Association Between Certain Demographic Characters of Ragi Growing Farmers and Their Phychological Charateristics*

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The study on demographic characters of ragi growing farmers revealed that age has association only with Innovativeness, while education has definite and significant association with all the ten psychological variables tested, Farm size is related to attitude and level of aspiration of the farmers. In the case of social participation, it has definite association with all the psychological characterstics of farmers under study. Thus the Socio-personal variables have definite role in influencing the psychological characterstics of ragi growing farmers for adoption of H. Y. V. of Ragi.

A study conducted by Singh and Pal (1974) revealed that farmers education and socio-economic status were significantly associated with achievement motivation, whereas the size of land was not, Singh and Singh (1971) reported that Size of holding and level of education had significant and positive relationship with attitude. Singh and Tripathi (1972) stated that education and size of holding and significant positive correlation with level of aspiration In the light of the reported findings a study on the association of the socio-personal characteristics of ragi growing farmers of Dharmapuri District with their psychological characteristics in relation to their adoption of recommended practices would help the Extension Agency to formulate the educational stratagies, suitable for ragi growing farmers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

The study was conducted in the five randomnly selected villages in Uthangarai block of Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu. Ten psychological factors relevant to ragi growing farmers were selected through judge's opinion. One hundred ragi growing farmers from the selected villages were interviewed following the probability proportionate random sampling procedure. Four important Socio-personal characters *viz.*, age, education, farm size and social participation of farmers were chosen for the study and to find out their association with the selected psychological factors *viz.*, achievement motivation, attitude, economic motivation. Independence Innovativeness, knowledge, level of Aspiration, progressivism, risk preference

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and scientific orientation. Economic motivation, independence, scientific orientation and risk preference were measured by using the scales developed by Supe (1969). To measure knowledge, the teachers' method scale used by Kamlsen (1971) was followed with modifications suited to ragi crop. To measure attitude and Achievement motivation the scales developed by Singh (1969) was used. "Self-rating scale" developed by Movlik (1965) was used to measure innovativeness. Progressiveness was measured by using the scale developed by Sinha (1963). The data were statistically analysed and are presented in this paper.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(i) *Age and psychological characters:*

Only innovativeness has significant association with age while the remaining nine variables have no association indicating that they are independent attributes (Table I). In the case of innovativness it was noticed that young and middle aged farmers are more innovative than the old.

(ii) *Education and psychological characters:*

Education is found to have highly significant association with all the ten Psychological characters of ragi growing farmers. The farmers having a level of education upto secondary education have higher degree of achievement motivation, attitude, economic motivation, knowledge, progressivism, risk preference and scientific orientation. This shows that as the level of education of farmers increases their desire to achieve more in their life also increases. They have increased power of understanding which helps them to select the useful practices.

(iii) *Farm size and psychological characters:*

Attitude and level of aspiration have high significant association with farm size indicating that they are dependent attributes to each other, while the remaining 8 variables are independent. As the size of holding increased, the attitude of the farmer became more favourable towards growing high yielding varieties. As the medium and big size farmers have the advantage of closer contact with extension agency and better mass media exposure, they might have understood the advantage of the new varieties better and thereby formed more favourable attitude than the small land holders. More number of big land holders have high level of aspiration. The big farmers are economically better off than small farmers and so their aspirations are also high for adopting high yielding varieties and new innovations.

(iv) *Social participation and psychological characters :*

Of the ten psychological variables, attitude, innovativeness level of aspiration, progressivsm, risk preference and scientific orientation have highly significant association with social participation. The farmers, who have involvement in different institutions, interact with persons of different status and ways

of life and they develop aspiration to achieve the position or status held by others. Level of aspiration has greater strength of association with social participation, followed by risk preference, attitude, innovativeness and scientific orientation.

From the study it can be concluded that education and social participation are the two important socio-personal characteristics that play vital role in influencing the psychological variables in relation to adoption of high yielding varieties of ragi among farmers. So this necessitates that steps should be taken to provide education to farmers through adult education programmes. To make them more social by participative, the farmers should be enrolled in village level basic institutions like co-operatives, panchayats and farmers discussion groups. The farmers may also be involved in the institutional training camps and peripatetic training camps organised by Farmers Training centres.

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TABLE-I. Association of socio-personal characteristics of ragi growing farmers with their psychological characteristics

Psychological characteristics	Socio-personal characteristics			
	Age	Education	Farm size	Social participation
Achievement motivation	4.3437^{NS}	29.4300** (c=0.4769)	3.3608^{NS}	7.4576** (c=0.2634)
Attitude	3.3094^{NS}	34.7600** (c=0.5078)	11.4454** (c=0.3205)	14.7917** (c=0.3590)
Economic motivation	7.7592^{NS}	30.7260** (c=0.4848)	6.8475^{NS}	9.1211* (=0.2891)
Independence	4.8075^{NS}	21.7498** (c=0.4175)	0.5503^{NS}	8.4472* (c=0.2791)
Innovativeness	12.3992* (c=0.3321)	29.3704** (c=0.4764)	4.2972^{NS}	13.3062** (c=0.3427)
Knowledge	4.7157^{NS}	47.8812** (c=0.5691)	4.9195^{NS}	8.0086* (c=0.2723)
Level of aspiration	4.4623^{NS}	18.6060** (c=0.3961)	15.9369** (c=0.3708)	25.2514** (c=0.4490)
Progressivism	6.8297^{NS}	45.8843** (c=0.5608)	2.7667^{NS}	13.2547** (c=0.3421)
Risk preference	3.7307^{NS}	36.1414** (c=0.5152)	6.7953^{NS}	19.5776** (c=0.4046)
Scientific orientation	5.0471^{NS}	23.5134** (c=0.4363)	4.8655^{NS}	11.4682** (c=3208)

c   = Coefficient of mean square contingency is given in parantheses

N. S.= Non-significant

*   = Significant at 0.05 level of probability,

**   = Significant at 0.01 level of probability·