

Economic impact of improved production technology of small millets in Haveri district of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Haveri District of Karnataka for the economic impact of transfer of technology of improved production technology of small millets, which revealed that there was a wide gap in the actual yield compared with the potential yield in the farmers field and research station yields.

INTRODUCTION

The poor largely grown small millets or Coarse Cereals in marginal and fragile environments where rainfall is scanty and occurrence of periodic droughts. As millets are photoinensitive and have shorter growing season and low moisture demand, They fit in well with mixed cropping system. They not only provide nutritious food for the people but are also a source of fodder for the cattle. There has been large-scale reduction in the cultivation of these small millets owing to the impacts of the green revolution. There is declining production of these small millets with each passing year. However, efforts to popularise the cultivation of these millets in order to conserve genetic diversity as well as to utilize the marginal and arid lands are being taken up. In this regard various high yielding varieties for the small millet crops have been released and are being cultivated. The impact of such efforts of KVK, Hanumanamatti was assessed using participatory monitoring and the change in the economics of the district was worked out.

METHODOLOGY

The small millets research programme at Hanumanamatti was initiated during 1992 and is continuing till date. A repertoire of local land

aces of small millets were collected and evaluated in the station for various characters. Many promising varieties were identified and were released after multi-location trial. These varieties along with agronomic practices were popularised among the farming community of the district through Front Line Demonstrations and sale of quality seeds both by KVK and ARS, Hanumanamatti. An attempt to study the impact of this transfer of technology through participatory monitoring on the economics of the district was made. The study was conducted in Haveri district of Karnataka, which comes under zone – 8 *i.e.* Northern transitional zone. All the seven Taluks of the district were considered for the study.

The sample for the study was 63 randomly selected respondents, which comprised of 36 Little millet respondents (10%), 11 foxtail millet beneficiaries (20%) and 16 finger millet beneficiaries (23%). The list of all the beneficiaries was organised year wise and village wise then the required sample was randomly selected for the study. Impact to be monitored, indicators to be used and interview schedule were developed with participation of the client at each and every level. This interview schedule was prepared and suitable modifications were incorporated with respect to characteristics of respondents, impacts to

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