

Participation of rural youth in farming

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ABSTRACT

This investigation was carried out during the year 2010-2011. From 10 villages of Amravati Taluka of Amravati district, 120 respondents (rural youths) were randomly selected for the study. Data were collected from the rural youths with help of pre-tested schedule by personal interview method. The result revealed that majority (65.00 per cent) of the respondent rural youths had medium level of participation in farming while, 17.50 per cent of respondents had low level of participation in farming and also 17.50 per cent of respondents possessed high level of participation in farming. The correlation analysis related to independent variables viz., age, land holding, size of family, type of family, social participation, extension contact, cosmopolitanism, attitude, motivation and knowledge about farming showed significant and positive relationship with participation in farming. While education showed significant negative relationship with participation in farming. Majority of respondents expressed electricity and irrigation water as constraints, low price returns, uncertainty in farm income due to weather hazards and expressed lack of knowledge about improved farm technologies also as a constraint.

KEY WORDS : Participation, Rural youth, Farming

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INTRODUCTION

India is said to be the land of youths and villages. Its 72.00 per cent population resides in rural area, with farming as their main occupation and contributes to the extent of 30.00 per cent national income. However, Indian agriculture still assumes the character of traditional farming because of reluctance of farming population particularly the old aged to accept the modern technology. Rural youths are expected to be more innovative than old people.

United Nations Organization for the purpose of celebration of International youth year defined youth as those people within age group of 15 to 35 years.

More than 300 million youth, "the world's best resource" is unable to find job. However, their potentialities are being wasted through unemployment, underemployment and disgusted so participation in farming can solve the problem of unemployment and achieve our target of food production because agriculture having self-employment potential is more elastic in its ability to absorb labour.

The specific objectives have been undertaken as follows, to study the profile of rural youth, to study the

extent of participation of rural youth in farming, to explore the relationship between personal characteristics of rural youth and their extent of participation in farming, to identify the constraints experienced by rural youth in participating the farming.

METHODS

Amravati block was properly selected for the study. The study was conducted in Amravati Taluka of Amravati district. Rural youths in 10 villages were contacted at their places of residence and data were collected by personal interview. From 10 villages, 120 rural youths were selected. The interview schedule was constructed by formulating relevant questions in accordance with objectives of the study. The schedule included questions pertaining to age, education, land holding, size of family, type of family, social participation, extension contact, cosmopolitanism, attitude, motivation and knowledge about farming as well as participation of rural youths in farming and constraints faced by them while participating in farming.

The information from respondents was collected by personal interview methods and their responses were considered for the purpose of the present study. Data

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