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IMPACT OF LAB TO-LAND PROGRAMME ON KNOWLEDGE LEVEL OF FARMERS OF KARIMNAGAR DISTRICT (ANDHRA PRADESH)

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Efforts have been made to transfer the technology to the tillers of soil through various media of communication either singly or in combination. The Lab-to-Land programme, one of its kind which is a latest innovative introduction is dedicated to the bread winners of our country. This programme was started by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) New Delhi, on the eve of its Golden Jubilee Celebrations in the year 1979. This programme was taken up, in the right earnest by the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University. In the second phase of this programme the Polas Village of Karimnagar district was adopted during the year 1982 to 1984. This programme combines both agricultural and veterinary activities.

The basic concept of this programme is to transfer the technology from the research stations to the farmers fields, finally aiming at the upliftment of the economic status of the small and marginal farmers in particular and the others in general.

The explicit importance and crucial contribution of the lab-to-land programme to agricultural development certainly call for a scientific study to assess the influence of the programme on knowledge levels of farmers for whom the learning situations were designed. Hence an attempt is made in the present study to estimate the degree of impact of lab-to-land programme on beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers in relation to certain parameters. The specific objective of this study was to ascertain the impact of lab-to land programme on the knowledge level of respondents (beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers).

MATERIALS AND MATHODS :

The study was conducted during the year 1984 in Polas village of Jagtial block in Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. All the 60 paddy growing beneficiary farmers selected under the lab to-land programme were included in this study. To know the impact of this programme, the same number of non-beneficiary farmers were selected from Polas village by matching certain personal and socio-economic factors on random sampling basis. Thus, the total sample for the study comprised of 120 farmers. The data were analysed statistically by using frequencies, percentages, means, standared deviation and 't' test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. *Distribution of respondents based on their knowledge levels*

The respondents of both the beneficiary farmers were classified into low,

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Table 1 : Distribution of lab-to-land programme beneficiary and non beneficiary farmers by their knowledge scores.

Category	Beneficiary farmers		Non-Beneficiary farmers		Different in percent
	F	%	F	%	
Low knowledge group	—	—	31	51.66	—51.66
Medium knowledge group	46	76.67	24	40.00	+ 36.67
High knowledge group	14	23 33	5	8.34	+14.99
Total :	60	100.00	60	100.00	—

Mean : 16.94 Standard Deviation : 5.52.

Table 2. 't' value between the mean scores gain in knowledge of beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers

Category	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	't' value
Beneficiary Farmers	60	19.15	5.04	
Non-Beneficiary Farmers	60	14.77	5.11	4.78**

** Significant at 5% level of probability.

medium and high knowledge groups on the basis of mean and standard deviation and their distribution pattern is presented in Table-1.

It is evdient from the Table 1, that there is a greater percentage of beneficiary farmers in medium knowledge group (76.67%) compared to non-beneficiary farmers, (40.00%). The high knowledge group includes 23.33% of beneficiary and 8 34 per cent of non-beneficiary farmers, whereas, there is an absolute high percentage of non-beneficiary farmers in the low knowledge group (51.66%). Similar results were obtained by Pulla Reddy (1983).

The difference in percentages between the beneficiary and non beneficiary farmers were also worked out to findout, who among the above respondents dominate in the gain in knowledge of improved paddy package of practices. This also revealed that in the medium and high knowledge groups only beneficiary farmers are dominated, while the low knowledge group only non-beneficiary farmers

2. *The difference in the knowledge group of beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmer.*

Mean, standard deviation and 't' value were employed to find out any significant difference between the beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers.

It is clear from the Table-2, that the beneficiary farmers had high knowledge scores compared to non-benefi-

ciary farmers. The calculated 't' value was found to be significant at 5% level of probability.

These findings are also in accordance with those resulted from the knowledge level studies related to other programmes conducted by Lokhande (1959), Jalihal (1965), Reddy and Babu (1982 a) and (1982 b)

An over view of the tables 1 and 2, indicates that the lab-to-land programme have created good impact on the minds of the beneficiary farmers. As such lab-to-land programme was not only succesful in increasing the knowledge of beneficiary farmers about improved paddy package of practices but also to motivate them to adopt the practices.

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