.P. scheme. As a consequence of their dissemination of knowledge to the beneficiary farmers, the level of perception of the scheduled caste beneficiaries about the S.C.P. scheme might have increased. This is in agreement with the findings of Sundram (1986) and Balan (1987).

In this study it was found that there was a positive and significant relationship between cosmopolitanism and perception. The scheduled caste family whose orientation is outside his immediate colony / habitat is likely to be more knowledgeable about the Government programmes. He might have contacted with politicians, local leaders and relatives outside their habitat, resulting in an exposure to the pros and cons of the agriculture and Government programmes, outside his immediate surroundings. Moreover, a more cosmopolitan family might be in a position to make use of more number of information materials for their betterment.

Information seeking behaviour was positively and significantly correlated with perception. This clearly indicates, the fact that the beneficiaries might have used radio, personal contact etc. effectively to increase their awareness which might lead to the perception of scheduled castes about the S.C.P. schemes. This result was also reported by Sajeevchandran (1989).

Positively significant relationship between level of aspiration and perception indicated that those scheduled caste families with high level of aspiration might be taking risk in adopting the technology or Government schemes. This was due to the fact that they were economically motivated and might had an urge to excel others and tried to acquire more knowledge. This result is in line with the research results highlighted by Fathimabi (1993), Jayalekshmi (1996).

Positive and significant relation was observed between achievement motivation and perception. This might be due to the fact that most of the scheduled caste beneficiaries were agricultural labourers who had been entrusted with the task of finding means of livelihood, might possess a desire for excellence in accepting and adopting the Government schemes to attain an inner feeling of satisfaction. Moreover, they may be in possession of a conviction that a good beneficiary of the scheme should be diligent and earnest while receiving Government assistance. This might have developed in them a better perception about the S.C.P. schemes. This result is in line with that Jiju P. Alex (1994).

4.4.2. Relationship of attitude with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

A cursory view of Table 4.4.2. revealed that out of the thirteen factors, all the factors except the age, annual income and farming experience had a negatively significant relationship with the attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the S.C.P. scheme.

Education was found to have a significant relationship with their attitude towards the S.C.P. scheme, which meant that more the literacy, more would be their attitude towards the scheme. Their high literacy level as seen in profile analysis, which had been viewed as a means of increasing knowledge would instill a favourable attitude in them, might be the reason behind this result. This result is in agreement with the findings of Vijayakumar (1983) and Sajeevchandran (1989).

The data furnished in Table 4.4.2. revealed that farm size of the beneficiaries was significantly correlated with their attitude towards the scheme. The schemes under S.C.P. are suited to their small farm size in their habitat which provides scope for the proper utilization of the schemes in a profitable manner and this may instill a favourable attitude in the scheduled caste beneficiaries. This result is in line with that of Vijayakumar (1983).

A significant relationship was observed between attitude of scheduled caste beneficiaries towards S.C.P. scheme and their occupation. This might be due the fact that majority of the scheduled caste beneficiaries under the scheme are agricultural labourers as evidenced by the profile analysis and the

scheme like distribution of agricultural implements and plant protection equipments etc. could be highly utilized by the beneficiaries for their daily work and thereby they can earn more. This might leading to a favourable attitude in the scheduled caste beneficiaries towards the S.C.P. scheme.

The Negative significant relationship of social participation with attitude might be due to the fact that scheduled castes in IHDP habitat might be due to their participation to a certain extent in various social organisation, and this would have helped to improve their level of knowledge and awareness about the S.C.P. schemes. This in turn might be the reason for the above results.

. The significant relationship was observed between attitude of scheduled castes towards the S.C.P. schemes and economic motivation. The scheduled caste beneficiaries under the S.C.P. scheme were more conscious of the profit to be obtained from the schemes implemented by the Krishi Bhavan. This might be the reason for the significant correlation of economic motivation with their attitude. This results is in agreement with that of Jnyanadevan (1993).

Achievement motivation was found to have negatively significant correlation with the attitude of scheduled castes towards S.C.P. scheme. This finding confirms the arguments of Reddy *et al.* (1977).

It is the spontaneously expressed desire of an individual to attain an inner feeling of personal accomplishment, rather than social recognition or

prestige. It is instrumental in persuading a person to perform better. This might be the reason behind the existence of significant correlation between achievement motivation and attitude. That is, the scheduled castes in their pursuit to accomplish inner satisfaction, might have properly utilized the scheme and developed a favourable attitude towards the S.C.P. scheme.

A negatively significant relationship was observed between cosmopolitanness and their attitude. Cosmopolitanness helped the scheduled caste families to collect information about what is happening outside their social system. Scheduled castes with less cosmopolitanness will be less innovative, risk taking and will not have a competitive spirit which will adversely affect their decision making. The result is in concurrence with the findings of Jayalekshmy (1996), Nizamudeen (1996).

There exists a significant relationship between extension orientation and attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards S.C.P. scheme. It might be due to the reason that the farmers having contact with extension agencies are likely to learn about the programmes meant for them. This might have lead to a favourable attitude towards the scheme. This finding is in conformity with the finding of Haraprasad (1982).

Scientific know-how on the cultivation of coconut seedlings, pepper cuttings and vegetable seeds might have lead to a favourable attitude towards the S.C.P. scheme. This could be effected through the efficient use of different information sources. This might be the reason for the significant relationship between information seeking behaviour and their attitude.

Negative and significant correlation was obtained between the level of aspiration and attitude of scheduled castes towards the S.C.P. scheme. Majority of scheduled caste beneficiaries had low level of aspiration and for them, Government programmes are the only source of aspiration which might have created a favourable attitude in them. Hence the obtained result.

It was also revealed that age, annual income and farming experience had no significant relationship with the attitude of scheduled castes towards the S.C.P. scheme. In the case of farming experience the result was in concurrence with that reported by Janadevan (1993). Insignificant relation of age with attitude was also reported by Surendran (1983).

4.4.3. Relationship of acceptance with personal, economic and socio-psychological factors

A perusal of table 4.4.3. shows that, except farm size, annual income, farming experience and occupation, all variables other than age were positively and significantly correlated with acceptance of S.C.P. scheme. Age was found to be negatively correlated with their acceptance of the above schemes.

The negatively significant correlation between age and acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled castes indicated that irrespective of their old age, they were exposed to the extension and developmental activities of the Krishi Bhavan at scheduled caste habitats and because of this concentrated efforts more number of scheduled castes accepted and adopted the schemes implemented by the Krishi Bhavan. This finding was also reported by Reddy and Reddy (1977).

Education is found to have a positive relationship with acceptance. Education is the vital contribution, to the acceptance of a new practice. Higher educational or literacy level of scheduled caste farm families might have helped them to develop a positive attitude and finally lead to acceptance. This finding was in line with that of Vijayakumar (1983) and Sajeevchandran (1989).

Social participation was found to have positive and significant relationship with level of acceptance of S.C.P. schemes. With the increase in participation of farmers in various social organisations, the farmers were more exposed to many innovations. The above result was also reported by Anbalagan (1974); Kaleel (1978) and Ravichandran (1980).

It was found that economic motivation and achievement motivation might have prompted the beneficiaries of S.C.P. schemes, to the acceptance of recommended practices.

Cosmopolitanism was found to have a positive relationship with the acceptance of the scheme. This indicates that more the cosmopolitanism, more would be the adoption of schemes. This was also reported by Kamarudeen (1981).

Extension orientation was positively and significantly related with the scheduled caste's adoption behaviour. Extension contact and extension participation were the two important components in the agricultural production process. This provides functional and authentic information on agriculture

and other development schemes of Government to the farmers. Contact with extension persons would help to motivate the beneficiaries to the final adoption of the recommended practices or schemes. Similar finding was reported by Syamala (1988) and Ramachandran (1992).

The positive and significant correlation exhibited by the information seeking behaviour with acceptance depicted that more the information seeking behaviour, more would be the adoption of cultivation practices. This might be due to the reason that exposure to different innovations would have influenced and persuaded the scheduled caste families to adopt the cultivation practices. Moreover, the frequency of the information seeking behaviour had led them to adoption.

Level of aspiration indicated a positive and significant relationship with acceptance of the scheme. Majority of the scheduled castes had low level of aspiration and for them, Government programmes were exclusively the only source of income for their development and which might have created a favourable attitude in them. Hence the obtained result.

4.5. Distribution of scheduled caste farmers on the basis of different characteristics of perception about S.C.P. schemes

The perception of the scheduled caste farm families about the characteristics of S.C.P. scheme plays a major role in the spread and acceptance of the scheme. The results of the analysis in this regard as shown in Table 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.4, 4.5.5 threw light on the perception of the scheduled castes about the S.C.P. scheme.

Analysis of data in Table 4.5.1. revealed that majority of (83.52 per cent) scheduled castes had very well awareness about the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings than the other three component schemes. This might be due to the fact that the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings was the major scheme under S.C.P. implemented by the Department of Agriculture. The above scheme was implemented continuously in more number of scheduled caste colonies and hence the beneficiaries had a very well awareness about the scheme.

The data presented in table 4.5.2. revealed that among the four component schemes, the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds was perceived to be very easy in the case of complexity of scheme which means that the beneficiaries of the scheme perceived that it was very easy to cultivate the vegetable seeds supplied under the scheme (54.46 per cent). This might be due to the fact that vegetable cultivation was suited to the local resources available in their habitat situation.

53.5 per cent of the beneficiaries under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements perceived that it was easy to utilize the agricultural implements. This might be due to the reason that majority of the scheduled castes are agricultural labourers and hence they would have developed a positive liking in agricultural implements as projected in the result.

As shown in Table 4.5.2, more than half of the beneficiaries (%) perceived that it was easy to cultivate the coconut seedlings supplied under the S.C.P. scheme. But it was very seriously observed that 6.5 per cent and

2 per cent of the scheduled caste families perceived to be difficult and very difficult respectively to cultivate the coconut seedlings in their habitat. This might be due to the constraints being experienced like lack of available land for cultivation, lack of irrigation facilities, drought situation etc. It was also observed that coconut seedlings supplied was not suited to their soil condition and necessary resources are not available at their disposal for the scientific cultivation of coconut seedlings.

Under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings, 51.37 per cent of the beneficiaries perceived that it was neither easy nor difficult to cultivate the pepper cuttings supplied under the S.C.P. scheme. It was also perceived as difficulty and very difficult respectively by 10.36 per cent and 3.35 per cent of the beneficiaries, the cultivation of pepper cuttings supplied under the scheme. Non-suitability of the crop to the scheduled caste habitat, lack of available land and water resources, lack of standards etc. might be the possible reason attributed to this effect. This finding is in agreement with the finding of Ramachandran (1992).

Data shown in Table 4.5.3. revealed that the scheme for distribution of vegetable seed was perceived to be profitable (57.53 per cent) than other component schemes. The scheduled caste families are having small piece of land under their possession in which seasonal crop like vegetable can be cultivated effectively. Also the vegetable cultivation needs less labour and cost. So that they can do the vegetable cultivation for their family purpose which will be profitable also. This might be the reason for the present result.

Under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings 50.56 per cent scheduled caste beneficiaries perceived that the coconut seedling supplied was somewhat profitable. The coconut seedlings planted in their habitat might not be grown, due to the constraints like drought / lack of irrigation, poor management practices etc. But in some other cases it might be recovered. The coconut seedlings will be profitable only if it was recovered from all stress conditions. This might be the reason for the above result.

The majority of scheduled caste beneficiaries under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings perceived that the pepper cuttings supplied were least profitable. Under the scheme, 1.97 per cent beneficiaries expressed their opinion that the rooted pepper cuttings supplied were 'not at all' profitable. Scheduled castes are concentrated in the habitat set up and they had only small piece of land for cultivation. They might not have necessary resources at their disposal for the scientific cultivation of pepper. Hence the cultivation of pepper might not be profitable. This result is in agreement with that of Surendran (1983).

Majority of the scheduled caste beneficiaries under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements had the opinion that the agricultural implements supplied under the scheme was profitable. Most of the beneficiaries were agricultural labourers and they could make use of these agricultural implements for their own purpose and for hiring purpose and hence the obtained result.

A perusal of the Table 4.5.4. revealed that among the four component schemes under S.C.P., the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements

was perceived to be the most suitable scheme by the scheduled caste farm families. This might be due to the reason as mentioned above.

The scheme for distribution of vegetable seed was suitable to the scheduled caste habitats as perceived by them. Scheduled castes were having small pieces of land under their possession, where they could do the homestead vegetable cultivation which requires less labour and inputs. This might be the possible reason for the present result.

The scheme for distribution of coconut seedling and scheme for distribution rooted pepper cuttings, are perceived to be only somewhat suitable to the scheduled caste habitats. It was also seriously observed that 11 per cent and 19.51 per cent of the beneficiaries respectively for coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings expressed their opinion that coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings supplied were least suitable for scientific cultivation in their habitats. This might be due to the fact that Agriculture Department had supplied coconut seedlings and rooted pepper cuttings continuously in the scheduled castes habitats without considering the suitability of crop to the location. The soil type and other resources available were not suited to the above mentioned crops.

In the case of usefulness of the scheme, the scheme for distribution of coconut seedling was perceived to be very useful than the other three schemes. Scheduled caste families expressed their opinion that the coconut seedlings supplied would be useful if it recovered from drought and other stress conditions. It was also noticed that some of the coconut palms were

not bearing and were supplied by the Agriculture Department under S.C.P. scheme in the pervious years. Eventhough it is a perennial crop, the coconut seedlings, supplied was very useful in the long run as perceived by the scheduled castes. This finding is in line with the findings of Surendran (1983).

In the case of rooted pepper cuttings, the majority of the beneficiaries perceived that pepper cuttings supplied were only somewhat useful and 6.35 per cent cent of beneficiaries perceived that the same were least useful. Unsuitability of the crop to the location and lack of other available resources which might have contributed to the loss of the crop and hence scheduled castes had experienced less use of the scheme.

But in the case of agricultural implements, majority of the beneficiaries perceived that agricultural implements supplied were useful to them. A good majority of the scheduled castes were agricultural labourers and hence the agricultural implements supplied were well suited to their occupation. This might be the reason for the present result. But it was also observed that agricultural implements supplied were least useful as perceived by 6.5 per cent beneficiaries. This might be due to the fact that agricultural implements supplied were not under the income generating schemes.

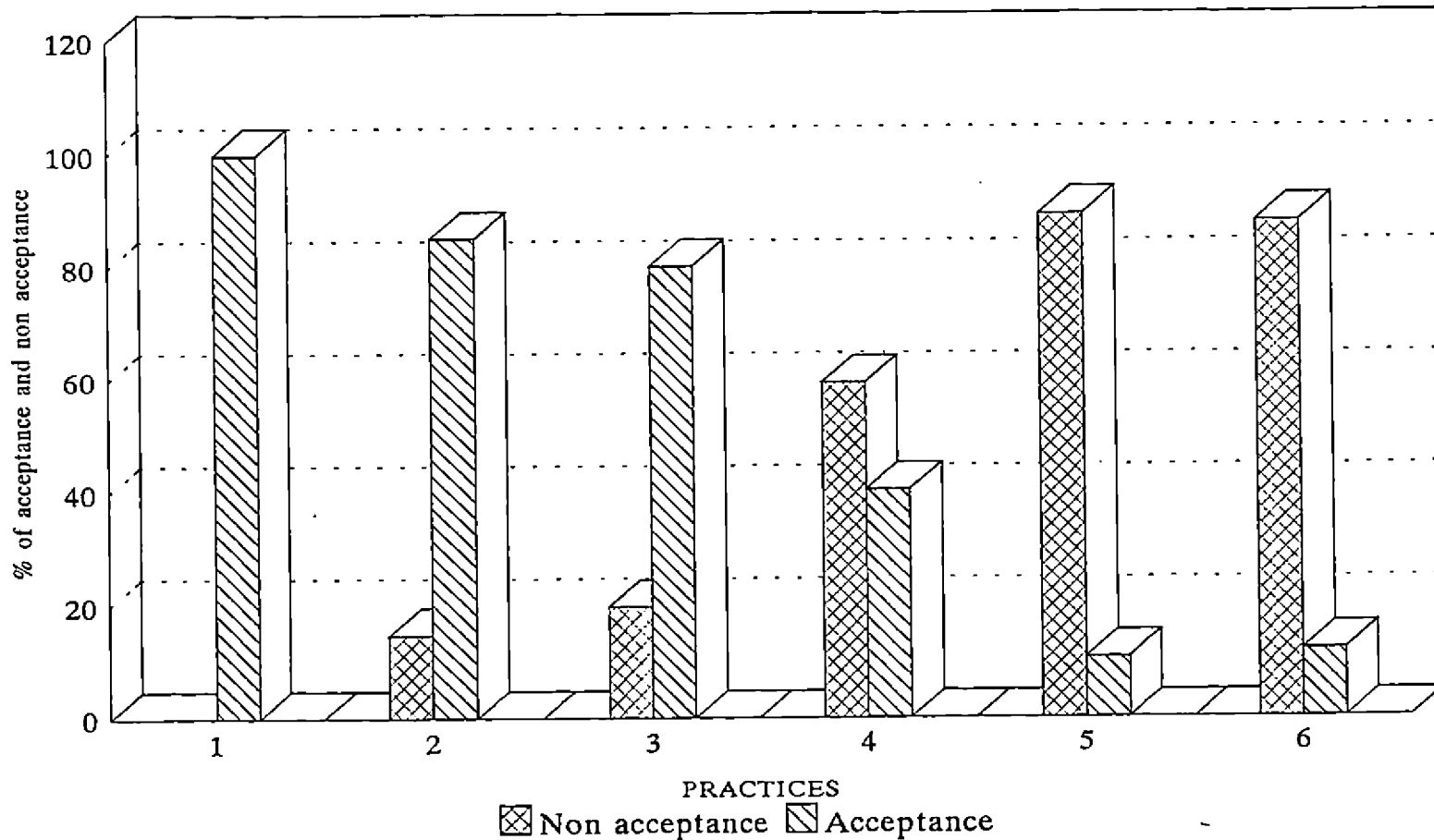
In the case of usefulness, vegetable seeds supplied were perceived to be useful by 50 per cent of the beneficiaries. This might be due to the less difficulty in cultivating the crop and more suitability to the location.

4.6. Acceptance and non-acceptance of individual practices by the scheduled caste farmers under the S.C.P. scheme

A perusal of the data presented in the Table 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.4 and Fig. 5, 6, 7 & 8 revealed that eventhough the coconut seedlings, pepper cuttings and vegetable seeds have been received by 100 per cent of the beneficiaries, a good number of them had not planted the seedlings or seeds. This might be due to the untimely supply of planting materials, lack of awareness among the beneficiaries and lack of supervision from the officials. So officials of the Krishi Bhavan should make aware the scheduled castes beneficiaries about the proper utilization of the components supplied under the scheme promptly.

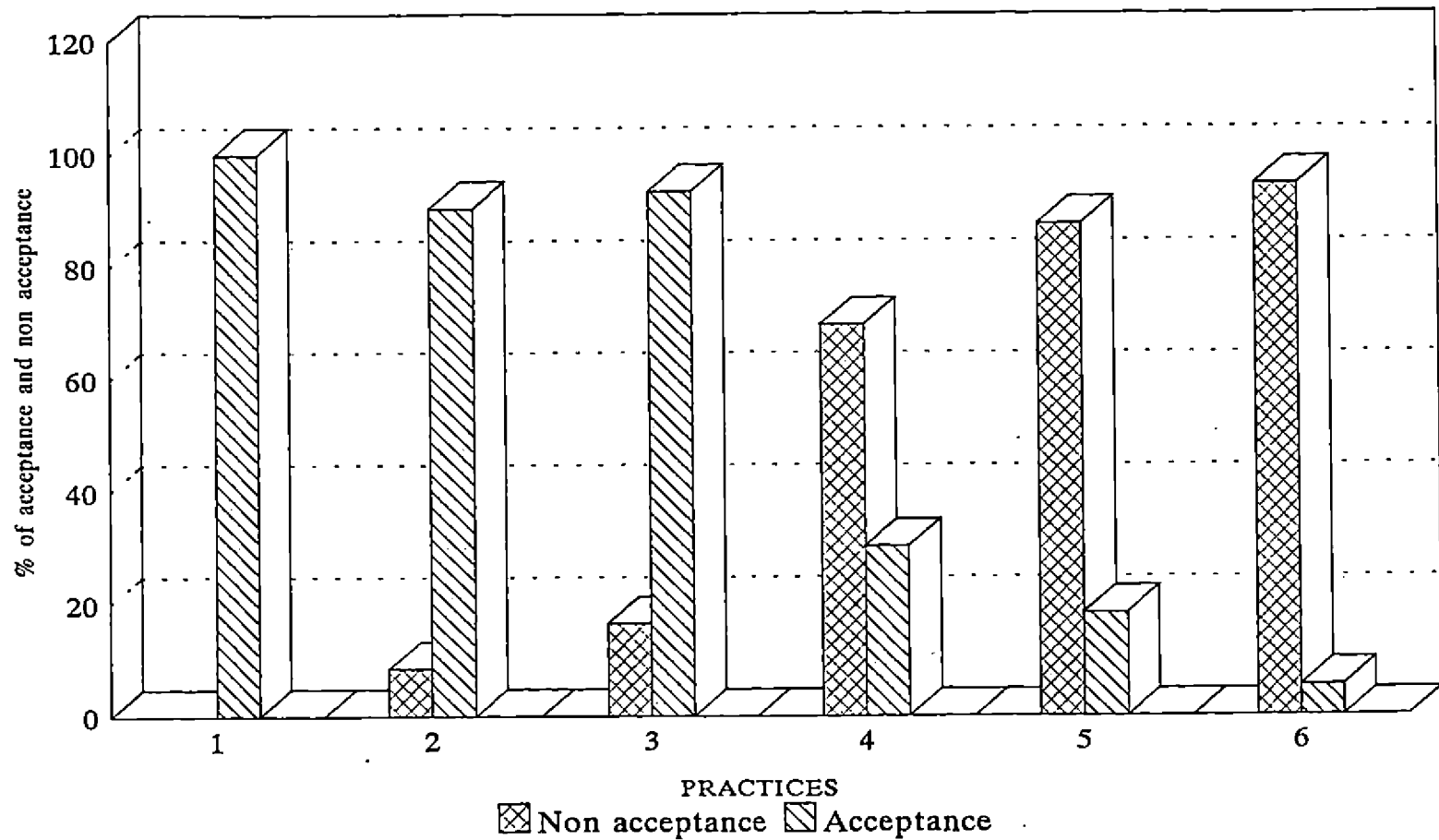
It was also observed that, full acceptance was not there among scheduled castes regarding the quality of the components supplied under the S.C.P. scheme. Hence officials of the Agriculture Department must ensure the quality of components like coconut seedlings, pepper cuttings and vegetable seeds and they must also try to convince the beneficiaries regarding the quality of components also.

It was further observed that the very low acceptance was not regarding the application of manures, fertilizers, plant protection chemicals and irrigation under the scheme for coconut seedlings, pepper cuttings and vegetable seeds. This might be due to the many constraints experienced by them, like lack of financial assistance, lack of inputs and water resources and lack of technical guidance and supervision by the officials. Hence assuring irrigation sources in the scheduled caste habitat along with proper technical guidance and



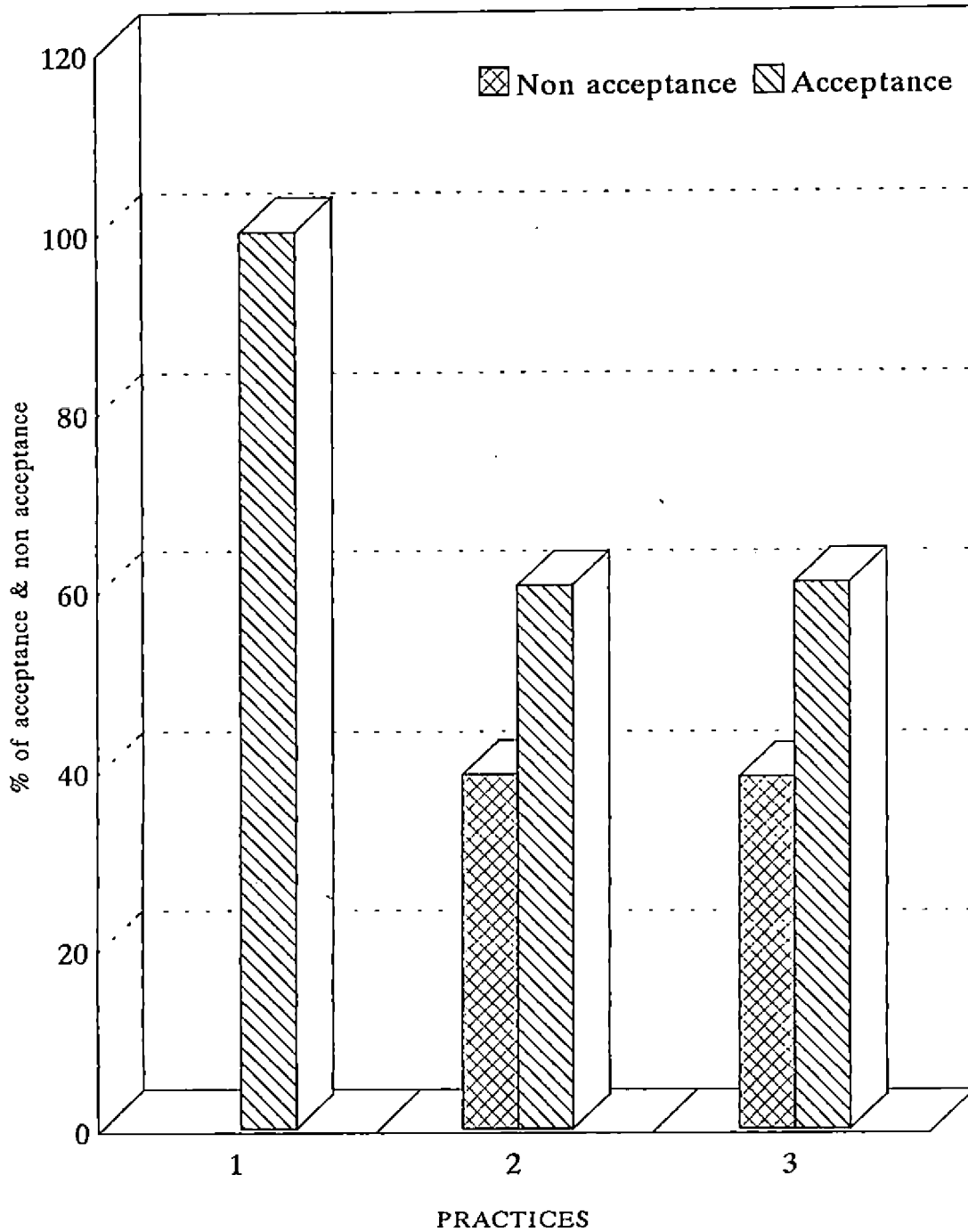
1. Receipt of coconut seedlings
2. Planting of coconut seedlings
3. Satisfaction of quality of coconut seedlings supplied
4. Application of manures and fertilizers
5. Application of PP chemicals as recommended
6. Irrigation

Fig. 5. Percentage of acceptance and non-acceptance for each practice under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings



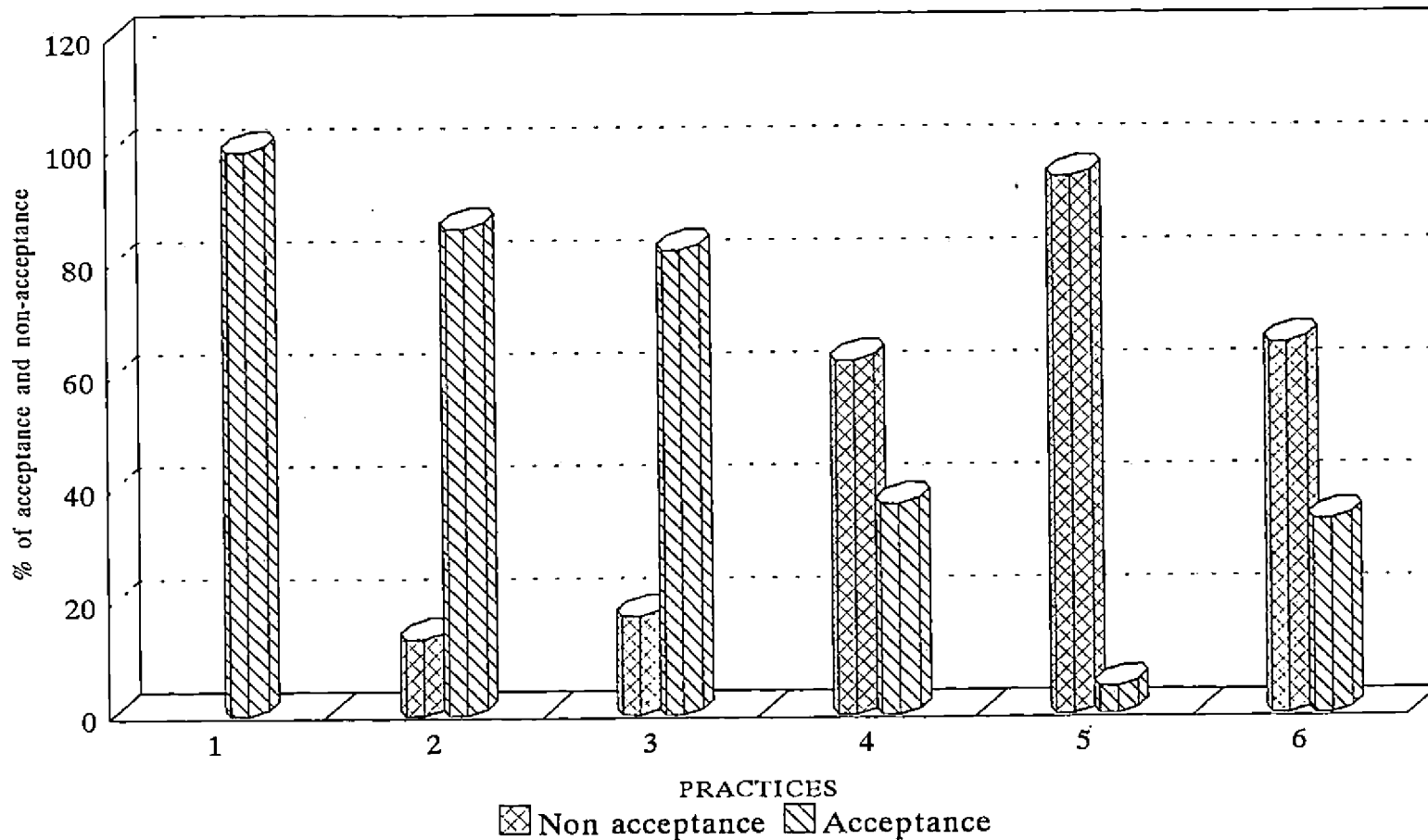
1. Receipt of rooted pepper cuttings
2. Planting of rooted pepper cuttings
3. Satisfaction of quality of pepper cuttings supplied
4. Application of manures and fertilizers
5. Application of PP chemicals as recommended
6. Irrigation

Fig. 6. Percentage of acceptance and non-acceptance for each practice under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings



1. Receipt of agricultural implements
2. Regular usage of agricultural implements
3. Helpful in increasing the efficiency in farm and income

Fig. 7. Percentage of acceptance and non-acceptance for each practice under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements



1. Receipt of vegetable seeds 2. Sowing of vegetable seeds
 3. Satisfaction of quality of vegetable seeds supplied
 4. Application of manures and fertilizers 5. Application of PP chemicals as recommended
 6. Irrigation

Fig. 8. Percentage of acceptance and non-acceptance for each practice under the scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds

supervision might help to motivate the scheduled caste families to accept the recommended package of practices. This finding is in agreement with the findings of Jnyanadeven (1993).

Analysis of the data in Table 4.6.3 shows that majority of the scheduled caste beneficiaries under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements had accepted the scheme, which means that majority of the beneficiaries were regularly using these agricultural implements in their daily work to increase their efficiency in the farm. This might be due to the fact that majority of them were agricultural labourers and hence the agricultural implements supplied were suited to their daily occupation.

4.7. Constraints perceived by the respondents in the acceptance of S.C.P. schemes and solutions to overcome the constraints

In the adoption of scientific package of practice recommendations and proper utilization of the components under the Special Component Plan schemes, the scheduled caste farm families were facing many constraints. Some of the constraints perceived by the farmers are ranked and presented in the Table 4.7.

The most important constraint as perceived by the scheduled castes was that the S.C.P schemes are not location specific. Scheduled caste habitats are usually located in the remote rural areas. The soil type, and availability of land and water resources might be varying from one scheduled caste habitat to another habitat. So the scheme intended to one scheduled caste habitat might not be suited to another habitat. The researcher had observed

that coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings supplied to a number of scheduled caste habitats, where there were no scope for cultivation of such crops due to the poor soil type and lack of other resources. Eventhough the very objective of the S.C.P. scheme was to formulate and implement the location specific schemes for the scheduled caste farm families, it might not have happened in the real sense.

Hence officials of the Agriculture Department should ensure that the proposed scheme for the scheduled castes are to be highly location specific.

‘S.C.P. schemes are not problem orientated’ was the second important constraint. Scheduled castes are the most oppressed and depressed section of the society. Majority of them are living in isolated rural areas and they are educationally, socially and economically very much backward. They are having their own culture and hence their occupation and life style will be related to their culture. Naturally their development problems will be entirely different from others. The unemployment and low economic status are their major problems. It was observed by the researcher that some of the schemes were not employment oriented and income generating.

So, officials of the Agriculture Department should take effort to identify the actual problems of the scheduled castes and formulate and implement the scheme accordingly.

The third important constraint was the ‘untimely supply of planting materials and other agricultural inputs’. Eventhough there was a fixed time schedule for different management practices to be carried out under this

scheme, there was instance of administrative delay in making available planting materials and other inputs in time. Such delay will curb the enthusiasm of the scheduled caste beneficiaries and arrest the tempo of the programme.

Hence, efforts need to be initiated on the part of the implementing agency to avoid such delay and make available the inputs in time. This finding was also reported by Sajeevchandran (1989).

‘Lack of necessary technical intervention and supervision during the implementation of S.C.P. schemes by the extension agency’ was another important constraint as perceived by the scheduled castes. It was observed that the scheduled castes are having low economic status and low level of education and hence they don’t have technical knowledge regarding the scientific management practice of different crops. In some situations, there is chance for misutilization of the components supplied under the scheme by the beneficiaries. So if the scheduled caste are not technically guided and supervised during the implementation of scheme, they may not properly utilize the components.

Hence, the officials of the Krishi Bhavan should ensure that the scheduled caste families are technically guided and supervised at their habitat level during each and every stage of scheme implementation.

Another important constraint as perceived by the scheduled castes was that ‘the Department of Agriculture does not take any effort to make participate scheduled castes in the planning and implementation of S.C.P. scheme’.

Any Government programme could be implemented effectively if the participation of the beneficiaries were assured at the time of planning and implementation of the programme. In this case, it was observed that no effort was taken by the Agriculture Department to make participate scheduled castes in the planning and implementation of S.C.P. scheme resulted in the non-acceptance of the scheme by the beneficiaries to a certain extent.

In order to avoid this constraint the sufficient number of scheduled castes or scheduled caste leaders who are well aware of the problems of scheduled castes should be included in the Krishi Bhavan committee whom are responsible for planning and implementation of S.C.P. scheme. This should be done at the state level also.

'Lack of the financial assistance' was another important constraint under the S.C.P. scheme. This might be due to the lack of fund under the scheme. Majority of the scheduled castes were agricultural labourers and their socio-economic status was also very low. They have to go for daily work for their livelihood and hence they cannot find time and money for the adoption of recommended management practices. So if they are provided with some financial assistance they can fully accept the schemes.

In this connection, it is recommended that along with the components supplied, provision of financial assistance to the beneficiaries should also be made by the Agriculture Department.

A very serious constraint as perceived by the scheduled caste was that 'the extension personnel are not much devoting their time for the effective

implementation of S.C.P. schemes'. This might be due to the time limit as given by the Department of Agriculture to implement the scheme resulting in the misutilization of the scheme by the beneficiaries. Lack of extension facilities and lack of extension guidance were also reported by Suresh *et al.* (1996).

To avoid this constraint, the extension personnel of the Agriculture Department (Krishi Bhavan) should find more time to make a detailed survey in the scheduled caste habitat for the preparation of the scheme and seriously involved in the different stages of implementation of S.C.P. scheme at the habitat level.

'Lack of periodic monitoring and evaluation' was another important constraint as perceived by the scheduled caste families. The beneficiaries of the S.C.P. scheme will have an enthusiasm to fully adopt the scheme and they will properly utilize the components supplied under the scheme if there is periodic monitoring and evaluation by the Department of Agriculture.

Hence, efforts need to be initiated on the part of the Department of Agriculture to do the periodic monitoring and evaluation of the scheme.

Another important constraint as perceived by the scheduled caste farm families in the acceptance of S.C.P. scheme was 'lack of knowledge and awareness about S.C.P. schemes'. This might be due to the low educational status, low social participation and low cosmopolitaness of the beneficiaries. Their information seeking behaviour was also very low as evidenced by the frequency distribution.

In order to avoid this constraint, the officials of the Agriculture Department should ensure that scheduled caste families are having well knowledge and awareness about the significance and importance of S.C.P. schemes.

‘S.C.P. schemes are not remunerative’ was also experienced as one of the important constraints as perceived by the scheduled caste beneficiaries. This might be mainly due to the nature of the scheme proposed by the Department of Agriculture. It was seriously observed by the researcher that ‘scheme for purpose of scheme’ was prepared and implemented in the scheduled caste habitats resulting in nil return. This should be avoided. Only small pieces of land are under the possession of scheduled castes and hence there will not be any scope for intensive farming in their habitats.

In order to avoid this constraint, the Department of Agriculture should ensure that the S.C.P. schemes proposed and implemented are remunerative by creating income and employment opportunity to the poor scheduled castes.

Other findings and general suggestions

During the course of study, a few other observations made by the researcher and its suggestions based on the empirical study and experience of the researcher are presented below.

Special Component Plan schemes are supposed to be formulated based on the location specific problems of the different scheduled caste colonies. But it was observed that coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings supplied to

some of the scheduled caste colonies (Cherickal and Thalappally) were not at all suited to the soil type of the scheduled caste habitat. The availability of irrigation water was the major problem faced by all the scheduled caste families. So the scheduled caste families were not bothered to nurture the seedlings supplied. Hence majority of the coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings were affected by serious drought and it often perished totally. This was also reported by KIRTADS (1994-95).

It was also observed that coconut seedlings were distributed among the scheduled caste households regularly in majority of the scheduled caste habitats irrespective of whether they are able to look after the seedlings or not, and if they can survive in the area or not.

Hence it is suggested that S.C.P. schemes must be location specific and problem oriented and also it should be formulated based on the actual needs and requirements of the scheduled caste families.

About 25 per cent of the beneficiaries pointed out that S.C.P. schemes were planned and prepared in the office without taking into account the cultural factors inherent in each scheduled caste habitat. Consequently such schemes fail to bring out any concrete changes in the socio-economic behaviour of scheduled caste population.

In the formulation and implementation of S.C.P. scheme, they have to consider the cultural factors inherent in each of the scheduled caste habitats.

It was observed by the researcher that selection of beneficiary is not proper and not based on their felt-in-needs. Hence it is suggested to select proper beneficiaries of the scheme. For this, people and organisations who are well aware of the actual situation in scheduled caste habitations should be consulted before undertaking any programme.

In some cases, misutilization of the assets / components by the scheduled caste beneficiaries were also observed. Hence it is suggested to provide necessary supervision and guidance of the local Agricultural Officers to the scheduled caste habitats, after the supply of inputs and planting materials. Scheduled caste beneficiaries should also be made aware of the importance of proper maintenance of assets. This responsibility should be entrusted to the agricultural officers engaged in the implementation of S.C.P. schemes.

About 40 per cent of the beneficiaries of S.C.P. scheme pointed out that the S.C.P. schemes so far implemented by the Agricultural Department were not income and employment oriented. Since most of the scheduled castes have small piece of cultivable land under their possession, there is no scope for income from farming. Hence, the Agricultural Department should formulate S.C.P. scheme either to give cultivable land to scheduled caste families or try to assure the employment of scheduled castes in the agriculture and allied sector under the S.C.P. scheme.

In this regard, National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad (1996) had made some recommendations for effective implementation of S.C.P. schemes. Most important recommendations are :

1. The system of monitoring and evaluation of S.C.P. scheme should be made more participative and effective
2. At the district level, the District Planning Committee set up under the provisions of the 74th Constitution Amendment should be made as 'Nodal Planning Body' for S.C.P.
3. In the present decentralised planning set up, at grass-root level, the Grama Panchayat should be involved in identifying and assessing the requirements of scheduled castes development in different sectors.
4. The Panchayat Raj functionaries should be educated and made aware about the concept of the S.C.P. as a strategy for the development of the scheduled castes.

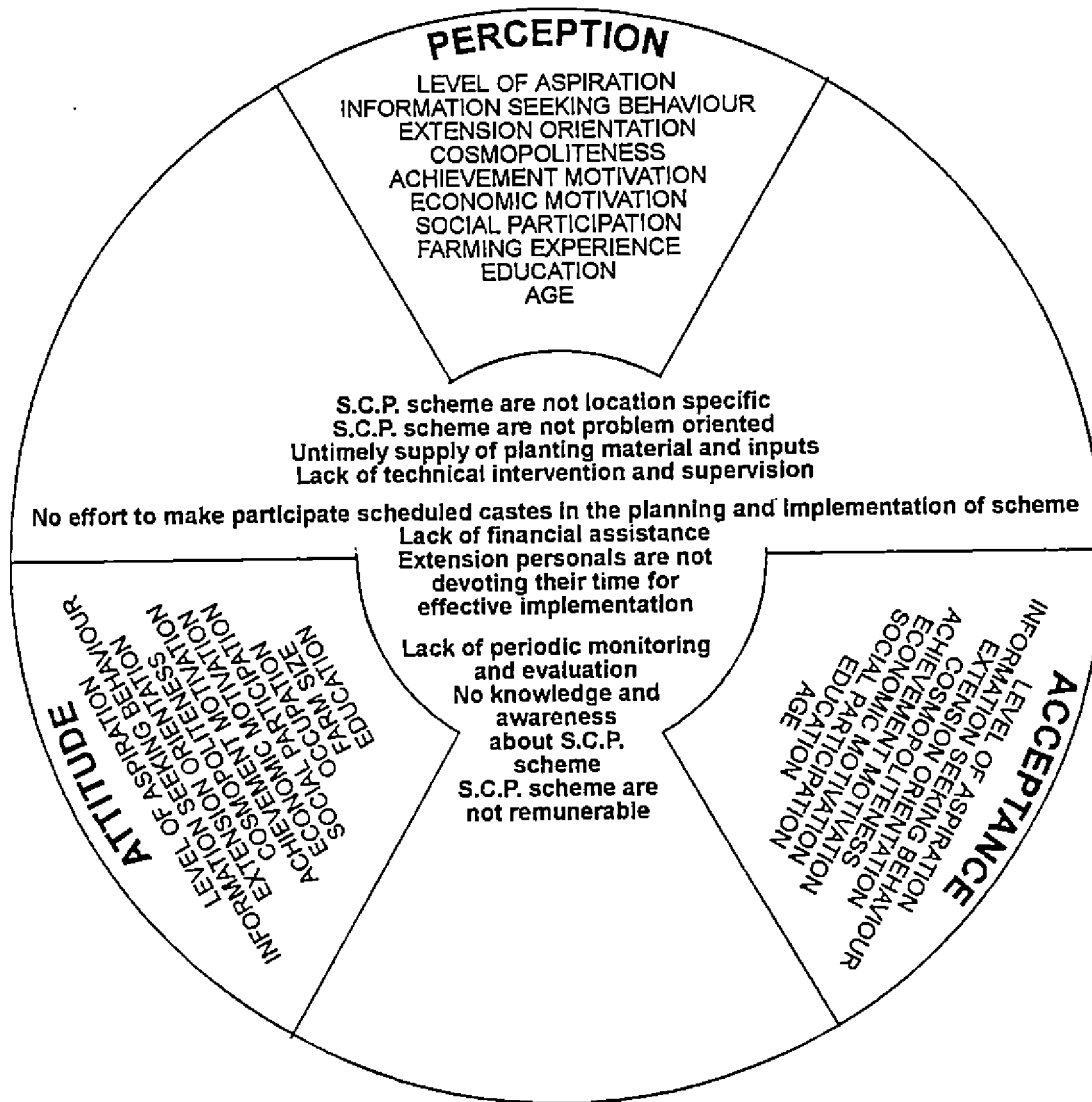


Fig. 9. Empirical model for the study

A decorative banner with a wavy, ribbon-like shape. The banner is white with a black outline and features the word "SUMMARY" in a bold, black, serif font centered on it. The banner has a slight 3D effect with black shading on the top and bottom edges where it appears to fold or curve.

SUMMARY

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

Special Component Plan (S.C.P.) is one of the many plans initiated by the Government of India to uplift the down trodden scheduled caste families. But this purpose may not be fulfilled due to many unknown factors. Hence a systematic analysis is the need of the hour and that is why the present attempt is initiated.

Multi-dimensional study on Special Component Plan Schemes implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Kerala for the Scheduled caste farm families were undertaken with the following objectives.

1. To study the perception of scheduled caste farm families about the S.C.P. scheme.
2. To study the attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the S.C.P. scheme.
3. To study the acceptance of S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farm families.
4. To delineate the factors influencing perception attitude and acceptance.

5. To study the constraints as perceived by the scheduled caste farm families in the acceptance of S.C.P. scheme and to suggest solutions to overcome the constraints.

The study was confined to Palakkad District of Kerala State considering its suitability. A two stage sampling procedure was adopted for this study. In the first stage, 7 Krishi Bhavans in Palakkad District were randomly selected from within the 45 Krishi Bhavans where S.C.P. schemes were implemented during the year 1994-95. In the second stage, scheduled caste farmers in I.H.D.P. colonies habitats who had received the components under S.C.P. scheme in the year 1994-95 were randomly selected in proportion to size of the population of scheduled caste in I.H.D.P. colonies. Thus 200 number of scheduled caste farmers from seven Krishi Bhavans in Palakkad District were selected as the respondents for the study.

The data were collected using a pre-tested interview schedule. The dependent variable selected for the study were perception, attitude and acceptance of S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled castes. The independent variables were age, education, farm size, annual income, farming experience, occupation, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration.

Statistical techniques namely percentage analysis, mean, simple correlation analysis and Analysis of Variance were done. Four major S.C.P.

schemes namely the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings, scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings, scheme for distribution of agricultural implements and scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds were selected for detailed study.

The results of the study are summarised and presented below.

Regarding the distribution of respondents based on the perception it was observed that among the four component schemes studied under Special Component Plan, majority (52.5 per cent) of the respondents were distributed above the average perception score under the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings. Here, lowest distribution of respondents above the average perception score was recorded under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements. The result of the perception of scheduled caste farm families about the whole S.C.P. was studied and observed that 58 per cent respondents were distributed below the average perception score and 41.5 per cent respondents were distributed above the average perception score.

Regarding the attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the whole S.C.P. scheme, majority (52.5 Per cent) of the respondents were having favourable attitude towards the S.C.P. scheme.

Regarding the distribution of respondents based on the acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farm families, majority of the respondent's (83.5 per cent) distribution above the average acceptance score was recorded under the scheme for distribution of rooted pepper cuttings and

the lowest per cent of respondents distributed above the average was observed under the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements.

Using statistical technique - Analysis of Variance, four component schemes under S.C.P. according to perception and acceptance were compared and it was revealed that the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings attained the highest perception mean score. The lowest perception mean score was recorded in favour of the scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings.

Regarding the acceptance of the S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste farm families, the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements was highly accepted followed by the distribution of vegetable seeds, coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings in the descending order.

Personal, economic and socio-psychological factors of the respondents influencing perception, attitude and acceptance were studied and found that majority of the scheduled caste beneficiaries were above the average age of 48 years. The educational level of the respondents showed that 36.5 per cent were at primary school level and above. 36.5 per cent respondents were literate and it was also noted that 13 per cent respondents were illiterate. The farm size of the 72.5 per cent respondents were below 15 cents. In the case of annual income majority of the respondents were below the average annual income of Rs. 4313/-. The average farming experience of the respondents were 20 years, of which more than half of the respondents were below the average level. With regard to occupation, a good majority of the scheduled castes were employed as agricultural labourers.

Eighty per cent of the respondents had less social participation and more than half of them had very low economic motivation. In the case of achievement motivation, majority of them had achievement motivation below the average. With regard to cosmopolitaness, 50 per cent of scheduled castes were having cosmopolitaness and 50 per cent were having no cosmopolitaness. More than half of them were having extension orientation above the average and 51 per cent respondents were having less information seeking behaviour. Level of aspiration of the majority of scheduled castes were below the average.

The result of the correlation analysis shown that a positive and significant relationship exists between perception and other personal, economic and socio-psychological factors like education, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration. With regard to attitude, except cosmopolitaness and education, all other above mentioned factors were negatively and significantly correlated. In the use of acceptance of S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled caste farm families, a positive and significant relationship exists between acceptance and factors like education, achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration.

The result of the study on different characteristics of perception about S.C.P. scheme revealed that a good majority of the scheduled caste beneficiaries had very well developed awareness about the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings followed by agricultural implements, vegetable seeds and rooted

pepper cuttings in the descending order. Regarding the complexity of the components, among the four component schemes, scheme for distribution of vegetables seeds was perceived to be very easy for them to cultivate the vegetable seeds.

It was also noted that 2 per cent and 3.35 per cent of the respondents perceived that it was very difficult to cultivate coconut seedlings and rooted pepper cuttings in their habitat. In the case of profitability, among the four component schemes, the vegetable seed was perceived to be highly profitable. Rooted pepper cutting supplied under the scheme was not at all profitable in their area as per the opinion of 1.47 per cent respondents. Regarding the suitability of the scheme, the agricultural implements supplied under the scheme was perceived to be suitable in their situation followed by vegetable seeds, coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings in the descending order. It was also observed that 8.51 per cent and 15.95 per cent of the respondents respectively for the scheme for coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings perceived that these two component schemes were not at all suitable in their farming situation.

In the case of usefulness of the S.C.P. scheme, the scheme for distribution of agricultural implement was perceived to be useful as per the opinion of 57 per cent of respondents followed by coconut seedlings (51.53 per cent), vegetable seeds (50 per cent), and rooted pepper cuttings (19.5 per cent). Distribution of pepper cutting was perceived to be the least useful scheme among the four component S.C.P. schemes.

The results of the study on non-acceptance of individual practices by the scheduled caste farmers under the four S.C.P. schemes revealed that about 15 per cent of the beneficiaries had not planted coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings and had not sown the vegetable seeds even though 100 per cent of them have received the components supplied. Nearly 80 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the quality of components supplied. In the case of acceptance of the practices like application of manures and fertilizers, plant protection chemicals and irrigation, the performance of the three schemes were very poor. On an average thirty five per cent of the beneficiaries had accepted the above said practices. Regarding the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements about 60 per cent of the respondents had utilised these agricultural implements for their daily work and also found that agricultural implements were helpful in increasing their efficiency in the farm and thereby the income also.

The results of the study on constraints perceived by the scheduled castes in the acceptance of S.C.P. schemes revealed the major constraints as S.C.P. schemes are not location specific, not problem oriented, planting material and other inputs are not supplied in time, lack of necessary technical intervention and supervision during the implementation of S.C.P. scheme by the extension agencies, Department of Agriculture does not take any effort to make participate scheduled castes in the planning and implementation of S.C.P. schemes, lack of financial assistance, the extension personnel are not much utilising their time for the effective implementation of S.C.P. scheme, lack of

periodic monitoring and evaluation, lack of knowledge and awareness about S.C.P schemes and S.C.P. schemes are not remunerative.

Implications of the study

The study brings to focus the acceptance of S.C.P. scheme of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala by the scheduled caste farm families and their perception and attitude towards the scheme. This will help in formulating suitable schemes which are financially viable and technically feasible for the scheduled caste families.

The identified constraints of the scheduled castes and the relationship established in the study between independent variables and dependent variables will help the extension personnel in initiating steps to strengthen the extension service in their areas and it may also help the planners and administrators in devising a suitable strategy for the effective planning and implementation of the S.C.P. schemes for the scheduled caste families.

Suggestions for future research

To render the generalisations made in the study more applicable, comprehensive studies covering wider geographical area and including more independent variables may be taken up. Research work can be conducted in the special Component Plan Schemes of the other Development Departments under Government of Kerala. Research work can also be initiated in the Tribal Sub Plan (T.S.P.) schemes exclusively for scheduled tribes to further augment their needs.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX - 1

PART - A

KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

College of Agriculture
Vellayani - 695 522.
Thiruvananthapuram
27 - 12 - '96.

Dr. M. M. Hussain,
Associate Professor,
Department of Agricultural Extension.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Mr. T. V. Rajendralal, M. Sc (Ag) Student of this department has taken up a research study on "Multidimensional Study of Special Component Plan Schemes for the Scheduled Caste Farm Families" under my guidance. He is developing a scale on "Attitude of Scheduled Caste Farm Families towards the Special Component Plan Schemes implemented by the Department of agriculture, Kerala".

In this regard some statements expressing the attitude of Scheduled Castes Farm Families towards Special Component Plan Schemes are listed. On the right handside of each statements, there is a set of columns representing the degree of favourableness of the statements. You are requested to tick () in the appropriate column to indicate your judgement about the statement as to its degree of favourableness on the five point continuoum viz "Most Un-favourable", "Unfavourable", "Neutral", "Favourable" and "Most Favourable". NOTE THAT THE RESPONSE INDICATES THE FAVOURABLENESS OF THE STATEMENTS IN THE REAL SENSE AND NOT OF YOURS AS A JUDGE. Please see that no statement is left out and kindly return the same at the earliest possible time.

Thanking you in advance for your kind contribution in completing this protion of his research work.

Yours Sincerely,

Sd/-

Dr. M. M. HUSSAIN

To

.....

MUF - Most Unfavourable

F - Favourable

UF - Un Favourable

MF - Most Favourable

N - Neutral

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
1. The Special Component Plan Schemes of the Agricultural Department are intended to effect agricultural development among the scheduled caste farm families.					
2. Special Component Plan Schemes of the Agricultural Department provide opportunities of income and employment generation to the poor scheduled caste farm families.					
3. It is because of the Special Component Plan Schemes, the facilities of improved cultivation are available to the scheduled caste farm families.					
4. The facilities envisaged from the Special Component Plan Schemes are not available to the scheduled caste families in time.					
5. The agricultural development programmes under Special Component Plan have brought about positive changes in the method of agriculture among scheduled caste farm families.					
6. Special Component Plan Schemes of the Agricultural Department does not provide opportunities of income and employment operation to the poor scheduled caste farm families.					
7. Because of the agricultural development programmes under Special Component Plan Schemes, the production has considerably increased during last few years among the scheduled caste farm families.					
8. Supply of quality coconut seedlings under Special Component Plan Schemes helped the free availability and quality coconut seedlings.					

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF	
9.						Supply of banana suckers under Special Component Plan Schemes is helping the scheduled caste farm families to get more income.
10.						Supply of cashew seedlings under Special Component Plan Schemes is helping the scheduled caste farm families to get more income.
11.						Special Component Plan Schemes are prepared as per the felt needs of the scheduled caste beneficiaries.
12.						Supply of cashew seedlings under Special Component Plan Schemes is not helping the scheduled caste farm families to get more income.
13.						Special Component Plan Schemes of the Agricultural Department could not create any desired impact among the scheduled caste families.
14.						Special Component Plan Schemes aims at meeting the living needs of scheduled caste farm families.
15.						Special Component Plan Schemes are not prepared as per the felt needs of the scheduled caste beneficiaries.
16.						Supply of spices seedlings under Special Component Plan Schemes is helping the scheduled caste farm families to get more income.
17.						Issue of plant protection equipments helped the scheduled caste farm families to increase their farm income.
18.						Supply of spices, seedlings under Special Component Plan Schemes is not helping the scheduled caste farm families to get more income.

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
19.	The Special Component Plan Schemes implemented by the Krishi Bhavan are not practical in the field conditions of scheduled caste farm families.				
20.	The components supplies under Special Component Plan Schemes are not according to the needs of the scheduled caste families.				
21.	Incentives given under Special Component Plan Schemes are very meagre.				
22.	Supply of fruit plants under Special Component Plan Schemes is helping the scheduled caste farm families to get more income.				
23.	Special Component Plan Schemes helped the scheduled caste farm families to develop their agro-social and cultural outlook.				
24.	Implementation of Special Component Plan Schemes indirectly helped the introduction of corruption.				
25.	Special Component Plan Schemes are the mere wasteful exercise.				
26.	Scheduled caste agricultural labourers were benefited much through the distribution of agricultural implements under Special Component Plan Schemes.				
27.	Special Component Plan Schemes is a blessing to scheduled caste farm families.				
28.	Supply of pineapple suckers under Special Component Plan Schemes is helping the scheduled caste farm families to get more income.				

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
29.	Special Component Plan Schemes are not based on the location specific problems of the scheduled castes.				
30.	Rooted pepper cuttings supplied under the Special Component Plan Schemes have benefitted much of the scheduled caste farm families.				
31.	Special Component Plan Schemes implemented are based on the location specific problems of the scheduled caste farm families.				
32.	Participation of the Scheduled castes are ensured in the implementation of the Special Component Plan Schemes.				
33.	Participation of the scheduled castes are not ensured in the implementation of Special Component Plan Schemes.				
34.	All the inputs supplied under Special Component Plan Schemes are not reaching the scheduled caste farm families.				
35.	Rooted pepper cuttings supplied under Special Component Plan Scheme, not helped the scheduled castes to generate more income.				
36.	Special Component Plan Schemes helped the scheduled castes to develop confidence in their personal life also.				
37.	Issue of fertilisers under Special Component Plan Scheme helped the scheduled caste farm families to increase their farm income.				
38.	Special Component Plan Schemes are meant for helping only the scheduled caste small and marginal farmers.				

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF	
39.						Imparting training to scheduled caste farmers are helping them to know much about improved agricultural practices.
40.						No follow up action was taken by the officials of Agricultural Department after the supply of seeds and planting materials under the Special Component Plan Schemes.
41.						Issue of fertilizers under Special Component Plan Schemes not helped the scheduled caste farm families to increase their farm income.
42.						Scheduled caste agricultural labourers were not benefited under the Special Component Plan Schemes.
43.						The components supplied under Special Component Plan Schemes were inadequate in terms of quality and quantity.
44.						There is little work and more propaganda made about the Special Component Plan Schemes.
45.						Most of the schemes under Special Component Plan are on papers and only very little of them are being implemented in scheduled caste colonies.
46.						Special Component Plan Scheme of the Agriculture Department is the best scheme implemented for the agricultural development of scheduled caste families.
47.						Special Component Plan Scheme for agricultural development should be stopped.
48.						The scheduled castes have to undergo a lot of hardships for getting any help from Special Component Plan Schemes.

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
49.	The benefits from the Special Component Plan Schemes are available only to the selected few in the scheduled caste colony.				
50.	Supply of vegetable seed kits under Special Component Plan Scheme helped the scheduled caste farmers to increase their farm income.				
51.	The agriculture Department is not committed to the sincere implementation Special Component Plan Schemes.				
52.	The scheduled castes get all sorts of help for their agricultural development and income generation from Special Component Plan Schemes.				
53.	The Agriculture Department is committed to the sincere implementation of Special Component Plan Schemes.				
54.	Due to the introduction of Special Component Plan Schemes of the Agricultural Department, there has been increase of farm income among scheduled caste families.				
55.	The present system of implementing Special Component Plan Scheme for scheduled caste farmers through IHDP (Integrated Habitat Development Programme) Colony is highly convenient.				
56.	Special Component Plan Schemes have taken up location specific agricultural production programme to improve the standard of living of scheduled caste farmers on colony basis.				
57.	Self employment schemes and schemes for creating assets to scheduled castes got preference under the Special Component Plan Schemes.				

APPENDIX - I

PART - B

SELECTED ATTITUDE STATEMENTS AND ITS SCALE VALUE

Statement No. (included in the Questionare)	'S' Value	'Q' Value
1.	2.20	.04
2.	3.89	.72
3.	4.10	.80
4.	4.13	.89
5.	4.18	.93
6.	2.00	.94
7.	4.08	1.04
8.	4.05	1.06
9.	3.81	1.06
10.	4.06	1.09
11.	4.15	1.16
12.	1.80	1.21
13.	1.87	1.22
14.	1.67	1.22
15.	4.05	1.31
16.	3.38	1.38
17.	3.76	1.47
18.	1.93	1.50
19.	3.91	1.50
20.	3.98	1.55
21.	3.20	1.57
22.	3.57	1.66

APPENDIX - II

RELEVANCY SCORE OF SELECTED INDEPENDENT VARIABLES

Sl. No.	Variables	Percent Score
1.	Age	73.33
2.	Education	73.25
3.	Farm Size	80.44
4.	Annual income	84.23
5.	Farming experience	75.50
6.	Occupation	77.34
7.	Social participation	91.11
8.	Economic motivation	80.00
9.	Achievement motivation	86.66
10.	Cosmopolitaness	77.77
11.	Extension Orientation	86.00
12.	Information Seeking behaviour	77.70
13.	Level of aspiration	82.46

APPENDIX - III

PART - A

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, VELLAYANI**

**MULTI-DIMENSIONAL STUDY ON SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN
SCHEMES FOR THE SCHEDULED CASTE FARM FAMILIES**

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

Date.....

Respondent No.

1. Name and address of the respondent :
2. Name of Scheduled Caste Colony :
3. Panchayat :
4. Block :
5. Age :
6. Education :
- Illiterate :
- Read only :
- Can Read and write :
- Primary Level :
- Middle School :
- High School :
- College and above :
7. Farm size : cents

8. Annual income (Rs.) :
9. Farming Experience : How long have you been engaged in farming
..... yers
10. Occupation : Agricultural labourer / Farming / Self Employment / Other Sources of employment

11. Social participation

Sl. No.	Organisation	Member	Office bearer
i.	No membership in any organisation		
ii.	Village Panchayat		
iii.	Village Co-operative		
iv.	Karshika Vikasana Samithi		
v.	Kera / Kurumulaku Samskarana Samithi		
vi.	Farmers Club		
vii.	Radio Rural Forum		
viii.	Others		

12. Economic Motivation

Here are some statements. Please give your agreement / disagreement about each of the following statements.

Sl. No.	Statements	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
i.	A scheduled caste farm family should work hard for economic profit					
ii.	The most successful scheduled caste farmer is one who makes more profit					

Sl. No.	Statements	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
iii.	A scheduled caste farmer should try any new idea which may earn more money					
iv.	A scheduled caste farm family must earn his living but most important thing in life cannot be defined in economic terms					
v.	It is difficult for one's children to make good start unless one provide them with economic assistance					

13. Achievement Motivation

Here are some statements. Please give your degree of consensus to each of the following statements.

Sl. No.	Statements	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
i.	One should enjoy work as much as play					
ii.	One should work hard at everything one undertake until he is satisfied with a result.					
iii.	One should succeed in his occupation even if one has been neglectful of his family.					
iv.	One should have determination and driving ambition to achieve certain things in life even if these qualities make one / unpopular					
v.	One should come first even if one cannot get rest					
vi.	Even when one's interests are in danger - one should concentrate on his job and forget his obligation to others.					
vii.	One should get difficult goals for oneself and try to reach them.					

14. Cosmopolitaness

i. Have you visited the neighbouring Village / Town

Yes / No

ii. If Yes, how often do you visit the town

Most frequently / Frequently / Sometimes / Never

iii. Purpose of visit

Agricultural / Personnel / Entertainment

15. Extension Orientation

a. Extension contact with category of extension personnel :

	Once a week	Once a fortnight	Once a month	Once a year	Never
i. Assistant Director of Agriculture					
ii. Agricultural Officer					
iii. Agricultural Assistant					
iv. Others					

b. Extension Participation

Extension activity	Frequency of participation				
	Whenever conducted	Most frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Never
i. Campaign					
ii. Seminar					
iii. Film					
iv. Group Meeting					
v. Others					

16. Information seeking behaviour

Please state through which of the following sources you seek information regarding the S.C.P. schemes

	Regularly	Sometimes	Never
i. Impersonal sources :			
Radio, News paper, T. V., Farm Magazine			
ii. Formal personal sources :			
Agricultural Assistant, Agricultural Officer			
iii. Informal Personnel Sources :			
Friends and relatives, Neighbours and fellow farmer, family members, local leaders, political leaders			
iv. Commercial Sources :			
Co-operative bank officials, Bank officials, Panchayat			
v. Other Sources :			
Group Meeting, Training, Seminar			

17. Level of aspiration

Here are a few questions regarding some of the areas with which you may be mostly concerned. Don't bother about whether you are really going to make it or not, but still you may expect certain of these events to happen in the near future. Please indicate your opinion frankly.

- i. What is the extent of education that your children should have ?
School level / College level / Technical or professional
- ii. What kind of work or job your children should take after their education ?
Agriculture / Government job / Business
- iii. Compared to previous years what would be the increase in annual income you expect to get in the next three years ?
After one year / two years / three years
- iv. What would you expect to be the increase in your land holding in the next three years ?
No increase / increase to some more / double the area
- v. What would be the type of improvement in your house you expect to have in the next three years ?
No improvement / Improve to some extent / make it a pucca house
- vi. What would be the material possession you expect to have in the next three years ?
Radio / TV / Pumpset / Irrigation Well / PP equipments / Biogas Plant
- vii. What would be the agricultural implements you expect to possess ?
No increase / Purchase some more / Purchase all the required ones.
- viii. What would you expect to be your general contentment ?
Somewhat better / mostly better / certainly better

PART - B
PERCEPTION

**STATEMENT REGARDING THE PERCEPTION OF THE SCHEDULED
CASTE FARMER ABOUT THE SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN SCHEMES
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, KERALA**

I. Scheme for the supply of coconut seedlings

1. To what extent you know about the details of the supply of coconut seedlings under S.C.P. scheme ?

Very well / Well / Some what / Least / Not at all

2. Please give your opinion as to whether it is difficult to cultivate coconut seedlings supplied under the S.C.P. scheme ?

Very easy / Easy / Neither easy nor difficult / difficult / very difficult

3. In your opinion how much profitable is the cultivation of coconut in your area ?

Most profitable / profitable / some what profitable / least profitable / not at all profitable

4. To what extent do you consider the scientific cultivation of coconut is suitable in your farming situation in view of the resources available at your disposal - type of soil, labour availability, source of irrigation ?

Most suitable / suitable / somewhat suitable / least suitable / Not at all suitable

5. In your opinion, how much useful is the cultivation of coconut seedlings supplied under the S.C.P. scheme ?

Very useful / useful / somewhat useful / least useful / Not at all useful

II. Scheme for the supply of pepper cuttings

1. To what extent you know about details of the supply of pepper cuttings under the S.C.P. scheme ?

Very well / Well / somewhat well/ least / not at all.

2. Please give your opinion as to whether it is difficult to cultivate pepper cuttings supplied under S.C.P. scheme ?

Very easy / easy / neither easy not difficult / difficult / very difficult

3. In your opinion, how much profitable is the cultivation of pepper in your area

Most profitable / profitable / somewhat profitable / least profitable / not at all profitable

4. To what extent do you consider the scientific cultivation of pepper is suitable in your farming situation in view of the resources available at your disposal - type of soil, labour availability, source of irrigation ?

Most suitable / suitable / somewhat suitable / least suitable / not at all suitable

5. In your opinion, how much useful is the cultivation of pepper cuttings in your area, supplied under S.C.P. scheme ?

Very useful / useful / somewhat useful / least useful / not at all useful

III. Scheme for the supply of agricultural implements

1. To what extent you know about the details of the supply of agricultural implements kit under the S.C.P. scheme ?

Very well / well / somewhat well / least well / not at all.

2. In your opinion, how much profitable is the use of agricultural implements supplied under S.C.P. scheme ?

Most profitable / profitable / somewhat profitable / least profitable / not at all profitable

3. Please give your opinion as to whether it is difficult to utilize the agricultural implements supplied under S.C.P. Scheme?

Very easy / easy / neither easy nor difficult / difficult / very difficult.

4. To what extent do you consider the supply of agricultural implements are suitable in your situation in view of the resources available at your disposal?

Most Suitable / suitable / some what suitable / Least suitable / Not at all suitable.

5. In your opinion, how much useful is the agricultural implements supplied under the S.C.P. scheme?

Very useful / Useful / somewhat useful / Least useful / Not at all useful.

IV. Scheme for the supply of vegetable seeds

1. To what extent you know about the details of the supply of vegetable seeds under the S.C.P. Scheme?

Very well / Well / somewhat / Least / Not at all.

2. Please give your opinion as to whether it is difficult to cultivate vegetable seeds supplied under S.C.P. Scheme?

Very easy / easy / Neither easy nor difficult / difficult /very difficult.

3. In your opinion, how much profitable is the cultivation of vegetables in your area?

Most profitable / Profitable / somewhat profitable / Least profitable / Not at all profitable.

4. To what extent do you consider the scientific cultivation of vegetables are suitable in your farming situation in view of the resources available at your disposal - type of soil, source of irrigation?

Most suitable / suitable / somewhat suitable / Least suitable / Not at all suitable.

5. In your opinion, how much useful is the cultivation of vegetable seeds supplied under the S.C.P. Scheme?

Very useful / useful / somewhat useful / Least useful / Not at all useful.

ATTITUDE

Statements regarding the attitude of Scheduled Caste farmer towards the Special component plan scheme of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala.

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
1.					
	Special component plan schemes of the Agricultural Department does not provide opportunities of income and employment generation to the poor scheduled caste farm families.				
2.					
	But for the supply of fruit plants, the agricultural income of scheduled caste farm family cannot be increased.				

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
3. The increase in agricultural income of scheduled caste farm family is due to the supply of banana suckers through the S.C.P. Scheme.					
4. In the absence of training given under S.C.P. Scheme, the scheduled caste farmers could not have increased their knowledge in scientific cultivation.					
5. The S.C.P. Schemes of the Agriculture Department created a positive impact on agricultural development in the State.					
6. The S.C.P. is a sole scheme which accomplished the felt-needs of scheduled caste farm families.					
7. Participation of the Scheduled Caste is not ensured in the implementation of S.C.P. Scheme.					
8. The living needs of scheduled caste farm families are fulfilled by the S.C.P. Schemes.					
9. It is the S.C.P. Scheme which ensured the quality coconut seedlings among the scheduled caste farm families.					
10. The employment generation of scheduled caste farm family is ensured through S.C.P. Scheme.					
11. It is very difficult for scheduled caste farm families to avail benefits from S.C.P. Scheme.					
12. S.C.P. Schemes are the mere wasteful exercise.					
13. S.C.P. Scheme for agricultural development should be stopped.					

Sl. No.	MUF	UF	N	F	MF
14. The living standard of scheduled caste farm family is increased by way of cultivating pepper cuttings supplied through S.C.P. Scheme.					
15. The S.C.P. Schemes helped the scheduled caste farm families to develop their agro-social and cultural outlook.					
16. Due to the introduction of S.C.P. Schemes of the Agricultural Department, there has been increase of farm income among scheduled caste farm families.					
17. Most of the schemes under S.C.P. are on papers only.					
18. The increase in income of scheduled caste farm family is ensured through the supply of plant protection equipments.					
19. The scheduled caste farm families were benefitted through the distribution of agricultural implements under the S.C.P. Schemes.					
20. The facilities of improved cultivation are available to the scheduled caste farm families through the S.C.P. Scheme.					
21. The S.C.P. Scheme is a blessing to the scheduled caste farm families.					
22. It is the vegetable cultivation scheme under the special component plan which helped to generate more income for scheduled caste farm families.					

ACCEPTANCE

Statements regarding the acceptance of Special Component Plan Schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala by the Scheduled Caste Farmer.

(1) Scheme for the supply of coconut seedlings

1. Did you got the coconut seedlings under S.C.P. Scheme during 1994 - 95 ?
If Yes, how many Nos. ?
2. Did you planted the coconut seedlings ?
Mention the no. of seedlings planted also ?
3. Are you satisfied with the quality of coconut seedlings supplied ?
4. Have you applied basal fertilizers and manures ?
5. Have you applied P.P. chemicals as recommended ?
6. Do you irrigate your coconut seedlings in summer ?

(2) Scheme for supply of pepper cuttings

	Yes	No
1. Did you got the pepper cuttings under S.C.P. Scheme during 1994 - 95? If Yes, how many Nos.?		
2. Did you planted the pepper cuttings? Mention the no. of pepper cuttings planted also?		
3. Are you satisfied with the quality of pepper cuttings supplied?		
4. Have you applied basal fertilizers and manures?		
5. Have you applied P.P. chemicals as recommended?		
6. Do you irrigate your pepper cuttings in the summer?		

(3) Scheme for supply of Agricultural Implements

1. Did you got agricultural implements kit under the S.C.P. Scheme during 1994 - 95?
2. Are you using regularly these implements for your daily work in the farm?
3. Do you feel that supply of these implements were helpful for you in increasing the efficiency in your farm?

(4) Scheme for supply of vegetable seeds

	Yes	No
1. Did you got the vegetable seeds uder S.C.P. Scheme during 1994 - 95? If Yes, how many items of seeds ?		
2. Did you used the Vegetable seeds for planting ? Mention the no. of items of seeds used also ?		
3. Are you satisfied with the quality of Vegetable seeds supplied ?		
4. Have you applied the manures as per package of practices recommendation ?		
5. Have you applied P.P. Chemicals as recommended ?		
6. Do you irrigate your Vegetable seedlings in the summer ?		

PART - C
CONSTRAINTS

The following are the constraints in the acceptance of Special Component Plan Schemes by the Scheduled Caste farm families. Please give the degree of importance of these constraints.

	Regularly	Sometimes	Never
1. No knowledge and awareness about S.C.P. Schemes.			
2. Non-availability of quality planting materials (seeds and seedlings)			
3. S.C.P. Schemes are not problem oriented.			
4. S.C.P. Schemes are not formulated based on the actual needs and requirements of S.C. families in the scheduled caste habitat.			
5. Sufficient quantity of planting materials are not available.			
6. Planting materials and other agricultural inputs are not supplied in time.			
7. Lack of timely technical advice regarding the cultivation of planting materials supplied under S.C.P. Scheme.			
8. Lack of financial assistance			
9. S.C.P. Schemes are not so remunerative.			
10. Agricultural Department does not make any effort to make participate scheduled castes in the planning and implementation of S.C.P. Schemes.			
11. S.C.P. Schemes are not Location specific.			
12. Procedure of getting benefits under the S.C.P. Scheme is a time consuming process.			

	Regularly	Sometimes	Never
13. S.C.P. Scheme lacks co-ordination of different development departments.			
14. The extension personnel are not much devoting their time for the implementation of S.C.P. Schemes.			
15. A cordial relationship is not existing between the Department of Agriculture and Scheduled caste farmers for the introduction of S.C.P. Scheme.			
16. The S.C.P. Schemes did not consider the cultural factors and socio-agro climatic conditions of the area before the introduction of S.C.P. Scheme in the scheduled caste habitats.			
17. Lack of periodic monitoring and evaluation			
18. Misutilization of the incentives by the Scheduled Castes due to unawareness and intervention of middlemen.			
19. The presence of self-help groups are not given importance while introducing of S.C.P. Schemes.			
20. Arrangements are not made for the marketing of produce under the S.C.P. Schemes.			
21. Lack of necessary technical intervention and supervision during the implementation of S.C.P. Schemes by the extension agencies.			
22. S.C.P. Schemes have not considered maximum utilization of existing infrastructure facilities.			
23. The need of the family labour was not highlighted for the success of S.C.P. Schemes.			
24. Under S.C.P. Scheme, effective involvement of follow farmer was not considered.			

MULTIDIMENSIONAL STUDY ON SPECIAL COMPONENT PLAN SCHEMES FOR THE SCHEDULED CASTE FARM FAMILIES

By

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**ABSTRACT OF A THESIS
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ABSTRACT

The present study under the title “Multidimensional study on Special Component Plan schemes for the scheduled caste farm families” was undertaken to assess the perception and attitude of scheduled caste farm families towards the S.C.P. schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Kerala and also to assess the acceptance of S.C.P. scheme by the scheduled caste families. The factors influencing the perception and attitude of scheduled castes towards the S.C.P. scheme and acceptance of S.C.P. schemes by the scheduled castes and constraints perceived by the scheduled castes in the acceptance of S.C.P. scheme were also assessed in the study. Two hundred numbers of scheduled caste of different I.H.D.P. habitats from 7 Krishi Bhavans in Palakkad District who were the beneficiaries of the S.C.P. scheme of Agriculture Department in the year 1994-95 were selected as the respondents for the study. Data were collected using interview schedule and suitable statistical techniques were employed in the analysis of data.

Four major schemes under Special Component Plan namely the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings, scheme for distribution of pepper cuttings, scheme for distribution of agricultural implements and scheme for distribution of vegetable seeds were selected for detailed study. The result of the perception of scheduled castes about the total S.C.P. scheme revealed that

58 per cent beneficiaries were distributed below the average perception score. Regarding the attitude, majority of the beneficiaries were having favourable attitude towards the S.C.P. schemes. With regards to the total acceptance of the scheme, 49 per cent beneficiaries were distributed above the average acceptance score and 51 per cent were below the average acceptance score.

Comparison of the four S.C.P. schemes revealed that the highest perception score was recorded for coconut seedlings and lowest for pepper cuttings. Regarding the acceptance of the scheme, the scheme for distribution of agricultural implements was highly accepted by the beneficiaries followed by vegetable seeds, coconut seedlings and pepper cuttings in the descending order.

With regard to the personal, economic and socio-psychological factors of the respondents influencing perception, attitude and acceptance, majority of the respondents were above the average age of 48 years. Among the sampled respondents, 13 per cent were illiterate and the remaining 87 per cent had achieved education upto different levels. Most of the literate farmers had schooling from 1-5 years. A good majority of them had the farm size below 15 cents and annual income below the average range of Rs. 4313.

More than half of the scheduled caste farm families had farming experience of below 20 years and a good majority of them were employed as agricultural labourers. Majority of the scheduled castes had low social participation, very low economic motivation, below average achievement motivation, low level of aspiration and also less information seeking behaviour. With regard to cosmopolitanism, 50 per cent of them had social participation

and 50 per cent of them had no social participation and most of them were having extension orientation above the average.

Relationship of the personal, economic and socio-psychological factors with the perception, attitude and acceptance showed that a positive and significant relationship exists between perception and factors such as education, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration. Regarding the attitude all other factors except cosmopolitaness and education were negatively and significantly correlated. In the case of acceptance, a positive and significant relationship exists with education, social participation, economic motivation, achievement motivation, cosmopolitaness, extension orientation, information seeking behaviour and level of aspiration.

Study on different characteristics of perception shows that a good majority of scheduled caste beneficiaries had very well developed awareness about the scheme for distribution of coconut seedlings and vegetable seeds were perceived to be very easy for them to cultivate. Regarding the profitability, vegetable seed was perceived to be highly profitable than coconut seedlings and agricultural implements and rooted pepper cuttings was perceived to be least profitable. In the case of suitability, agricultural implements supplied were perceived to be more suitable in their situations than coconut seedlings and vegetable seeds. The least suitability recorded for pepper cuttings. With regards to usefulness of the scheme, the agricultural implements supplied were perceived to be more useful and the supply of pepper cuttings were perceived to be least useful for them.

Study on acceptance and non-acceptance of individual practices by the scheduled caste families showed that about 15 per cent of them had not utilized the planting materials like coconut seedlings, pepper cuttings and vegetable seeds for planting or sowing purpose, even though 100 per cent of them had received the components. Majority of the beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality of components received and a good majority of them had not accepted the practices like application of manures and fertilizers, P.P. chemicals and irrigation. It was also observed that 60 per cent of the beneficiaries had utilized the agricultural implements supplied under the scheme.

The results of the constraint analysis revealed the need for location specific and problem-oriented S.C.P. schemes, timely supply of planting materials and other inputs, necessary technical intervention and supervision by the extension agencies, financial assistance and need for remunerative nature of S.C.P. schemes.

The results also pointed out the need for proper monitoring and evaluation of S.C.P. schemes and participatory planning and implementation of S.C.P. schemes for accomplishing the cherished goals.

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