



## RESEARCH PAPER

# Adoption gap in maize cultivation

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**Abstract :** This study, conducted in the Dharni tahsil of Amravati district, India, examines the adoption gap in maize cultivation among 120 farmers. The research aimed to identify why farmers aren't fully adopting recommended farming practices. Data was collected through personal interviews and analysed using statistical methods like mean, frequency, standard deviation, and correlation. The findings reveal that a significant majority of farmers (94.17%) have a medium adoption gap, indicating a widespread underutilization of recommended practices. This is a primary cause of the low-to-medium yield gap observed in the area. Key factors contributing to this problem include a major information and knowledge gap (93.33% of farmers affected), a lack of effective agricultural extension services (66.67%), and environmental challenges like weather-related crop damage (81.67%). The study also found that certain farmer characteristics are linked to the adoption gap. Factors like education, knowledge, and access to information are highly and negatively correlated with the adoption gap, meaning farmers with more of these traits tend to have a smaller gap. In contrast, age and farming experience are positively correlated, suggesting that older, more experienced farmers may be less likely to adopt new practices. To bridge this gap, farmers suggested a timely and affordable supply of inputs, more on-field demonstrations, and better training on modern farming techniques.

**Key Words :** Maize cultivation, Adoption gap, Recommended practices

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