

## Scale for Measuring Attitude of Farmers towards Social Forestry

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### ABSTRACT

*A scale was developed to measure the attitude of the farmers towards social forestry based on Likert's technique. A tentative list of 60 statements was drafted keeping in view the applicability of statements suited to the area of study. The statements collected were edited in the light of the informal criteria suggested by Thurstone and Chave, Wang, Bird, Edward and Kilpatrick. These statements were framed in such a way that they expressed the positive or negative attitude. The score of each individual item on the scale was calculated by summing up the weights of the individual items. On the basis of total score, 27 percent of the subjects with the highest total score and also 27 percent of the subjects with lowest total scores were taken assuming that these groups provided criterion groups in terms of high and low evaluated by the individual statement. In order to find out the discriminating index for each item, 't' value was calculated using the formula and procedure given by Edwards. The scale so developed finally consisted of 22 statements (11 positive and 11 negative) whose 't' values were found to be significant at one percent level of probability.*

**Key words:** Attitude scale; Continuum; Reliability; Validity;

Attitude has been defined as “the degree of positive or negative feeling, opinion, belief, and action, associated with some psychological object. A psychological object may be any symbol, person, institution, ideal, phrase or idea towards which people may differ from each other with respect to positive or negative aspect. The psychological object for the present study has been symbolised as the practices recommended under social forestry. An attitude scale consists of a number of items which have been carefully selected and edited based on certain specific criteria. The items forming an attitude scale are termed as statements. A statement is any thing that is said about a psychological object. The class of all possible statements that can be made about a given psychological object is called as universe. One of the important assumptions made in the development of an attitude scale is that there is a difference in the belief and disbelief system of individuals with favourable / unfavourable attitude towards a psychological object. Following methodology was adopted to develop an attitude scale towards social forestry based on *Likert's technique (1932)*.

### METHODOLOGY

*Item collection* : As a first step in developing the attitude scale towards social forestry a number of statements about social forestry practices were gathered from books, bulletins, magazines and by discussions with academicians, subject matter specialists, researchers, and forest officials who were directly or indirectly exposed to such knowledge system. A tentative list of 60 statements was drafted keeping in view the applicability of statements suited to the area of study.

*Editing of items:* The statements collected were edited in the light of the informal criteria suggested by *Thurstone and Chave ( 1929)* and *Edward and Kilpatrick (1948)*. These statements were framed in such a way that they expressed the positive or negative attitude. In order to get a five point judgement, five alternative responses, categorised from strongly agree to strongly disagree were assigned to each statement. The statements so collected regarding social forestry practices were discussed with farm scientist / forest officials / extension personnels having exposure to social

