CHAPTER - I
INTRODUCTION

Agriculture, playing a dominant role in the Indian economy, sustains the livelihood of around 75 percent of the population. It shares one-third of India's GDP - the highest production in the developed and developing world - and without doubt will continue to be the backbone of the economy for years to come. The desire to ensure better quality life to a large population depends on agriculture. Points towards additional demand pressures for achieving substantial growth in the production of food and other agricultural commodities during the years to come.

The progress in wheat production and productivity in India has been dramatic over the last two decades. The yield of wheat jumped from 12.07 million tonnes in 1960-61 to 68.7 million tonnes in 1996-97. The yield of rice in 1996-97 was 80.5 million tonnes, while the production of food grains in 1996-97 was 198.1 million tonnes as against 129.6 million tonnes in 1980-81. The irrigated area in 1995-96 was 79.9 million hectares as against 49.78 million hectares in 1980-81. The average yield of food grains in 1995-96 was 1499 Kg/hectare as against 1023 kg/hectare in 1980-81. The fertilizers consumption in the year 1996-97 was 16.4 million tonnes as against 5.516 in 1980-81.

This dramatic increase in production and productivity has become possible with the widespread adoption of semidwarf varieties. The latter varieties occupy about 80 percent of the total area under wheat production. The increase in production since the adoption of semidwarf varieties has been attributed both to the improvement in genetic potential of yielding ability of the new varieties and to the more intensive crop husbandry. Beside the semidwarfsness, the new varieties also possess photo in
sentiveness fertilizer responsiveness and staff straw. These characteristics not only impart lodging resistance but also lead to higher yield of the new varieties through better assimilation and high harvest index.

The national planning commission has fixed wheat production target. By the year 2000 our population is expected to be around one million and to meet the food needs of the country, would require around 225 million tonnes of food grains, thus to meet the increasing demand for food grains of the growing population, the varieties with better grain yield potential need is to be developed.

The farmer has a pivotal role to play in agricultural. It is he, who has to exercise his judgement and discretion in the use of inputs and the adoption of improved New agricultural technology. His improved knowledge and skill would help adopt, sustain and carry forward the rapid advances in agriculture, several organized efforts have been made in the past to train Village leaders, gram Sahayaks, progressive farmers number of extension training centres, farmers’ training centres, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, agricultural schools, Colleges and Agricultural Universities were set up for the purpose. But the task of training the farmers in India will difficult due to varied socio-economic patterns, agro-climatic conditions and lack of requisite resources. There is a need of intensive studies in this area of agricultural development which could extend support and enhance the effectiveness of such training programmes for increased agricultural production. Keeping this situation in view a research project entitled, “A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF FARMERS TRAINING CENTRE AND KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA IN RELATION TO ADOPTION OF NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY OF WHEAT IN SELECTED DISTRICTS OF WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH” was formulated with the specific objective.
OBJECTIVES:
1. To study the pre-training level of knowledge and adoption of two groups of trainees.
2. To determine the impact of training on knowledge and skills of two groups of trainees.
3. To find out the factors of differential impact of training on the two groups of trainees.
4. To find out the relationship of socio-economic and Psycho educational variables with respect to change in knowledge, skill and adoption of innovations.
5. To analyse the opinion of the trainees with respect to the organisation of the training programme by the two institutions and the problems faced by farmers in utilizing training inputs.

SCOPE AND IMPORTANCE:
Wheat has been considered to be one of the unavoidable necessities of life. The consumption of wheat in the country during past few years has been rising at a faster rate than the indigenous production and therefore, it would sometimes become necessary for us to resort to the import of wheat. Fortunately, India being a predominantly agricultural country with a favourable agro-climatic condition for wheat cultivation, may not only fulfill the need of our countrymen, rather it may export more wheat of the world if our farmers are trained with skillful utilization of technology.

Although, the voluminous research work has been done in various aspects of wheat cultivation like Agronomy, Pathology, Entomology, Soil Science, Breeding etc. but the specific efforts are also needed to be made to analyse the functional problems observed by farmers in wheat cultivation. Consequently, the yield obtained at farmers' fields are very low as compared to the research stations. Although, the worth of technology is rightly realised in increasing the productivity but the technology itself can not function alone unless the human capabilities are raised accordingly.
In other words, the increased productivity is a function of human abilities combined with soft (methods) and hard (equipments) components of technology. Thus, for higher productivity, the utilization of technology by the farmers in scientific manner is of utmost importance.

Obviously, the aforesaid subject is of vital importance and great interest and is intended to gear up the production of wheat by having careful investigation of present level skill gap and corresponding constraints in the area of wheat technology utilization. The present study would establish the relationship between techno-economic, socio-psychological and communication variables with technological adoption of farmers in wheat development. Therefore the findings of the study would be useful to reveal the existing fact about the development of farmers and provide guidelines to manipulate techno-economic, socio-psychological and communication factors that relates to the development of wheat growers.

The findings of this study can help researchers to know the functional problem responsible for poor yield of wheat, besides, some suggestions that may emerge out of the findings of the present study. Results derived from this study would be of great importance in organising the training programmes in the area where farmers feel deficient in skill proficiency of technology utilization. The study will also explore out the various multirole communication media to minimise the technological skill gap among wheat growers.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

As evident from the foregoing discussion, the present study entitled "A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF FARMERS TRAINING CENTRE AND KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA IN RELATION TO ADOPTION OF NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY OF WHEAT IN SELECTED DISTRICTS OF WESTERN, UTTAR PRADESH" is a
new and rare of its own kind. It would have been much better if the study could have been carried out over a larger sample of respondents covering wider area. But the availability of resources and time at the disposal of the researcher restricted the study to a comparatively smaller sample.

The present study is extensive in nature and it does not cover up the depth study on numerous aspects that could have made the study more meaningful.