

The sole significant factor Risk-preference was directly or positively related to the progressiveness of the district, considering the climatic and dryness of the district, it can be presumed that only because of their risk preference attitude (though the other factors were not statistically significant), the district is heading in the positive direction towards the development.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the present study was (i) to determine the extent of influence of the socio-economic and psychological variables on the agricultural progressiveness, irrespective of the geographical location, (ii) to ascertain how far the adoption behaviour and farm management ability influence agricultural progressiveness, irrespective of geographical location and (iii) to study the influence of certain demographic variables on agricultural progressiveness such as age, education, social origin, family status, family composition, income and size of landholding irrespective of geographical location.

These objectives were verified by ascertaining the differences in agricultural progressiveness among the progressive and less-progressive farmers in developed, moderately developed and developing districts having different levels of agricultural development in different geographical locations, varies in soil conditions, rainfall, industrial development and diffusion of innovations.

The demographic variables and other land particulars about agriculture were collected through an interview schedule and other variables were measured by the following questionnaires: Value orientation, Economic motivation, Utilization of information, Farm mechanization, Social participation, Risk

preference, Leadership ability, Innovative proneness, Adoption behaviour, Farm management behaviour and Political participation were used in the present study.

The questionnaires and interview schedule were finalized after a pilot study done among thirty (30) farmers (Progressive and less-progressive) from developed blocks of Perur and thirty (30) farmers (Progressive and less-Progressive) of Madukkarai, a developing block in Coimbatore district. The reliability and validity of the questionnaires were established in the pilot study.

The main study was conducted at Coimbatore (Developed) Tiruchy (Moderately developed), and Dharmapuri (developing) districts. From each district two blocks i.e. one developed and one developing blocks were identified and in total six (6) blocks were taken for the present research in the above said three districts. From these blocks two revenue villages were randomly selected. The sample for the main study consists of two hundred and forty (240) respondents comprising of both progressive (120) and less-progressive farmers and they were selected by multi-stage sampling method.

The necessary information was collected only after establishing a personal rapport with the respondents. Approximately three to four hours were taken to complete the interview schedule and various questionnaires and the researcher collected the information in two sittings. To cover the three

districts for the data collection, the researcher had taken six months (April to October) in the year 1990.

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions have been drawn from the present study after analysing the results through appropriate statistics.

Irrespective of geographical location, the demographic variables such as age, education, family status and income influence agricultural progressiveness. However, the social origin, family composition and landholding showed no impact on agricultural progressiveness. In general, the personal variables had a considerable influence on agricultural progressiveness.

The level of farm mechanization, social participation and utilization of information sources have influenced the agricultural progressiveness irrespective of progressive farmers' geographical location.

Irrespective of geographical location (i) the presence of high economic motivation of the farmers influence the agricultural progressiveness; (ii) the presence of high risk-taking behaviour of the farmers influence the agricultural progressiveness.

The differences in leadership ability between the progressive and less-progressive farmers have shown the

From the result drawn from the 2x3x2 factorial design following conclusions were made.

The factors progressiveness, District and Block has no significant interaction effect on all the independent variables used in the study. The factors District and block has shown interaction effect for the factors Adoption behaviour and Innovative proneness. But the block factor independently predicted all the independent variables - Mechanization, social participation, Communication, Value orientation (Conservatism-Liberalism, Fatalism-Scientism, Sacred-Secularism, Localite-Cosmopoliteness, External Conformity - Individualism), Economic motivation, Risk preference, Leadership ability, Innovative proneness and Adoption behaviour.

Searching for the prediction effect of the Independent variables for the progressiveness status of the Coimbatore, Tiruchy and Dharmapuri the following variables emerged as significant predictors:

Coimbatore: Social participation, Conservatism - Liberalism, Farm-management behaviour.

Tiruchy: External conformity-Individualism, Adoption behaviour, Farm management, Sacred-Secularism and Fatalism-Scientism.

Dharmapuri: Risk preference only.

importance of leadership ability influencing the agricultural progressiveness.

The main conclusion drawn from this present study is that irrespective of the farmers' location, whether he stays in developed or developing regions, only few farmers are progressive and get more profit in farming. It showed that irrigation, rainfall, soil conditions, etc., are least contributing factors to agricultural progressiveness. Irrespective of geographical location, the progressiveness in farming are influenced by the individual's personal traits. The personal motivation, challenging attitude, risk-taking behaviour, managerial ability, communication efficiency and other personal traits are most important for the progressiveness in farming.

LIMITATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The present research was carried out in six blocks spreading out in three districts of Tamil Nadu state, with certain selected variables. So, an indepth study can be taken among more districts in different states before generalizing the present findings.

In India most of the farmers are not maintaining farm accounts. It is very difficult for them to recall the expenditure, input, output and profit, etc. A suitable measure/proforma should be formulated and it should be tested effectively to assess their expenditure pattern, workman days and profit, etc.