

higher germination percentage of 79.16 as against 33.33 per cent in control. Treatment of tubers with carbendazim recorded the lowest disease incidence of 38.88 per cent at 80 days after planting. This was followed by Captan (43.54 per cent) and Thiram (49.64 per cent) as against 93.75 per cent in control after 80 days of planting.

Maximum shoot and root length was also recorded in carbendazim treated tubers. Gozia *et al.* (2002) reported that carbendazim effectively reduced the disease incidence of *F.oxysporum* in potato tubers. According to Channel and Rahul Katoch (2001) drenching with Bavistin and Benomyl at 200 ppm one month after transplanting and at bud formation stage reduced the carnation wilt incidence up to 80 and 73 per cent respectively under field conditions. All the fungicides were found to have different degrees of control against the pathogen. However more detailed studies have to be made to find out the exact principle involved in these treatments.

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Constraints on privatisation of agricultural extension services as perceived by farmers

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Privatization of Agricultural Extension Services (PAES) is considered as new option to deliver technology to the farmers. In this approach, the farmers are expected to pay

full or partial cost of technology for which they receive and utilize. (Saravanan, 1999). Expecting, some few thousand-extension workers would fulfill million of farmer's need is not

possible. It is also not possible to field as much extension person as possible in the field by government because of budget crisis. In this conjunction, PAES comes as viable option; but it also has its own limitation. The present study was conducted to identify major constraints that would affect the efficiency of PAES. This study was conducted among 120 farmer respondents in Oddanchatram and Palani taluks of Dindigul district in Tamil Nadu.

Constraints perceived by the farmers were recorded in a schedule constructed for the purpose. A list of probable constraints pertaining to the PAES was prepared. The respondents

were also requested to mention any other constraints they have faced over the listed one. These constraints were administered to the respondents and the responses were recorded on a two point continuum *i.e.*, “Yes” and “No” and the score of 2 and 1 was given respectively. The rank position of the constraint was decided on the basis of the percentage analysis.

It could be concluded from table 1 that farmers considered the constraints like, farmers have to pay for service (70.83 per cent), PAES is not accessible to all the categories of the farmer (60.00 per cent), when the number

Table 1. Perceived Constraints on PAES

S.No.	Statements	No.of Farmers Yes	Percentage	No.of Farmers No	Percentage
1.	Farmers have to pay for the technology	85	70.83	35	29.17
2.	PAES is not accessible to all categories of the farmers	72	60.00	48	40.00
3.	When the number of users is increased the availability of PAES will become hardship	63	52.50	57	47.50
4.	No control over PAES by government if any loss occur to the farmers due to their advice, they may not be responsible	62	51.66	58	48.34
5.	PAES is focused mainly on cash crops	58	48.33	62	51.67
6.	Location of PAES is for away from the villages	42	35.00	78	65.00

of the users is increased the availability of PAES will become hardship (52.50 per cent), no control over PAES if any loss occur to the farmers on their advice (51.66 per cent), PAES is focused mainly on cash crops (48.33 per cent), and location of PAES far away from some of the villages (35.00 per cent).

In India more than 70.00 per cent of farmers are operating smallholdings, and farmers of this category may find it difficult to pay for technology. Moreover, most of the PAES centers are located in towns and cities; hence, the farmers need to travel such a long distance to get technology. Some of them felt that few extension personnel might not be able to cater needs of numerous farmers. So, it may be difficult to find right PAES personnel at right time. Again PAES may concentrate only on cash crops and big orchards and not be on food crops. As present there is no control over PAES. But extension personnel involved in PAES merely depends on farmer's income, to get his share. If farmer got more income with less investment after adopting technical advice from PAES, they will be ready to pay for it. Hence, the PAES personnel try their level best to give appropriate advice to the farmer to gain loyalty. Again

government already initiated Agri-Clinic and Agri- Business Center Project. Through this project Agri - Graduates were trained as Agri Consultants to cater farmers need.

Newly initiated enterprises may have some problems; these may be solved when time goes. (Venkataramanan, 2000). Again, it was somewhat difficult to analyze the constraints. Since, all the PAES operated in the study area were in the initial stage moreover it all was perceived constraints. As time goes, the farmers will utilize this service more and they will understand the pros and cons of the system very correctly.

It is suggested that, here constraints perceived by farmers shed the lights to fine-tune the strategy for successful running of PAES.

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