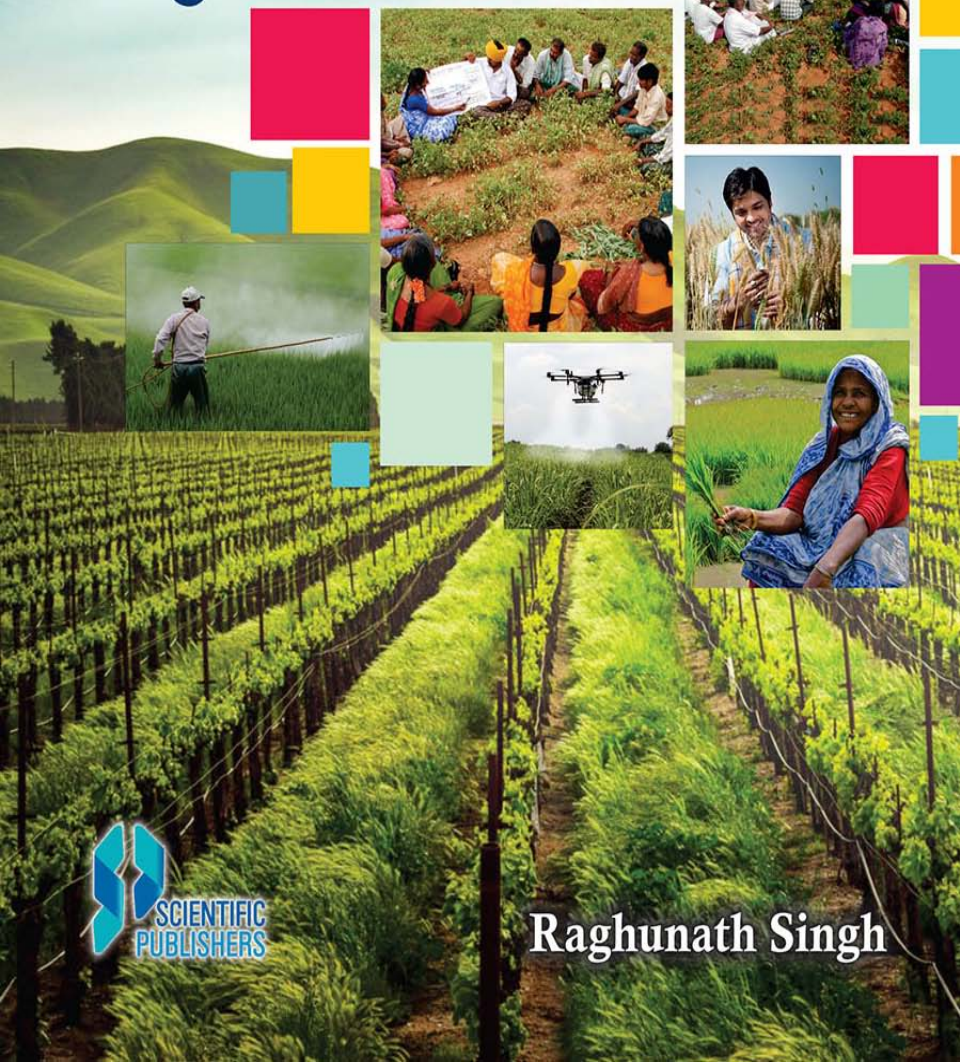


Educating Farmers About Agriculture



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Published by

SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHERS (INDIA)

5 A, New Pali Road, P.O. Box 91

Jodhpur 342 001, INDIA

E-mail: info@scientificpub.com

Website: <http://www.scientificpub.com>

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ISBN: 978-93-88449-24-3

e-ISBN: 978-93-88449-28-1

Printed in India

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

Former Director,
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

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION TO FARMER'S LEARNING	1
The Farmer	1
Programme for Farmers' Education for Scientific Know-how of Agriculture	3
Need	10
Objectives	11
Method	11
Scope	12
Limitation	12
References	12
2. NATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS	13
Origin	13
Main Features of National Demonstration	14
Demonstration	16
3. RESEARCH STUDIES ON NATIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS	21
Impact of National Demonstration Farmers' Field	21
Impact of National Demonstration on Knowledge and Adoption of Improved Agriculture Practices among Farmers	38
Implementation of National Demonstration	40
4. GUIDELINE OF LAB TO LAND PROGRAMME	51

5. PESEARCH STUDIES ON LAD TO LAND PROGRAMME	65
Extension Method of Farmers' Education about Improved Agriculture Practices and the outcome of Improved Agriculture Practices	65
Monetary gain from Improved Agriculture Practices to Farmers in LLP	73
Impact of the LLP After Its Withdrawal from the Villages	79
Gain in Knowledge and Adoption of Improved Agriculture Practices Among the Farmers in LLP Villages	82
Farmers Image of LLP	87
Implementation of LLP	88
6. OPERATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT (ORP)	94
Research Studies on ORP	99
7. KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA: CONCEPT, STRUCTURAL , OPERATIONAL FEATURES AND MANDATES	107
Historical Background	107
8. RESEARCH STUDIES ON KVK	119
Planning and Management of Training Programme of Farmers	119
Extension programme in KVKs Villages	138
Knowledge of Improved Agriculture Practices Among the Farmers	140
Adoption of Package of Improved Agriculture Practices among Farmers	150
Transfer of Agriculture Technology from the Beneficiary Farmers to Non-Beneficiary Farmers	159
Agriculture Productivity	159
Development of Entrepreneurial activities	163
Case Study	164
Attitude of the Personnel of KVK towards KVK	167
Attitude of the Farmers towards KVK	168
Suggestion for effectiveness of KVK	169
9. CONCLUSION	181