

CONCLUSION

C O N C L U S I O N

It has always been a practice to make broad generalization on the basis of a few selected district studies. It is somewhat risky particularly in the regions where conditions differ not only from district to district, and block to block but also from village to village. Nevertheless, the case studies presented and analysed in the study have gained much creditability as a mirror of the existing relationship between technology adoption in agriculture and the socio-cultural characteristics of the farmers in West Bengal.

The points have been obviously clear that, first, innovations of technologies and the degree of adoption reveal the close correspondence to the ecological conditions. The favoured areas are not only progressive in agriculture but also show higher adoption of superior technologies and vice-versa. Thus, the districts of Bankura and Jalpaiguri are observed to be backward in both agriculture and in the uses of superior technologies; and secondly, the areas with less favourable physico-climatic and soil characteristics indicate socio-cultural backwardness among the inhabitants. Lack of education, massmedia contact and urban contact prevail along with strong superstitions, casteism, jealousy etc. among the people. Added to this are inaccessibility, water scarcity and droughtproneness which make living difficult in comparison to the areas where everything is easily available. Thus an irregularity and inequality have been rightly observed in the context of technology adoption in agriculture and socio-cultural characteristics of farmers.

Certainly, the selected State West Bengal, is a rice growing region where majority of cultivators are engaged in rice cultivation. A shift from traditional farming, which has taken place in the Western States like Punjab and Haryana is very difficult in West Bengal.

The district of Burdwan and Nadia being located on the rich alluvial soil with profuse rainfall and rolling terrain conditions show much development in agriculture and even then the total transformation like the North-Western States, has not been possible, where the political role plays an important part. In the most backward districts of Bankura, South 24-Parganas and Jalpaiguri, the question does not arise. The cultivators are poor and struggling hard for their existence. The picture has clearly emerged from the study undertaken.

Despite all the attempts to analyse the relationship between technology adoption in agriculture and socio-cultural characteristics of the farmers, it is worth mentioning that though these are closely linked, the socio-cultural characteristics and technology adoption have been found not to depend entirely on each other.

The natural correlation with physiographical features and socio-cultural characteristics of the farmers in the perspective of technology adoption in agriculture has been analysed in detail in the six chapters of the study. In respect of each variable the relevance has been highly conspicuous and provides a good basis for rural development plans. It is well known that if proper infrastructural facilities could be extended the natural rigidities may be overcome with an effect in an increase in the level of education, mass media contact and urban accessibility. This again in their turn would bring about a spontaneous and rapid developmental change in agriculture through proper technology adoption.