

Participation of Panchayat Presidents in Planning and Execution of Village Agricultural Production Programmes*

By

J. RAJARAM¹ K. RADHAKRISHNA MENON² and V. S. SUBRAMANYAN³

ABSTRACT

The study revealed that the overall participation of panchayat president in planning and execution of three agricultural production programmes was above half (52.26 per cent) of the total participation expected out of them. Of the three programmes, the presidents' participation was more in the 'fruit plants programme' compared to 'implements programme'. It was the least in the 'hybrid cumbu programme'.

INTRODUCTION

The Panchayat Presidents are expected to take active in planning and execution of village development activities. However, public opinion on the actual performances by these functionaries are held in a diametrically opposed manner. A study was initiated with a specific objective of assessing the extent of participation of panchayat presidents in planning and execution of the selected agricultural production programmes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in two randomly selected blocks *viz.* Chithamur and Madurantakam of Chingleput agricultural division in Tamil Nadu. The two blocks consisted of 100 village

panchayats in total and all the 100 presidents constituted the sample for investigation. The data were gathered from the respondents with the help of an interview schedule. In consultation with block extension workers and a few panchayat presidents, three agricultural programmes *viz.*, the distribution of improved implements to individuals at 25 per cent subsidised rate (implements programme), the distribution of fruit plants to individuals at 25 per cent subsidised rate (fruit plants programme) and the distribution of hybrid cumbu seeds to farmers at 50 per cent subsidised rate (hybrid cumbu programme) were selected for the studies.

The participation of panchayat presidents was analysed based on the calculated mean participation score. In each programme two stage *viz.*, planning

*Forms part of M.Sc. (Ag.) Dissertation approved by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641003.

1. Instructor in Agricultural Extension, Agricultural College and Research Institute, Madurai and Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in Agricultural Extension Agricultural College and Research Institute, Coimbatore.

stage and execution stage were identified. Each such stage was split up into definite number of clear and precise steps. Planning stage uniformly consisted of five steps and execution stage comprised of four steps. Thus there were 27 steps in total for all the three programmes. The participation in a step was dichotomised as 'yes or no'. The 'yes' response was assigned one score and 'no' response carried no score value. The maximum score which one could get was 27. The mean participation score of the respondents for a particular step or stage or programme was the average of the individual scores obtained for their participation in that step or stage or programme.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is clear that the panchayat presidents had participated more in the execution stage (58.25 per cent) compared to planning stage (52.60 per cent) of the programme. The overall participation in the entire programme was found to be slightly higher than average participation (Table 1). This finding is

Table 1. Extent of participation of panchayat presidents in planning and execution stages of implements programme

Stages	Mean score	Maximum score	Percentage of mean score to max. score
Planning stage	2.63	5	52.60
Execution stage	2.33	4	58.25
Total	4.96	9	55.11

in conformity with the findings of Brar (1966) who reported 50.95 per cent of

participation by presidents in implements programme.

In general the extent of participation in fruit plants programme was more in the execution stage (63.50 per cent) than in its planning stage (Table 2). This situation is similar to that of implements programme. The over

Table 2. Extent of participation of panchayat presidents in planning and execution of fruit plants programme

Stages	Mean score	Maximum score	Percentage of mean score to maximum score
Planning stage	2.67	5	53.40
Execution stage	2.54	4	63.50
Total	5.21	9	57.89

all participation also as met with implements programme was fairly higher than the average participation (57.89 per cent).

It is apparent that the presidents' participation in hybrid cumbu programme was poor and unsatisfactory accounting for a participation percentage less than 50, whereas their participation in the other two programmes had exceeded 50 per cent (Table 3). There was also no difference in the participation between the planning and execution stages. Poor participation of presidents in schemes like improved seeds was reported by Sandhu and Sohal (1966). The poor participation of presidents, may be due to lack of proper training in the procedure of planning and execution of pro-

grammes participation. Ponnayya (1972) was of view that the roles and responsibilities of elected representatives was not clearly defined in planning for agricultural development. Clear definition

Table 3. Extent of participation of panchayat presidents in planning and execution stages of hybrid cumbu programme

Stages	Mean score	Maximum score	Percentage of mean score to maximum score
Planning stage	2.19	5	43.80
Execution stage	1.75	4	43.75
Total	3.94	9	43.78

of the roles and responsibilities, adequate training involving presidents in all stages of planning would make the panchayat presidents interested in the programmes and help in to proper planning at grass root level.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The senior author is thankful to the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore for according permission to publish the M. Sc. (Ag.) dissertation and to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for the award of a Junior fellowship.

REFERENCES

- BRAR, BALDEV SINGH. 1966. A study on the contribution Sarpanches in planning and execution of Agricultural Development Programmes in Punjab. *M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis* Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.
- PONNAYYA, J. H. S. 1972. Panchayat raj institution and agricultural development with special references to planning and training in Papers and Proceeding of workshop cum Seminar on Rural Institution N.I.C.D. Hyderabad.
- SANDHU, A. S. and T. S. SOHAL. 1966. Procedure being followed in planning Agricultural Extension Programmes at block level. *Ind. J. Extn. Edn.* 2 : 66-71.