

Adoption of soil and water conservation practices by farmers

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ABSTRACT

A survey of 120 proportionally selected sample of farmers from Amravati Taluka of Amravati district of Vidarbha in Maharashtra revealed that majority of respondents were from middle age group and belonged to educated upto college and above. Then majority of farmers possessed semi medium level of land holding while the respondents had low level of social participation and medium level of extension contact and majority of respondents were found to have medium level of innovativeness and high level of cosmopolitness and most of respondents were having medium level of knowledge and medium level of awareness about S.W.C.Ps. It was observed that out of 11 variables age, land holding and social participation were found to be non significant with adoption of S.W.C.Ps. and education, annual income, cosmopolitness, innovativeness, socio-economic station, knowledge and awareness were found to be positively significant with adoption of S.W.C.Ps.

INTRODUCTION

Land and rain water are two primary resources associated with agriculture production. According to an estimate of the central ground water board, if we continue to exploit our ground water indiscriminately then in the next 20 years, 15 states of the country may face acute shortage of underground water. As consequences of increasing pressure on land, the natural balance between the soil farming and soil conserving processes has been affected to serious problem of soil erosion. According to rough estimate, out of total geographical areas of 239 m ha of our country, about 173 m ha are subjected to varying degrees and forms of soil erosion. The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is spread over 11 districts, having 57.33 per cent cultivated areas, out of total geographical area of the region. The success or failure of crops, particularly under rainfed conditions solely depends on the rainfall pattern and the fertile land is eroded due to various reasons. There is need to study the status of farmers about soil and water conservation practices (SWCPs) in this region and to motivate them for adoption of various soils and water conservation practices.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out during the year 2009 in Amravati Taluka of Amravati district of Vidarbha in Maharashtra.

A sample of 120 farmers was taken from 15 selected villages, with the help of simple random sampling method. The data were collected by interviewing the farmers with the help of interview schedule. An exploratory design of social research was used for this study for the measurement of extent of adoption, a list of soil and water conservation practices was prepared and respondents of the farmers were collected on it. Extent of adoption was measured on three continuum *i.e.* complete, partial and non-adoption.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result obtained from the present investigation are presented below :

Practicewise adoption of soil and water conservation practices :

It is observed from Table 1 that most of farmers had summer ploughing tillage operations and sowing across the slope were adopted completely by 90.83% and 60% farmers. The majority of the respondents adopted partially the practices such as intercropping (60.00%), gully ploughing (65%), earthen bund (50%) and mulching (60%). Loose boulder structure and sunken farm pond was adopted (55.83%) and (32.00%) farmers. On the contour sowing, surface drains, contour bunds, vetiver bunds, lucaena bunds, cement plug, live check dam, counter vegetative hedges, green manuring and use of soil

Key words :

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