



## CONSTRAINTS OF SMALL FARMERS FOR THEIR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

Constraints refer to some lacunae hinder the adoption of recommended practices. The present investigation was conducted in purposively practices. The present investigation was conducted in purposively selected four districts of Karnataka State namely Bangalore Rural, Bangalore Urban, Kolar and Tumkur. The data were obtained in a pretested structured interview schedule from 150 selected farmers using random sampling method. The findings of the study indicated that the constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of improved production practices were like non-availability of inputs (62%), lack of credit (61%), lack of assured irrigation (58%), untimely availability of inputs (58%), high cost of inputs (57%). Insufficient funds (47%), lack of knowledge (43%), poor quality seed (41%), lack of technical guidance (40%), non-availability of plant protection equipment (28%), poor marketing facility (26%), poor quality of lands (23%). Further, constraints faced in adoption of improved livestock projects are like high initial investment (64%), lack of credit (61%), high cost of feeds (45%), lack of capital (41%), high care and maintenance (40%), no fodder (30%), no surplus labour (22%), no grazing land (17%).

**KEYWORDS:** Adoption, Constraints, Credit, Inputs, Production practices, Small farmers

### INTRODUCTION

Constraints refers to some of the lacunae which hinder the adoption of recommended practices/ innovations in agriculture or the item of difficulties faced by the small farmers in the process of adoption of recommended improved production practices and technologies. But many times several past investigations have only indicated whether the recommended packages of technologies has been adopted or not by farmers. This gives percentages of farmers adopting the practices, not the percentage of recommended technology adopted by them and the constraints encountered by them in adopting the recommended practices. A critical resume of five decades of agricultural research and development indicates that our achievements are of at a high order. Infact both in agricultural research and production has been unprecedented break through. During the period of green revolution yield per unit area has been increased considerably because of introduction of high yielding varieties of crops. Later on the increase in production has been mainly because of large increase in area under cultivation and more irrigation facilities. The rate of increase in productivity i.e., yield per unit area has not been so impressive (Singh, 1985). This is because of the various

constraints faced by farmers in adoption of recommended practices/ innovations.

#### **Constraints faced by the small farmers**

Constraints faced by the small farmers can be categorized in to followings

- (1) **Technological:** There is a lack of adequate technology in areas that will specifically benefit small farmers in (i) productivity of farming systems, (ii) small farm management techniques and production technology (iii) the choice of breeds, crossbred and types of animals (iv) effective control of diseases in rural areas (v) improved feed and fodder, etc.
- (2) **Economical:** Because of the resource constraints of the small farmers, and as a result of inappropriate low technologies used by them coupled with unfavorable marketing systems, the income of the small farmers is generally low and very often irregular. There are limited incentives for the small farmers to increase production. Existing credit policy does not favour small farmers; instead the big and commercial farmers have been benefited. Provision of credit on the basis of single enterprise and also on the basis of collateral does not favour small farmers at all. Small farmers particularly need credit for their entire farming system activities on the basis of cumulative need rather than for a single activity.

- (3) **Institutional:** Because of their small resource base, very often their holdings are far away from institutions for agricultural development, such as agricultural extension offices, veterinary dispensaries, fertilizer depots, seed and agro-chemical stores, rural credit, agencies and banks, etc. Economic institutions such as markets, marketing agencies and processing facilities are also not prevailing. Lack of market facilities in rural areas where small farmers can sell and buy things at reasonable price make the large profits go to the middlemen. This not only reduces the farmer's net earnings but also keeps him away from producing more for the market. (*Dinesh Pariyar*)

According to World Development Report (1992) individual farmers have little incentive to address the problems. Now it is appearing that very difficult to increase production without solving the constraints of farmers. So adequate attention must be given to meet the challenge of reaching 240 million tons of food grains a year to feed about a billion people by 2000 AD is now before the country (Swaminathan, 1989). A time has therefore, come to look into the issues and constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of agricultural technology/ innovations which have been ignored so far (Singh, 1985). There is scope for increasing production of small farmers if adequate attention is given to solve the constraints faced by them. Keeping this in view the following objectives were formulated for the study.

1. To know the constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of improved production practices.
2. To know the constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of improved live-stock projects.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

The present investigation was conducted in Karnataka State. The four districts of Karnataka namely Bangalore Urban, Kolar and Tumkur were purposively selected for the study. The lists of villages from these districts were collected. Villages having at least 40 identified small farmers were listed. Thirty villages were selected randomly from the list. The list of the small farmers from this selected villages were prepared. From this list a sample of 150 respondents were selected by random sampling method. Data were collected by personal interview with the help of interview schedule developed for the study. Respondent small farmers were asked to point out constraints faced by them. The constraints mentioned by them were content analyzed for proper analysis and interpretation of facts.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

##### **a) Constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of improved production practices**

Table 1 reveals information on constraints faced in adoption of improved production practices. Majority (62%) of respondent small farmers stated that non-availability of improved production inputs like HYV seeds, chemical fertilizers and plant protection chemicals at village level was the main constraint to adopt improved production practices. However, 58.00 per cent of small farmers expressed untimely availability of improved production inputs and 57.33 per cent opined high cost of improved production inputs. It was observed that 47.33 per cent of small farmers had insufficient funds to buy improved production inputs and 61.33 per cent small farmers expressed lack of easy credit facilities was the constraint in adoption of improved production practices. Further, 58.66 per cent of small farmers were not assured of irrigation to use improved production inputs. Lack of knowledge about improved production practices was reported by 43.33 per cent and 40.00 per cent of small farmers also expressed lack of technical guidance and help when it is required. However, 41.33 per cent and 28.00 per cent of small farmers stated poor quality of seed and plant protection chemicals and non-availability of plant protection equipment respectively at village level. Poor marketing facility for the produce and poor quality of lands were constraints expressed by 26.00 per cent and 23.33 per cent of small farmers respectively. All these constraints reported by respondent small farmers lead to conclude that small farmers need management service to use improved production inputs. These findings get support from the findings reported by Anonymous (1984), Anonymous (1992), Bhoite and Nikalje (1983), Girase and Kamble (1991), Prasad (1990) and Singh (1984).

##### **b) Constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of improved livestock projects**

Table 2 summarizes the reasons for non-adoption of improved livestock projects as reported by respondent small farmers were high initial investment for cross breed cows (64.66%) and lack of easy credit facilities according to 61.33 per cent were the most important reason. However, 45.33 per cent of small farmers opined high cost of feeds and concentrates and lack of capital to purchase feeds and concentrates (41.33%). Further, 40.66 per cent of small farmers stated improved livestock projects requires high care and maintenance followed by no fodder to feed animals (30%) and 22 per cent of small farmers expressed no surplus labour to look after animals. About 17.33 per cent of small farmers had no grazing land to adopt livestock projects. To overcome the constraints for adoption of livestock projects these small farmers need management services. These findings get support from the related findings reported by Anonymous (1984), Anonymous (1992), Bhoite and Nikalje (1983), Girase and Kamble (1991), Prasad (1990) and Singh (1984).

**TABLE 1:** Constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of improved production practices

Sl.No	Constraints	N=150	
		Small farmers	
		Number	Percentage
1	Non-availability of improved production inputs at village level like HYV seeds, chemical fertilizers, plant protection chemicals etc.	93	62.00
2	Lack of easy credit facilities	92	61.33
3	Lack of assured irrigation to use improved inputs	88	58.66
4	Untimely availability of improved production Inputs like HYV seed, chemical fertilizers and plant Protection chemical	87	58.00
5	High costs of improved production inputs	86	57.33
6	Insufficient funds to buy improved production inputs	71	47.33
7	Lack of knowledge about improved production Practices	65	43.33
8	Poor quality of seed and plant protection chemicals	62	41.33
9	Lack of technical guidance help when it is required	60	40.00
10	Non-availability of plant protection equipment at Village level	42	28.00
11	Poor marketing facility for the produce	39	26.00
12	Poor quality of lands	35	23.33

\* Multiple responses taken.

**TABLE 2:** Constraints faced by small farmers in adoption of improved livestock projects  
N=150

Sl.No	Constraints	Small farmers	
		Number	Percentage
1	High initial investments for crossbreed cows	97	64.66
2	Lack of easy credit facilities	92	61.33
3	High cost of feeds and concentrates	68	45.33
4	Lack of capital	62	41.33
5	Requires high care and maintenance	61	40.66
6	No fodder to feed animals	45	30.00
7	No surplus labour to look after animals	33	22.00
8	No grazing land	26	17.33

\* Multiple responses taken.

**CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

The findings of this investigation will have practical and normative implications in motivating and training small farmers about use of improved production inputs and adoption of recommended improved production technologies to increase their production level. Besides transfer of technological information the extension workers should also ensure that small farmers should get the improved production input supply at right time, right place, right quality and right quantity. The lack of the critical physical inputs at required rate may bring down the efficiency of the extension inputs. The extension workers should also ensure the availability of credit to small farmers so that they may afford to apply the required technological package. Hence, effects may be made to find out how the credit could be made available to small farmers easily and readily for the

purchasing of requisite improved production inputs. There were situations when technologies could not be adopted by small farmers because they were not properly delivered by the extension agencies or there were other socio-economic constraints in adopting them. To make small farmers to adopt recommended improved production inputs and technologies there is need for management services. Recent Ph.D. thesis of University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore (Swami, 1995) reports that Management services to small farmers is an emerging concepts cited in recent literature. It refers to the degree to which small farmers obtain assistance in getting technical advice, production inputs, credit, marketing services, crop/livestock insurance, required specialized services and subsidy for different agricultural programmes at local level.

A systems approach is basic to understanding the concept of integrated crop livestock-fish-forestry Development at small farm level. Small farmers are reluctant to take risks and are not enthusiastic about new practices. Therefore technology should not be expensive but should be generated based on the Farming systems and its available indigenous resources. However, proper utilization of indigenous knowledge, methods, labour and material should be emphasized. The technical know-how should be accompanied by credit, marketing, extension service, technical back-stopping and other important institutional supports. There is a need to develop coherent guide lines for developing various forms of crop-livestock integration models. A strategy of importance is to concentrate on development of on-farm production through proper types of livestock, crops including tree, vegetable and forage crops most suited to the agro-climatic and socio-economic conditions of the individual representative farms. (*Dinesh Pariyar*)

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