RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Constraints in adoption of recommended practices by the respondents extended through Agricultural Polyclinic

■ **S.G. PURI** AND **S.D. WANGIKAR**

SUMMARY : The present study was undertaken in Parbhani, Nanded and osmanabad districts of Marathwada region. From these selected districts, two talukas in each district on the basis of earlier establishment of 'agricultural polyclinics' were selected and two 'agricultural polyclinics' from each district were selected on the basis of same principle. From each list of polyclinic beneficiary, 25 respondents were drawn by n^{th} method of random sampling. Thus final sample comprised of 150 respondents. A substantial percentage (58.00 %) of the respondents were of middle aged. As regards education a significant (37.33 %) per cent of the respondents were possessing higher secondary level of education. 33.33 per cent had farming as main occupation, 59.33per cent were having semi medium size of land holding with an annual income of medium category (57.33 %) having medium level of social participation (63.33%) and medium risk orientation (69.33 %). Majority of the respondents (81.34 %) had medium contacts and medium economic motivation (73.34 %). Two top most constraints expressed by the respondents were lack financial support from 'agricultural polyclinic' and not undergoing any training or demonstration of high tech agriculture based on shed net, green house and low cost green house.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In order to be able to compete, farmers should not only be well informed about findings of agricultural research, which are relevant for their situation but they should also learn from practical experience through training and demonstration. In this regard Government of Maharashtra has realized the importance of agricultural research and its extension and

launched a pilot programme- "agriculture polyclinic" in 1997-98 in all talukas / districts step by step.

Increasing yield per hectare implies the shift from traditional methods of production to new scientific methods that include new technological components such as new varieties, cultural practices and new farming system. In many countries there are wide gaps between the yields that could be obtained

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through the use of available production technologies and the yields obtained by the majority of farmers. This is due to the wide knowledge practice gap and may be attributed to non-adoption of latest technological practices by the farmers. However, the farmers may face a number of constraints, which might cause difficulties in adoption of recommended new technological activities/practices extended through Agricultural Polyclinics. These constraints need to be examined and minimized. Keeping this in view, the present study was undertaken with the specific objective

– To study personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the respondents.

– To ascertain the constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of Agricultural Polyclinic activities/practices.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in Parbhani, Nanded and osmanabad districts of Marathwada region, from these selected districts, two talukas in each district on the basis of earlier establishment of agricultural polyclinics were selected and two agricultural polyclinics from each district were selected on the basis of same principle. From each list of polyclinic beneficiary, 25 respondents were drawn by n^{th} method of random sampling. Thus final sample comprised of 150 respondents.

For collecting data in light of objectives, structured schedule was prepared and personal interview method was employed for collecting data. Simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage were used.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

Personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the respondents :

It is observed from Table 1 that a substantial percentage (58.00 %) of the respondents were of middle aged. As regards education a significant (37.33 %) per cent of the respondents were possessing higher secondary level of education. 33.33 per cent had farming as main occupation and remaining respondents were engaged in various occupations together with farming. Most of respondents (59.33 %) were having semi medium size of land holding with an annual income of medium category (57.33 %) having medium level of social participation (63.33%) and medium risk orientation (69.33 %). And majority of the respondents (81.34 %) had medium contacts with the extension agencies with medium economic motivation (73.34 %). The results are in line with Agre (1996).

Constraints faced by the respondents while adopting the agricultural practices recommended through the agricultural polyclinic :

Respondents were also asked to indicate the constraints they encounterd in expected adoption of agricultural practices recommended through the Agricultural Polyclinic. In this regards, it is observed from Table 2 that the first and foremost constraint faced by respondents was that lack financial support from 'agricultural polyclinic' (92.66%). Followed by as much as 64.66 per cent of the respondents who faced the main constraint of not undergoing any training or demonstration of high tech agriculture based on shed net, green house and low cost green house.

Other important constraints faced by respondents were in following order: vermicompost and vermiculture were not easily available (64.00 %), scarcity of irrigation facilities (53.33 %), training courses organized by the 'agricultural polyclinic' were of short duration (49.33%), more time required to fill up and for watering of NADEP pits (47.33%), soil and water testing was not carried out at proper time (46.66%).

Some of the other constraints expressed by the respondents were namely, unavailability of products prepared and sold by 'agricultural polyclinic' (40.00%), lack of irrigation facilities (37.33%), difficulties in easy availability of model implements based on new technology (36.00%), seed germination testing was not carried out at proper time by 'agricultural polyclinic' (34.00%), insect, pest and disease diagnosis was not carried out at proper time (32.66%), information not shown properly, to get sufficient information (30.66%), the information given in training courses was not properly understood by the respondents (29.33%), problems in adoption due to timely unavailability of technical guidance from the agricultural polyclinic (26.66%), less land holding to prepare PKV watershed model/ farm pond (24.66%), non adoptable

Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents by personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of the respondents

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
Age			
1.	Young (18 to 35)	32	21.33
2.	Middle (36 to55)	87	58.00
3.	Old (56 and above)	31	20.67
Education			
1.	Illiterate	7	4.66
2.	Can read or write	3	2.00
3.	Primary	21	14.00
4.	Secondary	56	37.33
5.	Higher Secondary	36	24.00
6.	Graduate and above	27	18.00
Occupation			
1.	Farming	50	33.33
2.	Farming + labour	27	18.00
3.	Farming + subsidiary occupation	36	24.00
4.	Farming + business	12	8.00
5.	Farming + service	25	16.66
Land holding			
1.	Marginal	23	15.33
2.	Small	16	10.67
3.	Semi-medium	89	59.33
4.	Medium	12	8.00
5	Large	10	6.67
Annual income			
1.	Low (Rs. upto 27854)	18	12.00
2.	Medium (Rs.27855 to100321)	86	57.33
3.	High (Rs.100322 and above)	46	30.67
Social participation			
1.	Low (score upto 10.76)	26	17.33
2.	Medium (score10.77 to39.99)	95	63.33
3.	High (score 40.00 and above)	29	19.34
Extension contact			
1.	Low (score upto 2.45)	17	11.33
2.	Medium (score 2.46 to 5.54)	122	81.34
3.	High (score 5.55 and above)	11	7.33
Risk orientation			
1.	Low (score upto 16.87)	37	24.67
2.	Medium (score16.88to 26.48)	104	69.33
3.	High (score 26.49 and above)	9	6.00
Economic motivation			
1.	Low (score upto 17.82)	33	22.00
2.	Medium (score17.83to 27.07)	110	73.34
3.	High (score 27.08 and above)	7	4.66

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Table 2 : Constraints faced by the respondents while adopting the agricultural practices recommended through the agricultural polyclinic

(n=150)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Scarcity of irrigation facilities	80	53.33	4
2.	Less land holding for contour work	26	17.33	19
3.	Vermicompost and vermiculture were not easily available	96	64.00	3
4.	More time required to fill up and for watering of NADEP pits	71	47.33	6
5.	Soil and water testing was not carried out at proper time	70	46.66	7
6.	Unavailability of products prepared and sold by agricultural polyclinic	60	40.00	8
7.	Less land holding to prepare PKV watershed model/ farm pond	37	24.66	16
8.	Insect, pest and disease diagnosis was not carried out at proper time	49	32.66	12
9.	Non-availability of recommended remedial chemicals at right time in market	26	17.33	18
10.	More distance to approach and take information from agricultural polyclinic and places of programme organized by agricultural polyclinic	17	11.33	20
11.	Problems in adoption due to timely unavailability of technical guidance from the agricultural polyclinic	40	26.66	15
12.	Non-adoptable recommended technologies	35	23.33	17
13.	Could not read the information available in library due to illiteracy	7	04.66	21
14.	Difficulties were occurred in easy availability of model implements based on new technology	54	36.00	10
15.	Perception of the respondents that they could not be benefited by the use of shed nets and low cost green houses	7	04.66	22
16.	Respondents could not undergo any training or demonstration of high tech agriculture based on shed net, green house and low cost green house	97	64.66	2
17.	Lack of financial support from agricultural polyclinic	139	92.66	1
18.	Training courses organized by the agricultural polyclinic were of short duration	74	49.33	5
19.	The information given in training courses was not properly understood by the respondents	44	29.33	14
20.	Information not shown properly, to get sufficient information	46	30.66	13
21.	Lack of irrigation facilities	56	37.33	9
22.	Seed germination testing was not carried out at proper time by agricultural polyclinic	51	34.00	11

recommended technologies (23.33%), non-availability of recommended remedial chemicals at right time in market (17.33%), less land holding for contour work (17.33%), more distance to approach and take information from 'agricultural polyclinic' and places of programmes organized by 'agricultural polyclinic' (11.33%), could not read the information available in library due to illiteracy (04.66%) and perception of the respondents that they could not be benefited by the use of shed nets and low cost green houses (04.66%) were the important constraints encountered by the respondents while adopting the 'agricultural polyclinic' activities/practices. The results are in line with Pimparikar and Shetay (1993); Gogoi (2000) and Kausadikar (2000).

Conclusion :

It is concluded that a substantial percentage (58.00 %) of the respondents were of middle aged. As regards education a significant (37.33 %) per cent of the respondents were possessing higher secondary level of education. 33.33 per cent had farming as main occupation, 59.33 per cent were having semi medium size of land holding with an annual income of medium category (57.33 %) having medium level of social participation (63.33%) and medium risk orientation (69.33 %). Majority of the respondents (81.34 %) had medium contacts and medium economic motivation (73.34 %). Also it is observed that lack of financial support from agricultural polyclinic was the main constraint perceived by majority of the respondents followed by not undergoing any training or demonstration of high tech agriculture based on shed net, green house and low cost green house. Other important constraints like vermicompost and vermiculture were not easily available, scarcity of irrigation facilities, training courses organized by the agricultural polyclinic were of short duration, more time

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required to fill up and for watering of NADEP pits, soil and water testing was not carried out at proper time were faced by majority percentage of respondents.

Based on the findings, it is suggested that, the implementing agencies, working officers and staff may work with more commitment and zeal to reach to the beneficiaries and persuade them. Efforts need to be made to increase the functional and resource literary of the respondents by way of providing them opportunities to participate in social activities and encouraging them to do so. Implementing agencies should keep personal contact and establish rapport with respondents and change their attitude favourably towards activities/ practices. The implementing agency may organize farmer's rallies, special training programmes, demonstrations and provide them effective diagnostic services with farm literature and disseminate the information about agricultural polyclinic programme on mass media like television, radio, films and newspapers. Financial support should be provided through agricultural polyclinic and implementing agencies keeping close liaisons with Zilla Parishad, state and central agricultural department and banking sectors for providing requisite loan or financial support

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