

Problems confronting Panchayat Presidents in their involvement in planning and execution of Agricultural Production

A study was carried out to find out the problems confronting the panchayat presidents in their active involvement in planning and execution of agricultural production programmes. The study was undertaken in two ran-

domly selected blocks of Chingleput district. The presidents in the selected blocks numbering 100 were interviewed by means of a structured, pretested schedule. The findings are furnished in Table 1.

Table 1. Problems faced by panchayat presidents

Problems	No. of Presidents	Percentage n = 100
Non-supply of materials at the time when they were required	83	83
Stocks supplied were poor in quality	72	72
Incompetency of village level workers to guide the presidents in planning	54	54
Planning and extension of programmes done by the extension personnel themselves without the involvement of presidents	41	41
Plans are thrust from above	37	37
Not aware of the systematic procedure of planning and execution of programmes	28	28
Specific local needs could not be included due to rigidity of rules	15	15

Due to multiple response, the frequency and percentage exceeds 100, which is the sample size

The administrative problems like untimely supply, inferior quality of stock supplied, planning from top and over looking the panchayat president by officials not only make the position of the presidents critical in the villages but also render them less enthusiastic in implementing the agricultural development programmes. Inefficiency of village level worker and lack of knowledge in the procedure of systematic planning were not the major problems confronted by the presidents. As

such it is felt that most of the administrative difficulties stated by the presidents could be got over if more attention is paid by the extension staff relating the agricultural programmes of blocks.

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better educated, economically well placed and forward caste categories. (Table 1).

Table 1. Age Vs categories

Categories	No. of Respondent	Percent-age
Low (upto 29)	69	57.50
Medium (30-39)	28	23.23
High (40-50)	23	19.17

Leadership

The leadership of the respondents with reference to agriculture was found out by employing the self-designation technique (Rogers, 1962). From the leadership scores obtained by the respondents they were categorised as

Table 2. Leadership score

Degree of leadership	No.	Percentage
Low (1-2)	11	9.17
Medium (3-4)	20	16.67
High (5-6)	89	74.16

low, medium and high. The percentage of respondents under the different

categories is given in the Table 2.

Thus the maximum percentage of respondents (74.16 per cent) possessed high degree of leadership. Hence the involvement of farmers in FTC activities especially in training programmes had helped in developing leadership.

The development of leadership was found to be associated with education, economic status and media participation of the respondents. Persons who were better educated, economically better and had higher participation in different communication media were found to act as leaders in the villages.

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