

IDENTIFICATION OF REASONS FOR DISCONTINUANCE OF NEW FARM PRACTICES AMONG VARIOUS FARMER'S CATEGORIES

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was undertaken with the objective to find out the reasons of discontinuance of the new farm practices by big, small and marginal farmers. The findings of the study concluded that all the three categories of farmers had different problems in the continuous use of the new farm practices. Since, not much concurrence about common cause could find out from the results of the study. However, big farmers felt lack of knowledge, conviction, awareness, irrigation facilities, certain attributes of the innovations responsible for discontinuance of new farm practices. At the same time the small and marginal farmers felt high cost of input, lack of finance and awareness, fright of losses in case of crop failure and poor facilities as the most important reasons for discontinuance. The reasons of discontinuance on the basis of frequencies were ranked and it was observed that the rank order of reasons for discontinuance of different new farm practices differed to a great extent amongst the big, small and marginal farmers. The findings of the study also revealed that the difference was also evident in the ranked order of reasons of discontinuance for innovation to innovation.

Key words : Discontinuance, New Farm Practices, Socio-Economic Status.

INTRODUCTION :

It is very difficult to persuade farmers to use the new farm practices replacing their primitive traditional methods of agriculture. Some of them who adopt these practices do so at different times while other do not adopt at all. Also from among those who adopt, there are some who discontinue over a period of time. The frequency of discontinuance is not rare, but there was a rather surprisingly high rate of discontinuance for many innovations. Poor and non-adoption of the new practices of agriculture by the farmers and their reversion to old practices are the problems that are often faced by the extension agencies in the transfer of technology, which is responsible for low productivity. It has been also observed that it is only medium and big farmers have obtained the maximum benefit from the new technology and the semi-medium, small and marginal farmers did not get their due share of gains from the new technology in agriculture. This study was therefore undertaken with the objective to find out the reasons of discontinuance of selected new farm practices by different categories of farmers.

METHODOLOGY :

The study was conducted in the five purposively selected development blocks of district Udaipur (Raj.) following multistage stratified random sampling procedure. In all 100 farmers were selected from each category viz. big, small and marginal farmers from ten randomly selected villages. Thus, the sample for the study constituted 300 respondents. Ten new packages of practices of maize and wheat crops, which were recommended in the study area, were selected in consultation with subject matter specialist and extension workers as these were

the main crops of the area in Kharif and Rabi seasons respectively. The data were collected with the help of structured schedule developed for the study by personal interview with the respondents.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION :

Reasons for discontinuance of the new farm practices: Efforts were made to know the reasons of discontinuance of new farm practices by the farmers. The results with this regard are presented in table 1.

It is evident from the tables 1 that big farmers felt longer cultivation period as the most important reason for discontinuance of hybrid maize, while small farmers felt that seed has to be changed every year and the marginal farmers felt that seed is very costly as the most important reason for the discontinuance high bride maize. Regarding discontinuance of high yielding variety wheat, the grain not good for consumption, less fodder production were the most important reasons perceived by big, small and marginal farmers respectively regarding seed treatment all the respondents felt that certified seeds are relatively no more used. With regards to soil treatment the most important reason felt by big farmers was unsecured crop due to lack of assured irrigation, costly chemicals and lack of finance were the most important reason for the discontinuance felt by small and marginal farmers respectively. Soil analysis was discontinued mainly due to lack of proper facilities for analysis within reach and lack of conviction of merit by big, small and marginal farmers respectively. Most important reasons for discontinuance of basal application of recommended dose of NPK fertilizers were result not impressive, high cost of fertilizers and lack of finance by big, small and

Table 1. Reason for Discontinuance of New Practices of Maize & Wheat (N=300)

S. N.	Reasons for Discontinuance	Rank Order		
		Big Farmers	Small Farmers	Marginal Farmers
1. Hybrid Maize				
1.	Longer cultivation period	I	VI	V
2.	Untimely rains therefore grains do not ripen properly	II	IX	VIII
3.	Unsatisfactory experience	III	V	VI
4.	Seed not available in time	IV	VII	IX
5.	Seed has to be changed every year	V	I	II
6.	Inadequate irrigation facility	VI	III	IV
7.	Seed is very costly	VII	II	I
8.	Lack of finance	VIII	IV	III
9.	Bad seed supplied	IX	VIII	VII
2. High Yielding Variety Wheat				
1.	Not good for consumption	I	V	V
2.	Less fodder production	II	I	I
3.	Produce sells cheaper	III	III	IV
4.	Inadequate irrigation facility	IV	II	II
5.	Not convinced for profit	V	IV	III
3. Seed Treatment				
1.	Certified seed is no more used	I	I	I
2.	Seed dresser not available locally	II	III	III
3.	Lack of conviction of utility	III	II	II
4. Soil Treatment				
1.	Un-assured crop due to lack of assured irrigation	I	III	III
2.	Chemicals costly	II	I	II
3.	Lack of conviction	III	IV	IV
4.	Lack of finance	IV	II	I
5. Soil Analysis				
1.	Lack of proper facilities for analysis within reach	I	II	II
2.	Lack of conviction of merit	II	I	I
3.	Lack of extension personal interest	III	III	III
6. Basal Application of NPK Fertilizers				
1.	Results not impressive	I	V	VI
2.	Inadequate irrigation facility	II	III	IV
3.	Uneconomic to put fertilizers	III	VII	VII
4.	Organic manure and broadcasting of urea is enough	IV	VIII	VIII
5.	High cost of fertilizers	V	I	II
6.	Risky proposition, fear of crop failure experienced	VI	IV	III
7.	Lack of finance	VII	II	I
8.	No suitable credit facility	VIII	VI	V
7. Top Dress of Nitrogenous Fertilizers				
1.	Soil condition gets hardened	I	III	III
2.	Lack of irrigation facility	II	I	II
3.	Risk of crop failure	III	IV	III
4.	Lack of finance	IV	II	I
5.	Fertilizer not available in time	V	V	V
8. Plant Protection Measures				
1.	Lack of knowledge	I	IV	V
2.	Chemicals not available locally	II	VI	VI
3.	Uncertainty of crop success	III	V	IV
4.	Non-availability of P.P. equipments	IV	I	III
5.	Fungicides/pesticides costly	V	II	II
6.	Lack of finance	VI	III	I
7.	Harmful to men and animals	VII	VII	VII

9. Chemical Control of Weeds			
1.	Very risky proposition	I	II
2.	Complex method	II	III
3.	Hazardous crop	III	IV
4.	Costly method	IV	I
5.	Not convinced of superiority over manual weeding	V	V
10. Fumigants in Storage			
1.	Fumigants not available locally	I	I
2.	Local practice serves the purpose	II	II
3.	Complicated practice	III	III

marginal farmers respectively. Soil condition gets hardened lack of irrigation facility and lack of finance were the main reason expressed by big, small and marginal farmers respectively for discontinuance of top dress of nitrogenous fertilizers, plant protection measures were discontinued by big, small and marginal farmers mainly due to lack of knowledge, non availability of P.P. equipments and lack of finance respectively. Chemical control of weeds was discontinued by big and small farmers mainly due to very risky proposition and costly method. Fumigants in storage were mainly discontinued due to non availability of the fumigants locally by all the respondents. Thus the result of table 1 indicates that the reasons for discontinuance of the different innovations differed greatly amongst the big farmers and the small and marginal farmers. The difference in the rank order to reasons for innovation-to-innovation is also evident.

CONCLUSION :

All the three categories of farmers had different reasons for the discontinuance of new farm practices. Because not much agreement about common cause emerged from the data, however, big farmers felt lack of knowledge, conviction, awareness, irrigation facilities and certain attributes of the innovations such as longer maturity period for hybrid maize and complexity of chemical weed control and lack of proper supply of the input as major reasons responsible for discontinuance of new farm practices. At the same time small and marginal farmers felt high cost, lack of finance and awareness, fear of heavy loss in case of crop failure and lack of facilities as most important reasons for the discontinuance of new farm practices. It is therefore highly essential that constraints faced by different categories of farmers in continued use of new farm practices be given due consideration by the extension agencies engaged in the transfer of the technology to the farmers.

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