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|-----------------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Method of sowing: | Seed drilling or broadcasting. | Green manure : | At 45 to 60 days after sowing, the crop will be ready for ploughing in situ as green manure crop. The plants can also be pulled out, chopped and spread to the field for decomposition before transplanting. |
| Irrigation : | As and when necessary. | | |
| To induce stem nodulation : | Collect fresh nodules from the base of the stem, make pulp and spray on the stem portion where the nodules are to be induced. | | |

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PROBLEMS PERCEIVED BY THE STAFF IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

K. ABDUL KAREEM and K.M. JAYARAMAIAH

Department of Agricultural Extension
 University of Agricultural Sciences
 Bangalore 560 024

ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in Kerala to ascertain the problems perceived by the Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Village Extension Officers (VEOs) in the planning and implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Both the BDOs and the VEOs perceived that 'misutilisation of assets by beneficiaries', 'beneficiaries lack managerial ability to take care of the assets', and 'block officials lack adequate transportation to reach beneficiaries efficiently' are the three most important problems encountered.

KEY WORDS : Integrated rural development programme, implementation, problems

The Integrated Rural Development Programme popularly known by its acronym, IRDP is the single largest anti-poverty programme currently underway in the country. The programme was launched in 1978-79 in 2800 selected blocks within the country and was extended to all the 5011 blocks with effect from 2 October 1980. The success of IRDP depends to a great extent on the effectiveness of block machinery. In this context, the block/village level officials have been assigned with important roles and responsibilities under IRDP. However, these roles and responsibilities of translating the programme from paper to action are not free from problems/constraints. With this backdrop, a study was conducted in Kerala to ascertain the problems perceived by the IRDP staff in the planning and implementation of the programme.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An exclusive set of problems was identified based on review of literature. These problems were subjected to hairsplit analysis by discussing with

the extension experts and senior officials of Department of Rural Development. Through this process, 82 problems covering the various aspects of planning and implementation of IRDP were finally selected for inclusion in the study.

The respondents were first asked to indicate whether they perceived a particular problem as a problem. If their response is 'yes', they were further asked to rate categorically the seriousness of the problem on a three point scale ('most serious problem', 'serious problem', 'somewhat of a problem'). A weight of 3, 2 and 1 was given for these responses respectively. If they did not perceive a problem as a problem, '0' weight was given. The total score obtained by a particular problem was arrived at based on the number of respondents under each category of responses and the corresponding weight of responses. Based on the total score obtained, the 82 problems were rank ordered.

Table 1. Problems perceived by block development officers (BDOs)

| Statement | BDOs | |
|--|-------|------|
| | Score | Rank |
| Misutilization of assets by beneficiaries | 175 | 1.0 |
| Beneficiaries lack managerial ability to take care of the assets provided | 137 | 2.0 |
| Block officials lack adequate transportation to reach beneficiaries efficiently | 127 | 3.5 |
| Economically viable assets capable of generating sufficient income are lacking | 127 | 3.5 |
| Lack of cooperation extended by banks for family oriented programme | 119 | 5.0 |
| Large number of applications are being rejected by banks without stating appropriate reasons for rejection | 117 | 6.0 |
| Implementing officials lack adequate powers to take suitable action in case of misuses of assets | 115 | 7.0 |
| Timely flow of credits from financial institutions is lacking | 108 | 8.0 |
| Training is not given to the beneficiaries in the management of the assets | 106 | 9.0 |
| Inadequate follow-up assets by financial institutions | 103 | 10 |

The questionnaire complete in all respects was mailed to all the 152 Block Development Officers (BDOs) of Kerala state and 110 Village Extension Officers (VEOs) in Kannur district. However, only 80 BDOs and 82 VEOs responded to the questionnaire.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ten major problems perceived by the BDOs based on their rank order of seriousness are given in Table 1.

Misutilization of assets by beneficiaries, beneficiaries lack necessary managerial ability to take care of the assets provided, block officials lack adequate transportation to reach beneficiaries efficiently, economically viable assets capable of generating sufficient income are lacking are four major problems in order of seriousness. Timely flow of credits from financial institutions is lacking, training is not given to the beneficiaries in the management of the assets by financial institutions are the eighth, ninth, and tenth problems according to their seriousness as perceived by BDOs.

The ten major problems perceived by the VEOs based on their rank order of seriousness are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Problems perceived by village extension officers (VEOs)

| Statements | VEOs | |
|--|-------|------|
| | Score | Rank |
| Misutilization of assets by beneficiaries | 141 | 1.0 |
| Block officials lack adequate transportation to reach beneficiaries efficiently | 134 | 2.0 |
| Beneficiaries lack necessary managerial ability to take care of the assets provided | 118 | 3.0 |
| Lack of promotional avenues and other incentives have rendered VEOs quite indifferent | 112 | 4.0 |
| Lack of coordination among different poverty alleviation programmes leads to same beneficiary deriving benefits from more than one programme | 109 | 5.5 |
| Existing programme-specific infra-structure is inadequate | 109 | 5.5 |
| Local availability of required quality inputs/assets is lacking | 107 | 7.0 |
| Economically viable assets capable of generating sufficient income is lacking | 106 | 8.00 |
| Implementing officers lack adequate powers to take suitable action in case of misuses of assets | 102 | 9.0 |
| Lack of cooperation extended by banks for family oriented programme | 99 | 10.0 |

The first three problems perceived by the VEOs are the same as perceived by BDOs (Table 2). However, VEOs perceived 'lack of promotional avenues and other incentives have rendered VEOs quite indifferent' as the fourth problem. Economically viable assets capable of generating

Table 3. Pooled ranking based on the total score obtained by both the category of officials (BDOs & VEOs)

| Statements | Pooled | |
|--|--------|------|
| | Score | Rank |
| Misutilization of assets by beneficiaries | 316 | 1.0 |
| Block officials lack adequate transportation to reach beneficiaries efficiently | 261 | 2.0 |
| Beneficiaries lack necessary managerial ability to take care of the assets provided | 255 | 3.0 |
| Economically viable assets capable of generating sufficient income are lacking | 233 | 4.0 |
| Lack of cooperation extended by banks for family oriented programme | 218 | 5.0 |
| Implementing officers lack adequate powers to take action in case of misuse of assets | 217 | 6.0 |
| Local availability of required quality inputs/assets is lacking | 208 | 7.0 |
| Lack of coordination among different poverty-alleviation programmes leads to same beneficiary deriving benefits from more than one programme | 206 | 8.0 |
| Existing programme-specific infra-structure is inadequate | 198 | 9.0 |
| Large number of applications are being rejected by banks without stating appropriate reasons for rejection | 197 | 10.0 |

sufficient income are lacking, implementing officers lack adequate powers to take suitable action in case of misuses of assets and lack of cooperation extended by banks for family oriented programme were also important among the first ten problems perceived by them. The pooled rank based on the total score obtained by both the category of officials combined is given in Table 3.

According to pooled rank (Table 3) also, misutilization of assets by beneficiaries has emerged as the most important problem. A critical examination of the subsequent problems which topped the list would reveal that they, in fact, unravel the reasons for the misutilization of assets. For instance, beneficiaries lack necessary managerial ability to take care of the assets provided, block

officials lack adequate transportation to reach beneficiaries efficiently and 'economically viable assets capable of generating sufficient income are lacking' are problems that lead to misutilization of assets.

The study of officials' perception of selected problems reveals that 'misutilization assets by beneficiaries' is by far the most important problem. Based on the findings of the study more attention must be given to training the beneficiaries in the management of the assets given to them and block level functionaries particularly Village Extension Officers should be provided with adequate transportation to reach beneficiaries efficiently.

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EFFECT OF IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT AND NITROGEN FERTILIZATION OF SHELF LIFE OF MAIZE

A. BHARTHI, K.K. VADIVELU and R. UMARANI

Department of Seed Technology
Agricultural College and Research Institute
Tamil Nadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore 641 003

ABSTRACT

Maize (CO 1) was subjected to different irrigation methods (all furrow, alternate furrow and skip furrow), irrigation levels (IW/CPE ratio of 0.50 and 0.75) and nitrogen levels (75, 125 and 175 kg/ha). Seeds harvested were dried to $10 \pm 0.5\%$ moisture content and stored in 700 gauge polyethylene and gunny bags under ambient conditions of temperature and relative humidity. The storability of seeds obtained from different irrigation and N management was determined during the year 1990-91, through the parameters viz., germination (%), seedling vigour, electrical conductivity ($\mu\text{mhos/cm}$), sugars (g), aminoacids (g), protein content (%) and dehydrogenase activity (OD value). The seeds obtained from plants irrigated to the level of 0.75 IE/CPE ratio through all furrow method and supplied with 175 kg N/ha stored better than those of other treatments. The seeds stored in 700 gauge polyethylene bags maintained better viability and vigour during storage than the seeds stored in gunny bags.

KEY WORDS : Maize, shelf life, storage

Maize (*Zea mays* L.) occupies the fourth position in total production of food grains. It is grown over an area of 5.81 mha with the production 7.41 m tones. The influence of irrigation and nitrogen levels on seed yield and quality has been studied by many workers. Few scientists have explored the influence of irrigation and N levels on the shelf life of the resultant seeds. Plant species differ widely in their water requirement. Management decisions concerning N and water input should be based on the knowledge of the

interactive effects of both inputs on crop productivity, quality and storability. Hence, the present study was taken up to study the effect of combining methods and levels of N on the shelf life of maize seeds, when stored in polythene bags (700 gauge) and gunny bags.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A trial CO.1 maize was set in split plot design and replicated thrice. The crop was subjected to two levels of irrigation treatments viz., IW/CPE