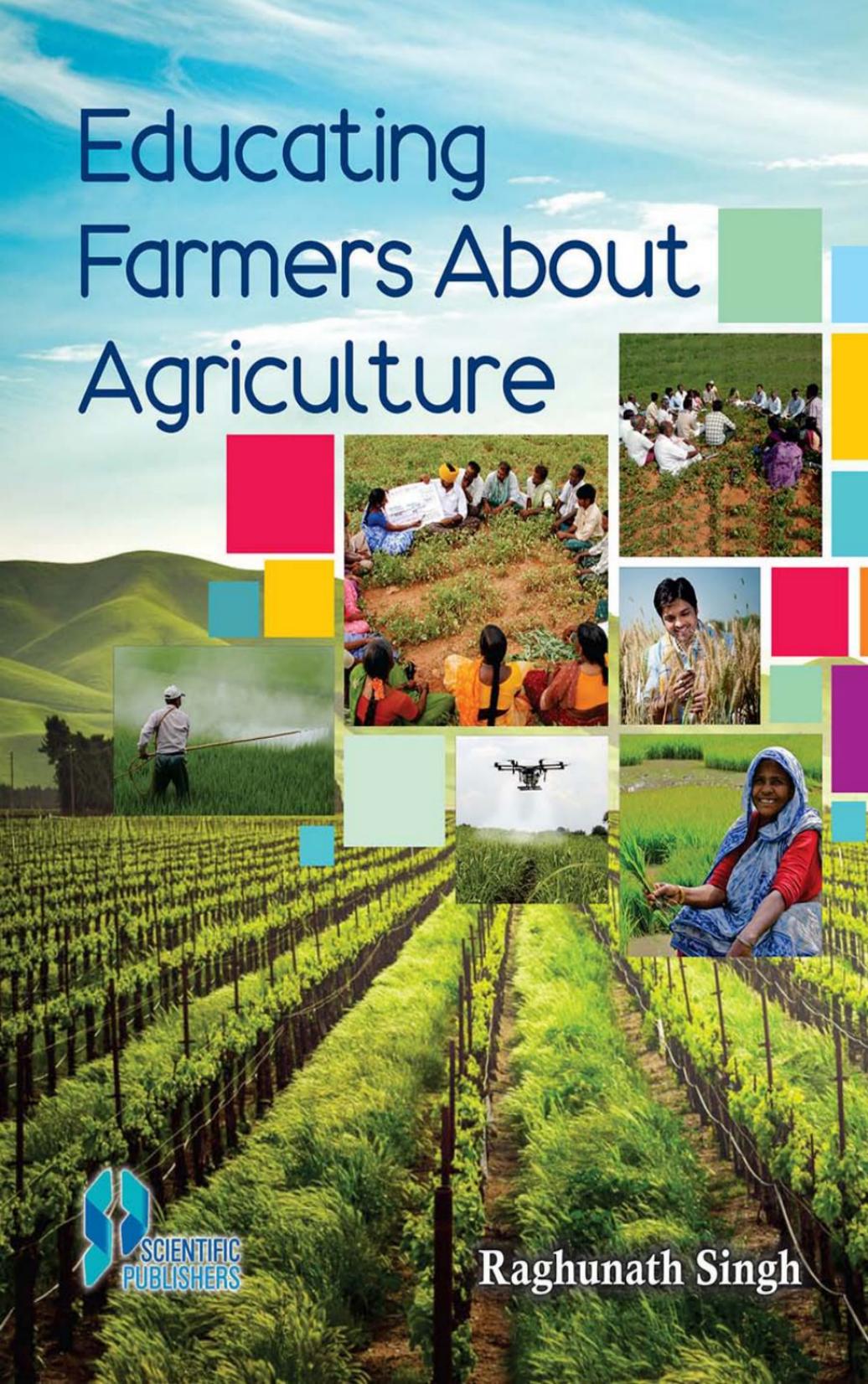


Educating Farmers About Agriculture



**Educating
Farmers about
Agriculture**

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Foreword

Dr. R.N. Singh has made a praiseworthy attempt to put together the results of a wide variety of attempts by different technology generation and dissemination agencies of the Government of India. He has summarized the results and attempted to draw broader inferences thereof. All academicians, scholars and extension policy makers will find this summation of the results of notable studies evaluating the outcomes of the technology transfer strategies.

I personally have known Dr Singh for the last nearly half a century. I have always been amazed by his dedication and energy in taking up challenging projects and putting his best efforts in achieving his goals. There is a fine blend of academic interest without ever losing sight of practical relevance, especially in programs that ultimately promise long-term interest to the farming community.

I sincerely hope that this publication will be of value to all whom it is addressed.

Dr. T.K. Chakravarty

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Applied Behavioural Sciences
National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management,
Hyderabad

Preface

Education brings desirable change in knowledge, attitude and skill of human beings. It is the most potent force for molding a society into its desired form. Hence, farmers in India also needs to be trained and educated with advanced and modern methods of farming. In the post-independence period institutions were established for farmers' education in agriculture technology. Planning and implementation of the programmes were entrusted to government organisations, research institutes and voluntary agencies.

The present book reports an overview of the studies of four such programmes such as (National Demonstration, Lab to Land, Operational Research Project and *Krishi Vigyan Kendra*) undertaken by Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. In these pioneering efforts agriculture scientists' educated farmers about scientific know-how of agriculture developed at government research institutes and the agricultural universities. All programmes were based on conceptual frameworks with the aim of replicating such modern methodology across the country.

The book deals with genesis of the selected programmes, the extension methods used impact of the programmes and suggestions for improvement. The programmes reviewed gave very positive results. A wide gap existed in the yield of crops between the yield obtained in demonstration plots and the farmers' fields. The farmers covered by the programmes had better knowledge and adoption of improved agricultural practices than the villages that remained outside their coverage. The programme proved to be quite profitable to the participating farmers.

However, there exists great scope for improving agricultural productivity. This happens because of two basic factors. First and foremost, adoption of innovations in agricultural technology among

farmers is still quite low compared to the extent of possibility. Secondly, technology is not static; it is always in the process of refinement and up-gradation as the stream of fresh knowledge flows in. It is, therefore, imperative that all-out efforts be made for effective farmers' education. Adequate knowledge of modern farming techniques will motivate and inspire farmers to try and practice whatever is feasible and required in their situations. Of course, the development agency has to be ready with effective agricultural input supply system, remunerative price for farm produce and marketing facility their produce. A vigorous effort by development personnel is needed to facilitate adoption of techniques by farmers because it is the farmer who cultivates the field and takes decision for adoption of agricultural technology.

A foundation course at school level for imparting rudimentary knowledge of agriculture will go a long way towards acceptance of scientific technology by farmers later on.

The author expresses his deep sense of gratitude to Dr. M. Joshi, Associate Professor, Jaynaraian Vyas University, Jodhpur for encouragement while writing the book.

The author expresses gratitude to the librarians of Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture, Udaipur, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri and Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi for allowing me to use their libraries.

Dr. R.N. Singh

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