https://doi.org/10.29321/MAJ.10.A03092

*Madras agric. J.* 65 ( 6 ): 387—390, June, 1978.

# Influence of Peripatetic Training Programme on the Adoption of Recommended Farm Practices

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The peripatetic training camps influenced 56 per cent of the farmers to adopt correct dose of nitrogenous fertilizer for the Paddy crop and 32 per cent of farmers to adopt the recommended split dose of nitrogen application. The age, literacy level and the size of the farm of the Paddy farmers did not significantly influence them to adopt the recommended practices.

The success in increasing agricultural production depends on the ability "to involve large number of farmers big and small" in the production effort (Vidyarthi, 1969). With a view to achieve this objective the Farmers Training Centres in this country are regularly conducting peripatetic training camps to which farmers within walking and cycling distance are invited. Moreoever these peripatetic training camps are specially organised to the farmers' present interest and needs-how to increase crop production and how to increase profits (Sanders, 1967).

The Farmers' Training Centre at Agricultural College & Research Institute, Madurai is training the farmers of Madurai District in the above aspects by way of organising peripatetic trainings. In order to assess the influence of peripatetic training camps on the adoption of improved farm practices recommended in the training by the trainees a study was conducted and the results are presented below.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted with reference to four peripatetic training camps organised by Farmers Training Centre, Madurai in four villages namely Manthikulam, T. Andipatti, Usilampatti and V. Meenakshipuram in Madura District on the correct dose and split application of top dressing nitrogeneous fertilisers to paddy crop. The adoption of recommended practices in the training programme was assessed through a structured questionnaire at the time of cultivation of paddy crop.

In all, responses from 50 respondents were recorded and the adoption of recommended practices due to the training was assessed. The data gathered were tabulated, analysed statistically and discussed below.

## RESULTS DISCUSSION

The Farmers Training Centre, Madurai conducted number of peripatetic training camps in the villages in Madurai District on (1) correct method

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of top dressing nitrogeneous fertilizer and (2) split application of nitrogeneous fertilizers to paddy crop. The analysis of the data shows the following benefits for farmers in the paddy growing areas.

Adoption of recommended farm practices due to the training by the farmers:

TABLE I. Influence of training on the adoption of correct recommended dose of fertilizer.

| Adoption category | Participant adopted the practice | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Full adopters ... | 28 | 56 |
| Partial adopter ... | 15 | 30 |
| Non-adopters ... | 7 | 14 |

In the case of adoption of correct recommended dose of fertilizer 56 per cent of the participants adopted fully, 30 per cent adopted partially and 14 per cent not adopted the practice. This is in accordance with Singh (1968) who concluded that inspite of various limitations the training imparted to farmers improved the adoption behaviour with respect to improved methods of farming. Among the partial adopters of 30 per cent of farmers, 12 per cent were willing to adopt the recommended practice but for their lack of resources like shortage of the water, non-availability of fertilizer, non-availability of finance, pest and disease problems etc. The remaining 18 per cent of the partial adopters wanted to try this recommended practice initially in a smaller area and after getting conviction, like to adopt the same in their entire area.

TABLE II. Influence of Training on the Adoption of Recommended Split dose of Nitrogen.

| Adoption category | Participants adopted the practice | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| Full adopters ... | 16 | 32 |
| Partial adopters ... | 29 | 58 |
| Non-adopters ... | 5 | 10 |

Regarding the adoption of recommended split dose of nitrogen (top dressing nitrogen, four times on 15th, 25th, 35th and 45th day after transplanting) 32 per cent of the participants adopted this practice fully, 58 per cent partially and 10 per cent not adopted the practice. Among the 58 per cent of partial adopters, 30 per cent were willing to adopt this practice but for adverse condition of shortage of water. The remaining 28 per cent of partial adopters wanted to try this new practice in a smaller area and if found suitable wanted to adopt the same in their entire area.

The relationship of age, literacy level and size of farm of the farmers with reference to the adoption of recommended improved farm practices in the training were also studied and the results are discussed below:

From the table III it is clear that there is no relationship between the age of the participants and the adoption of the correct dose of application of nitrogen and split application of nitrogen, since the calculated chi-square values are not significant. Hence, it may be concluded that due to the training all the age groups of participants adopted the recommended

TABLE III Adoption of Recommended Practices by different Age group of Participants.

| Recommended practices | Age group | Adopter and partial adopter who had the mind to adopt the practice but for their difficulties such as lack of water, finance etc. | Non-adopters and partial adopters who had enough resources for adopting the practice but not fully convinced in the training | Chi-square value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Correct dose of application of nitrogen | Read & write | 3 | 3 | |
| | High School | 27 | 10 | 0.69 |
| | College | 4 | 3 | |
| Split application of nitrogen | Read & write | 3 | 3 | |
| | High School | 23 | 14 | 0.63 |
| | College | 5 | 2 | |

TABLE IV Adoption of Recommended Practices by different litrate group of participants.

| Recommended practices | Literate Group | Adopter and partial adopter who had the mind to adopt the practice but for their other difficulties such as lack of water, finance etc. | Non-adopters and partial adopters who had enough resources for adopting the practice but not fully convinced in the training. | Chi-square value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Correct dose of application of Nitrogen | Young | 14 | 5 | |
| | Middle | 17 | 10 | 0.687 |
| | Old | 3 | 1 | |
| Split application of Nitrogen | Young | 12 | 7 | |
| | Middle | 16 | 10 | 0.384 |
| | Old | 3 | 1 | |

TABLE V. Adoption of Recommended practices by different Farm size holder of participants

| Recommended practices | Farm size groups | Adopter and partial adopter who had the mind to adopt the practice but for their other difficulties such as lack of water, finance etc. | Non - adopters and partial adopters who had enough resources for adopting the practice but not fully convinced in the training | Chi-sqnare value |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Correct dose of application of nitrogen | Small | 21 | 11 | 0.829 |
| | Medium | 8 | 2 | |
| | Large | 5 | 3 | |
| Split application of nitrogen | Small | 19 | 13 | 0.681 |
| | Medium | 6 | 4 | |
| | Large | 6 | 2 | |

practices irrespective of their age differences. In other words age has not influenced the participants in the adoption of recommended farm practices.

From the table IV it could be seen that the literacy level of the participant did not significantly influence the adoption of correct dose of application of nitrogen and split application of nitrogen, since the calculated chi-square values for both the practices are not significant. Thus, it may be concluded that there is no difference in the adoption behaviour of the practices recommended in the training by the different literate group of farmers.

The statistical tests revealed that the size of holding had no significant influence on the adoption of correct dose of application of nitrogen and split application of nitrogen, since the calculated chi-square values are not significant. Thus, it may be concluded that the participants of the different farm sizes adopted the recommended practices irrespective of their different size of holdings.

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