

Socio- economic and situational factors responsible for productivity in cotton

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted to ascertain the socio-economic and situational factors responsible for increase in productivity of cotton in mini mission cotton-II programme. Beneficiaries of cotton mini mission programme were interviewed and the data gathered were analyzed by using statistical tools like mean, deviation, correlation and regression. Correlation revealed that education, perception of effectiveness of programme, knowledge, adoption and input support had positive relationship with productivity. Multiple regression analysis revealed that farm size, input support, perception of effectiveness of programme and adoption had significant, regression co-efficient with productivity.

INTRODUCTION

Government of India has set up Technology Mission of cotton since year 2000 with Mini Mission approach. In this approach the entire gamut of research, development including technology transfer, marketing and processing of cotton was brought under one umbrella to improve production, productivity and quality of cotton. In Tamil Nadu, the technology transfer process of Mini Mission II, was executed through approaches like frontline demonstration and block demonstration etc. The KVKs located in major cotton growing districts of the state have implemented the frontline demonstrations on production technology, IPM and Farm implements for the last six years. Similarly, Block demonstration (BD) was implemented by State Department of Agriculture for transfer of improved cotton production and protection technologies. Demonstrations of high yielding varieties and hybrids suitable for various agro-climatic conditions, approved transgenic cotton, integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, use of bio-fertilizer, bio-pesticides, water management, inter cropping system etc., have helped the farmers to increase yield and reduce the use of pesticides and production cost significantly.

In Tamil Nadu, cotton is cultivated on an area of 1.23 lakh hectare with production of 5.00 lakh bales and productivity of 691 kg/ha

(Source: Cotton Advisory Board of India). In Madurai, cotton is cultivated in area of 10000 ha with production of 14,000 bales of 170 kg lint with productivity of 225kg/ha (Source: Statistical Department, State Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu, 2006). The production and productivity increased from 10,250 bales to 14,000 bales of 170 kg lint (36.59 per cent) and 172 kg / ha to 225 kg / ha (30.81 per cent) in the year 2000 to 2006, respectively. After introduction of Mini Mission II programme, the production and productivity has been increased. In order to ascertain the factors responsible for, the increase in productivity the present research study was undertaken.

METHODOLOGY

Expost-facto research design was adopted for this study since the manifestation of the variables chosen for the study had already occurred. In Madurai district, Thirumangalam taluk was deliberately selected for this study since it possesses the highest area (5200ha) under cotton cultivation. Similarly, Thirumangalam block was chosen for, it had more number of beneficiaries under Mini Mission - II cotton and KVK, Madurai has implemented its Front Line Demonstration (FLD) programme only in this block for the last five years. Since this study aims to compare the institutional impact of Mini Mission on cotton, five villages, where FLD programme

Key words : Mini mission cotton programme, Front line demonstration, Block demonstration and productivity, Socio-economic

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