



A study on adoption of watershed practices by beneficiary farmers of Sujala watershed development programme

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken during 2010-2011 with an objective to study the impact of Sujala Watershed Development Programme in Dharwad district of Karnataka. Totally 120 beneficiary farmers from 12 villages were interviewed by administering the standardized interview schedule. The results revealed that majority of the beneficiaries were middle aged, semi-medium income group (50.83%), high social participation (47.50%), high management orientation (63.33%). Nearly 30.00 per cent of beneficiaries were educated upto pre-university and had medium land holding category. About 50.00 per cent of them having bore well as source of irrigation and high extension contact. Majority of beneficiary farmers (60.83%) were found in medium adoption category, whereas 37.50 per cent of beneficiary farmers were belonged to high adoption category, while only 1.67 per cent of them belonged to low adoption category.

INTRODUCTION

Watershed development is aimed at conservation of natural resources and maintaining the ecology of the area by using the simple soil and water conservation techniques. In other words, watershed management is overall development of particular region including water conservation, maintaining soil fertility, pasture land, agriculture, horticulture, forestry and allied aspects. Soil health and water contributes the vital resources for the development of the country. These two resources nourish and support the plant and animal life. The prosperity and welfare of humanity is also depending on water, which is irreplaceable resource. Soil, water and vegetation are most important natural resources, which provide food, firewood, fiber and raw materials to satisfy variety of needs of people. Hence, its judicious management is a pre-requisite for overall

development of the country. This clearly implies that judicious utilization of soil and water will increase substantially the present level of food grain production. In recent years more attention has been given for soil and water management.

METHODS

The study was conducted in purposively selected Sujala Watershed Project of Dharwad and Hubli Talukas of Dharwad district in Karnataka. This watershed project was started during the year 2001 in a phased manner and completed in the year 2008. "Ex-post facto design" was employed in the present research study as the events have already occurred and design was considered appropriate.

A list of recommended practices to be followed in case of watershed area was prepared in consultation with district