PARTICIPATION OF BENEFICIARIES IN INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in Kannur district of Kerala on the participation of beneficiaries in the planning and implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). The study revealed that the participation of beneficiaries was in general poor. The participation of recepients of milch cattle was significantly superior to those assisted under all other schemes studied. Programme awareness and entrepreneurial ability emerged as the most important factors influencing beneficiary participation in IRDP.

KEY WORDS :   Participation, IRDP

Critiques on India's rural development efforts have often adduced inadequate participation of client system as one of the major reasons for the lackluster performance of earlier rural development programmes (Hirway 1986 ; Kurien 1987 ; Chambers et al., 1991). Literature on Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is also agog with the same criticism. However, such criticisms or evaluations are often made without the support of substantive and empirical evidences. There is lack of research based information on the determinants of beneficiary participation and the degree to which it has been achieved. Thus, the present study was designed with two specific objectives.

1) To examine the existing degree of participation of beneficiaries in the planning and implementation of economically viable projects under IRDP. and 2) To ascertain the relationship between selected personal, familial, situational and programme related factors and the participation of IRDP beneficiaries.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Kannur district of Kerala state. A list of all the schemes implemented in the nine blocks of the district during 1989-90 indicating the number of beneficiaries assisted under each one of these schemes was first prepared. The year 1989- 90 was purposively chosen so as to give sufficient time for the manifestation of results due to IRDP stimulus.

From the list thus prepared, three schemes from the primary sector, two from secondary sector. and one from tertiary sector were selected to ensure adequate coverage of sectors. sub-sectors, schemes and adequate number of respondents for sampling. Based on the total number of beneficiaries assisted under each one of these selected schemes in the nine blocks of the district during the reference year, 1989-90, five blocks were selected to ensure sufficient number of respondents for sampling. From among the total 971 beneficiaries assisted in the five blocks, 210 respondents were randomly selected, which constituted the final sample for the present study.

Dependent variable

Participation of beneficiaries was the dependent variable in the study. It was operationally defined as the degree to which the members of beneficiary families involved themselves in different stages of IRDP, starting from their selection as beneficiaries to deriving benefits from the assistance provided under the programme. To measure this variable, a pre-tested schedule, consisting of 10 questions with a scoring pattern on one and zero for affirmative and negative responses, respectively was used.

Independent variables

Thirty three independent variables related to personal, familiar, situational and programme were considered in the present study. The variables were selected after extensive review of literature and in consultation with experts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution of beneficiaries according to their level of participation in IRDP

An almost equal percentage of the sample beneficiaries had low (49%) and high (51%) level of participation (Table 1). So also, majority of the beneficiaries under all the selected schemes except forest based industries had high level of participation. A high proportion (94%) of those who received assistance under forest based industries were found to have only low level of participation. All of those assisted under forest based industries were scheduled caste/schedule tribe families and a vast majority of them had not utilized the assistance provided to them. The participation of beneficiaries was in general poor, because, considering the maximum obtainable score of 10, the mean score obtained (4.58) was very low. There is no doubt that full potential of IRDP cannot be tapped unless the participation of each and every beneficiary is enlisted. It devolves greater responsibility on the implementing agency.

Analysis of variance of level of participation of beneficiaries in IRDP

To find out whether there existed any significant differences between the level of participation of beneficiaries under different schemes the data were subjected to one-way

Table 2. Analysis of variance of participation of beneficiaries under the selected schemes in the planning and implementation of IRDP

Source of variation	Degrees of freedom	Sum of squares	Mean sum of squares	F. ratio
Between schemes	5	525.38	105.08	16.41*
Within schemes	204	1305.91	6.00	
Total	209	1831.29		

* Significantly at 0.01 level of probability

analysis of variance and the results are summarised in Table 2.

The F-ratio of 16.41 was found to be significant at one per cent level indicating the differential level of participation of beneficiaries under different schemes.

Comparison of mean participation scores of IRDP beneficiaries

Table 3 gives a comparison of mean scores of participation of beneficiaries with the compared values of Critical Differences (C.D.). The participation of recepients of milch cattle was significantly superior to those assisted under all other schemes. Milch animal seemingly is the most preferred and the most popular scheme of all other schemes. This is the one sub sector in which maximum number of beneficiaries had been assisted ever since the implementation of IRDP Next to the milch animals, mean participation score

Table 1. Distribution of IRDP beneficiaries according to their programme participation

Name of the scheme	Low (Score below 4.6)	High (Score 4.6 and above)	Total
Land development	15	17	32
n = 32	(46.9)	(53.1)	(100.0)
Milch cattle	10	30	40
n = 40	(25.0)	(75.0)	(100.0)
Fisheries	14	20	34
n = 34	(41.2)	(58.8)	(100.0)
Handloom	18	15	33
n = 33	(54.5)	(45.5)	(100.0)
Forest based industries	36	2	38
n = 38	(94.7)	(5.3)	(100.0)
Tailoring	10	23	33
n = 33	(30.3)	(69.7)	(100.0)
Total	103	107	210
	(49.0)	(51.0)	(100.0)

(Figures in parantheses are percentages of corresponding row totals) Mean = 46

Table 3. Distribution of IRDP beneficiaries according to their programme participation

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was highest for the beneficiaries of tailoring scheme. Majority of those who received assistance under tailoring scheme were women beneficiaries. Of late, tailoring had emerged as a profitable and popular enterprise for women in rural areas. The mean participation score of beneficiaries of land development was also on par with that of their counterparts in tailoring scheme. It is a clear indication that land based activities continue to be the most remunerative ventures for those who possess land. Though the participation of handloom beneficiaries was significantly superior to their counterparts in forest based industries it was poorer than the mean scores obtained by beneficiaries of other schemes. The bulk of beneficiaries of handloom schemes belonged to Shalia community. A perceptible decline of interest towards the occupation is observed among them and their new generation is seeking employment opportunities which enjoy better social status. This lack of interest may be the reason for their relatively poor participation in the programme.

Relationship of selected factors with participation of IRDP beneficiaries

It could be observed (Table 4) that 20 out of the 33 variables had significant correlation and programme awareness followed by entreprenurial ability emerged as the most important factors influencing the particpation of beneficiaries in the planning and implementing of IRDP. The study corroborates the observation of Reddy et al., who pointed that the rural masses, especially the poor, had not been able to take proper advantage of development programmes beamed at them mainly due to lack of awareness and entrepreneurial ability. It could be deduced from the present finding that more the number of contacts of a beneficiary with extension agencies better will be his/her participation. The high correlation of follow-up visit and pre-implementation visit indicates that the implementing officials have a greater responsibility in enlisting the participation of beneficiaries. The mandays lost and other expenses also showed significant positive correlation. A beneficiary might have lost more number of mandays and incurred more expenses in

Table 4. Correlation between participation of beneficiaries in IRDP and selected personal, familial, situational and programme related variables

Variable No.	Variables	r values
Personal variables		
X_1	Age	0.023NS
X_2	Education	0.290**
X_3	Occupation	0.238*
X_4	Caste	0.213*
X_5	Fatalism	-0.451**
X_6	Aspiration	0.523**
X_7	Entrepreneurial ability	0.698**
Familial variables		
X_8	Family type	-0.078NS
X_9	Family size	0.119NS
X_{10}	Dependency ratio	0.182NS
X_{11}	Family education	0.313**
X_{12}	Mass media participation	0.392**
X_{13}	Family extension contact	0.422**
X_{14}	Family urban contact	0.627**
X_{15}	Political participation	0.172NS
X_{16}	Deferred gratification	0.557**
X_{17}	Family calorie intake	0.158NS
X_{18}	Per capita calorie intake	0.076NS
X_{19}	Net family income without scheme (NWIWOS)	0.170NS
X_{20}	Per capita income without scheme (PCIWOS)	0.099NS
Situational variables		
X_{21}	Land holding	0.246*
X_{22}	Family labour availability	0.184NS
X_{23}	Programme awareness	0.701**
X_{24}	Mandays lost	0.236*
X_{25}	Wages lost	0.182NS
X_{26}	Other expenses	0.243*
X_{27}	Distance from block head quarters	-0.004NS
Programme related variables		
X_{28}	Total assistance received	0.384**
X_{29}	Loan amount	0.401**
X_{30}	Subsidy	0.332**
X_{31}	Pre-implementation visit	0.314**
X_{32}	Follow-up visit	0.565**
X_{33}	Time lag	0.105NS

NS : Non significant; * : Significant at 0.05 level; ** : Significant at 0.01 level

his/her eagerness to participate in the planning and implementation of IRDP.

The study has clearly brought out the determinants of beneficiary participation and the degree to which it has been achieved in the Integrated Rural Development Programme. The findings have several practical implications to the planners, policy makers and all those officials who are involved in the planning and implementation of the programme.

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PHYSIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL EFFECTS OF MEPIQUAT CHLORIDE ON GROUNDNUT (Arachis hypogaea)

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ABSTRACT

Experiments were carried out to understand the physiological effects of Mepiquat Chloride (MC), 1, 1-dimethyl piperidinium chloride on groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) at different concentrations and in comparison with CCC (2-chloro ethyl trimethyl ammonium chloride). Foliar application of MC at 125 ppm on 35 DAS showed substantial increase in the nitrogen (N) content accounting for 23 per cent over the unsprayed control and 12 per cent over the CCC treatment. Phosphorus (P) and Calcium (Ca) contents were also increased, while potassium (K) was unaffected by application of MC.

KEY WORDS :   Mepiquat chloride, groundnut, physiology and biochemistry

Eventhough India ranks first in total oilseed production, the productivity is less than one ton per ha. Among the several approaches to break this yield plateau in groundnut, application of growth regulators, particularly growth retardants is receiving great attention in recent times. Higher Chl concentration due to application of growth retardants has been reported in tobacco, mustard and radish. Eid *et al.* (1986) and Shah and Prathapasenan (1991) also confirmed the increase in total Chl due to MC and CCC in cotton and mungbean respectively. An increase in protein content in barley and cotton, the NRA/NO₃ ratio in sesame seedlings, N and P in peas and Ca in tomato was observed due to growth retardants. MC treated cotton plants showed greater concentrations of N, P and Ca while K was found to be unchanged (Zhang *et al.*, 1990). Though the physiological effects of MC have been studied in many other crops, reports on groundnut are scarce. More over, the chemical, MC is relatively a new chemical to India and therefore attempts were made to understand the influence of MC at different concentrations on the sequential changes in physiological and biochemical characters of groundnut which determine the final yield.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A study was conducted during 1991 in the Department of Crop Physiology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. Groundnut cv. Co-1 seeds were sown under irrigated condition following a spacing of 30 x 10 cm. The type of soil in the experimental field was red sandy loam with available N, P and K for 190.2, 39.5 and 558.2 kg ha⁻¹ respectively. The recommended fertilizer dose of 17:34:54 kg ha⁻¹ of N:P:K was applied. MC was sprayed at the concentration of 100 ppm, 125 ppm and 150 ppm on 25, 35 and 45 DAS respectively along with water spray (o ppm) and control (no spray). CCC was sprayed as an additional treatment on 45 DAS at 100 ppm to compare its efficacy with MC. The treatments were randomised with three replications. Observations were recorded on total Chl content, soluble protein, NRA, uptake of N, P, K and Ca.