



A Case Study

Micro irrigation impact of new methods of irrigation in drought prone areas of Kurnool district

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ABSTRACT : Recognizing the fast decline of irrigation water potential and increasing demand for water different sectors, a number of demand management strategies and programmes have been introduced to save water and to increase the existing water use efficiency in Indian agriculture. One such method introduced relatively recently in Indian agriculture is micro-irrigation which has been proved to be an efficient method in saving water and optimum use of water efficiency and may show the benefits of micro-irrigation in terms of water saving and productivity gains. Micro-irrigation is also found to be reducing energy requirement, weed problems, soil erosion and cost of cultivation. Investment in micro-irrigation also appears to be economically viable, even without availing state subsidies. Further, the policy and technical increase awareness among the farmers about these economical and revenue-related benefits for micro-irrigation with the adoption of these two different water saving technologies namely, drip method of irrigation (DIM) and sprinkler irrigation method (SIM). Both drip and sprinkler method of irrigation are treated as distinct characteristics differences between the two terms of flow rate, pressure requirement, wetted area and mobility (Kulkarni, 2005), while “drip method supplies water directly to the root zone of the crop through a network of pipes with the help of emitters, sprinkler irrigation method (SIM) sprinkles water similar to rainfall into the field surface”. Thus, this paper examines the modes of the latest micro-irrigation technologies being implemented in drought prone areas overall India.

KEY WORDS : DIM, SIM, FIM, Water saving, Cost of crops

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These are primarily to save water and increase the water use efficiency in agriculture. Thus micro-irrigation is economically viable and environmental feasible to study the professional and to prospects of drip and spanker irrigation in the study area, Kurnool district. The Empirical study on drip irrigation is aimed to improve agriculture to an extent of 3095 ha under minor-irrigation in Kurnool district in 2011-2012. Currently 2008 farmers are benefited to arrange drip system to 1548 ha, the investment on this system raised to Rs 2.64 crores brought 1989 ha land more over under cultivation benefiting 1355 farmers with an investment of Rs. 1.97crores. More over the SC, ST farmers brought under the ‘Indira Jalaprabha programme’ by providing equipment of micro-irrigation system. The government has provided subsidies on the basis of size of land and expenditure not to exceed one lakh. Table 1 shows the payment of subsidies to the small, marginal and big farmers based on land ceiling under caste wise consideration.

Table 1 show that 100 per cent subsidies were provided to SC/ST small and marginal farmers who were having 1-5 ha of land , medium size farmers with 5-10 ha of land, have been given 75 per cent of subsidies, large size farmers who were having 10-12 ha of land were given 60 per cent of subsidies and the farmers who had above 12 ha of land been given 40 per cent of subsidies and the others in case of small and marginal farmers 90 per cent subsidies, and to large size farmers were given 40 per cent who had more than 12 ha of land.

The agriculture development has prepared another fresh proposal allocating Rs. 1.96 crore to the exiting cultivation up to 1000 ha under drip irrigation method in which the small and marginal farmers would get 50 per cent and others my get 40 per cent of subsidies as such a micro-irrigation is proved to be efficiency method compared to the commercial surface method of irrigation where water is efficiency is only about 35-40 per cent both drip and sprinkler irrigation methods are considered