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## A STUDY ON THE REASONS FOR THE **NON-ADOPTION** OF SOIL CONSERVATION MEASURES

Government agencies have been trying to implement integrated soil conservation schemes in Kerala. **Technical** and **financial assistance** have been given to **farmers** for taking up the integrated soil conservation measures. Even then, it has been found that many farmers within the scheme areas have been very **reluctant** to complete the works required for soil conservation. This has resulted in poor progress of execution works in many of the scheme areas. Hence the reasons for non-adoption of such soil conservation measures were studied in Trivandrum District during 1977-78 with the objective of formulating more effective soil conservation schemes in future. Results of the studies conducted are presented and discussed in this note.

A sample from the partial adopters from the completed scheme areas (Group A), another sample from the non-adopters of completed scheme areas (Group B) and a third sample of farmers from the new scheme areas (Group C) were **selected** by random sampling method. Each **sample** consisted of 60 farmers. For collection of data from the three groups of respondents, the interview schedule developed for the purpose and pre-tested was used. The respondents were interviewed **individually**. The Spearman's rank correlation coefficient was used for statistical tests. To measure the reasons for the non-adoption of soil conservation measures, all **possible** reasons **pertaining** to Engineering, Agronomic and **Agrostologic** measures were collected from Technical Officers of the soil conservation unit and farmers. They were edited and included in the questionnaire. Reasons for the-adoption of **Engineering**, Agronomic and Agrostologic measures were grouped separately. These statements were presented to the respondents. A 5 point scale was used to measure the degree of importance of the reasons stated by the **respondents**.

In group A, all the respondents have adopted the Engineering measures **recommended**. The reasons for non-adoption of Engineering measures in Group B and C are presented in Table 1.

The test of significance of the rank correlation coefficient indicated that there is agreement in the perception of the degree of importance of the stated **reasons** between respondents in group B and group C,

The test of significance of the rank correlations **indicated** that there was no **agreement** between groups A **vs** B. There was agreement between groups A **vs** C and B **vs** C.

**Table 1 Reasons for non-adoption of Engineering measures of soil conservation.**

Reason	Importance Rank	
	Group B	Group C
Lack of credit facilities for taking up work	1	1
Non-availability of stones in the locality for construction of bunds	2	4
High initial cost	3	3
Complexity of Engineering works	4	5
Inadequate technical assistance	5	2
Lack of knowledge of Engineering measures	6	6
Difficulty in getting skilled labourers in the locality	7	8
Problems in periodical maintenance of the bunds	8	9
Lack of immediate return	9	7

Rank correlation coefficient 0.83

**Table 2 Reasons for non-adoption of Agronomic measures of soil conservation**

Reason	Importance Rank		
	Group A	Group B	Group C
Lack of technical guidance	1	3	1
Lack of knowledge	2	4	3
Inadequate financial assistance	3	1	2
Non-availability of inputs	4	2	4
Lack of irrigation facilities	5	5	5
Non-suitability of soil for crops	6	6	6

Rank correlation coefficient between A C = 0.94

„ B C = 0.95

„ A B = 0.54

The test of significance of the rank correlation coefficients indicated that there was no significant agreement between groups A vs B, A vs C, B vs C.

The study on the reasons for non-adoption of different soil conservation measures revealed that lack of credit facilities, non-availability of stones in the locality and lack of technical assistance were important. Lack of technical assistance, lack of knowledge and inadequate financial assistance were

**Table 3 Reasons for non-adoption of Agrostologic measures of soil conservation.**

Reason	Importance Rank		
	Group A	Group B	Group C
Inadequate technical guidance	1	1	1
Nan-availability of grass slips	2	2	2
Difficulty in irrigation	3	4	4
Inadequate financial assistance	4	3	2

Rank correlation coefficients between A & B = 0.80  
 A & C = 0.40  
 B & C = 0.80

the important reasons for non-adoption of Agronomic measures. Lack of technical guidance, non-availability of grass slips, difficulty in irrigation and inadequate financial assistance were the important reasons for non-adoption of Agrostologic measures. The problems of periodical maintenance of bunds and want of efforts to educate the farmers on Agronomic and Agrostologic measures were reported by the State Planning Board (1970). If all the above problems are well thought of and attended to in time by the Department and extension workers, the schemes can be implemented in a more effective way.

സംഗ്രഹം

തിരുവനന്തപുരം ജില്ലയിലെ മണ്ണുസംരക്ഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ പുരോഗതിക്ക് തടസ്സമായി നിൽക്കുന്ന വസ്തുതകളെ വിശകലനം ചെയ്ത് നോക്കിയതിൽ, കടമായി കിട്ടുന്ന സാമ്പത്തിക സഹായത്തിന്റെ പേരായ്ക, അതതു സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ കല്ലു കിട്ടുന്നതിനുള്ള ബുദ്ധിമുട്ട്, സാങ്കേതിക സഹായത്തിന്റെ കുറവ് തുടങ്ങിയ പല കാരണങ്ങൾ സുപ്രധാന പങ്കു വഹിക്കുന്നുവെന്ന് കണ്ടു.

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