

## A Study to Evaluate the Extent of Utilisation of the Gramasevak's Implements in the Blocks

By

V. SRINIVASAN<sup>1</sup> and K. N. DURAISWAMY<sup>2</sup>

### ABSTRACT

The study revealed that 45 per cent of the farmers in the villages were aware about the availability of implements with gramasevaks and 16.3 per cent of them only had utilised. The equipments available with the gramasevaks were not in working condition at the time of need.

### INTRODUCTION

In the present day context, the intensive cultivation implies the use of efficient implements that are necessary to replace the old traditional methods involving considerable manual labour, time and cost. Plant protection equipments have also become inevitable in successful crop production. (Harris, 1966). In view of the poor economic conditions of the farmers in the villages the Government of Tamil Nadu provided sufficient funds to equip the gramasevaks with a set of improved implements and plant protection equipments for demonstration as well as for hiring them to needy farmers in the villages. This study was initiated to find out the availability and the extent of utilisation of the implements by the farmers in the villages.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was undertaken in Perur Block of Coimbatore district at four different levels *viz.*, farmers, local panchayats, gramasevaks and block, through separate well structured questionnaires for each level. At farmers' level 109 farmers from randomly selected ten revenue villages were selected and the percentage analysis was made for the different aspects studied.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study revealed that all the gramasevaks in the villages were provided with all the important implements and equipments as the hand operated sprayers and dusters, bund formers, ridge ploughs and melur ploughs for more than a decade. The

1. Associate Professor of Agricultural Extension, and 2. Formerly Director of Extension Education, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore-641003.



extent to which the equipments were utilised over a period of three years is furnished in Table 1.

Table 1. Extent of utilisation of plant protection equipments

Gramasevaks' Headquarters	1966-67		1967-68		1968-69	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
Vedapatty	2	2	—	—	—	—
Kurichi	—	—	—	—	34	34
Other eight gramasevaks	—	—	—	—	—	—

A. Number of farmers who have utilised

B. Number of days used.

Thus it was evident that only 2 out of 10 gramasevaks issued the equipments to the farmers in only one year for a few farmers and days. The other eight gramasevaks have not made use of the equipments available with them.

The difficulties in utilising the plant protection equipments are furnished in Table 2.

Table 2. Difficulties in using the plant protection equipments

Nature of difficulties expressed	Number of farmers	Percentage (n=49)
The equipments were found to be under repairs whenever approached	6	12.2
Could not get the equipments whenever approached	5	10.3
Difficulties not expressed	38	77.5

In general 12.3 per cent of the respondents have expressed that they

always found the equipments under repairs and an another 10.3 per cent of them have stated that they could not avail them for their use whenever they approached the gramasevaks and the rest (77.5 per cent) of them have not offered any reasons.

It is observed that nine of the gramasevaks has issued his equipments for demonstration purposes only. Further, out of these nine gramasevaks, only seven have conducted the demonstrations personally (Table 3).

Table 3. Mode of utilisation of the equipments available with the gramasevaks

Mode of utilisation	Gramasevaks	
	Nos.	Percentage (n=10)
Issued for demonstration purposes only	9	90
Issued neither for demonstration nor for hire	1	10

The studies clearly revealed that the implements and equipments provided with the gramasevaks were neither used for demonstration purposes nor for hiring them to the farmers.

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## REFERENCE

- HARRIS M. HERBERT. 1966. How important is Plant Protection Rural. Youth Ann. No. *New Delhi Youth Farmers' Association* pp. 34-35.