

A Study on the Scheme of Crop Yield Competition

The creation of a healthy competitive spirit among our farmers can act as a means to step up agricultural production. Reddy (1970) reported that the strongest motive to participate in crop yield competition was the desire for public recognition. To ascertain the working of the crop yield competition scheme, a study was conducted in Madurai East Block among 75 participants and 75 non-participants in rice crop yield competition scheme and the results are presented below.

The awareness of rice crop yield competition among the participant and non-participant farmers was studied. All the 75 participants were found to be aware of the scheme and among the non-participants 48 per cent of them were aware of the scheme. So the awareness of the scheme alone did not induce the farmers to participate in the scheme.

The sources of information for participants at awareness stage were found as follows:

The main source of information for the participant farmers was the village level worker followed by neighbours, radio, Agricultural Extension Officer etc. In the case of non-participant farmers, the main source of information through which they became aware of the scheme was neighbours, followed by competition plots, radio etc. (Table 1).

Table 1. Sources of information and awareness

| Source | Score obtained from among the participants | Score obtained from among the non-participants |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Village Level Workers | 259 | 79 |
| Neighbours | 200 | 173 |
| Radio | 151 | 153 |
| Agricultural Extension Officers | 119 | 30 |
| Progressive farmers | 60 | 38 |
| News papers | 58 | 83 |
| Village leaders | 33 | 58 |
| Competition plots | 24 | 158 |
| Total | 904 | 772 |

With a view to find out the factors which had motivated the farmers to participate in the crop yield competition, they were asked to rank the factors from a list given to them. The scores obtained by these different factors are given in Table 2.

The most important motivational factor was to get public recognition. The other factors were, to get more yield, to have new experience and so on. Thus the desire to get recognition from fellow-men can be made use of to induce the farmers to participate in crop yield competitions (Table 2).

The impact of participation of the farms in crop yield competition with reference to their adoption of improved

Table 2. Motivational factors for crop yield competition

| Motivational factor | Scores obtained (n=42) | Percentage |
|---|------------------------|------------|
| To get public recognition from fellow farmers | 156 | 24.68 |
| To get more yield | 104 | 16.46 |
| To have new experience in improved practices | 80 | 12.66 |
| Attracted by the awards given to the winners | 73 | 11.55 |
| To become a progressive farmer | 64 | 10.13 |
| To contribute toward Nation's Food production | 56 | 8.86 |
| To get preferential treatment from extension personnel | 33 | 5.22 |
| To save money so that future generation may not be in the hands of debt | 27 | 4.27 |
| To give many children good education | 23 | 3.64 |
| Because neighbours took part in the competition | 9 | 1.42 |
| Possessed enough resources to compete | 7 | 1.11 |
| Total | 632 | 100.00 |

Table 3. Impact of participation of farmers

| Nature of impact | No. of respondents adopted | Percentage |
|---|----------------------------|------------|
| Improved seeds | 67 | 89.33 |
| Plant Protection measures | 56 | 74.66 |
| Application of recommended doses of fertilizers | 53 | 70.66 |
| Seeking technical help from extension personnel | 46 | 61.33 |

practices was studied and presented in Table 3.

The participation in the scheme made the farmers use improved seeds, apply recommended dose of fertilizers, adopt plant protection measures and seek extension personnel for technical assistance.

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