ABSTRACT

Eversince independence Indian planning has attempted a double-edged approach towards solving the intricately interlinked problems of food shortage in the face of increasing population and the issues related to rural development in general. Thus, right from the first five year plan there has been a notable thrust on modernising the agricultural practices of our farmers.

The need for agricultural modernisation having being felt, all agencies related and/or concerned with rural areas realised the weight of the stupendous task. Thus, the last four decades have witnessed a large variety of training programmes for farmers in the use of modern agricultural techniques.

Yet, in real numbers the trained farmers remain a poor match for the multitudes of cultivators who are untrained. Also, refreshingly though, the numbers involved in modern agricultural practices are seemingly much more than those getting exposed to training.

In the background of the aforesaid remarks there is the definite need to know what exactly has been happening at the grass root level in the realm of agricultural modernisation. The present study has made an attempt to answer this through selecting two crops - paddy, a food crop and sugarcane, a cash crop - and choosing four relevant villages. A number of dimensions of training and practice in modern agriculture as discernible from the grass-roots level have been studied. Many aspects relevant to agricultural modernisation as applicable to trained and untrained farmers have been analysed.
On the basis of the study the researcher has been able, on the one hand, to suggest action programmes needed at the grass-root level, and on the other, to indicate steps that are necessary for toning up the farmers' training programmes. Further, the researcher has also been able to suggest the kind of studies that are vital in this realm for a better understanding of the problem of agricultural modernisation.