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A STUDY ON THE EXTENT OF ADOPTION OF SOIL CONSERVATION MEASURES

The magnitude of the problem of soil erosion is so high in Kerala due to the undulating topography of the land and high intensity of rainfall. Attempts were made to control the serious loss of top soil by the soil conservation unit by implementing integrated soil conservation measures. But the progress of coverage was poor. Even in scheme areas, many farmers were partial adopters of the required soil conservation works. A detailed study was conducted about the soil conservation schemes in Trivandrum District during the year 1977-78 to study the extent and effects of soil conservation programme and the results are presented herein.

For the purpose of the study, a sample from the adopters in the scheme areas, another sample from the non-adopters in the scheme areas and a third sample from the farmers of a new scheme area where the Department has not initiated any soil conservation work were selected by random sampling. For collection of data from the three groups of respondents, an interview schedule was developed. After pre-testing, the schedule was finalised. The data were collected by interviewing the farmers individually. Percentage analysis was used in bringing out the results.

The data pertaining to the extent of adoption of the three items of soil conservation measures namely: Engineering, Agronomic and Agrostologic measures with respect to the first group in which 100 per cent of the respondents adopted contour bunding are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Extent of adoption of soil conservation practices
in the first group

Name of practices	Number of adopters	Percentage
Engineering works only	32	53.32
Agronomic works only	—	—
Agrostologic works only	—	—
Engineering and Agronomic works only	8	13.33
Engineering and Agrostologic works only	—	—
Engineering, Agronomic and Agrostologic works	20	33.33

It was revealed that only 33.33 per cent of the respondents adopted all the required soil conservation practices recommended. The percentage of adoption in the second and third sample was 0. The adoption of contour bunding works in completed scheme areas of Trivandrum District was 62.2 per cent. Follow up works by Agronomic and Agrostologic measures is not adequate in scheme areas. This view is in conformity with the findings recorded by the State Planning Board (1970).

The mean increase in yield due to soil conservation work as perceived by farmers for tapioca and coconut was 23.25 per cent and 29.11 per cent respectively, 93.33 per cent of the respondents perceived that soil conservation works which resulted in the controlling of silting in paddy fields. All respondents perceived that soil conservation measures have effect on conserving soil moisture.

സംഗ്രഹം

തിരുവനന്തപുരം ജില്ലയിലെ പുത്തിയാക്കപ്പെട്ട മണ്ണുസംരക്ഷണ പദ്ധതികളിലെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം കർഷകരും ശുപാർശ ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള വിവിധ CD മണ്ണുസംരക്ഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ പൂർണ്ണമായി അംഗീകരിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുണ്ട്. 33.3 ശതമാനം അംഗീകാരകർ ആവശ്യമായ എല്ലാ മണ്ണുസംരക്ഷണ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളും നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. എഞ്ചിനീയറിംഗ് ജോലികൾ കഴിഞ്ഞു ചെയ്യേണ്ട പുല്ലുവച്ചുപിടിക്കലും മണ്ണുസംരക്ഷണ കൃഷിരീതികളും നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്നതിൽ കൂടുതൽ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതാണെന്നും ഈ പഠനത്തിൽനിന്നും വെളിപ്പെടുന്നു.

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Communication Centre,
Mannuthy.

G. BALAKRISHNAN PILLAI
G. T. NAYAR