



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2021; SP-10(10): 959-961
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www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 02-08-2021
Accepted: 13-09-2021

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Perceived constraints and suggestions on implementation of BGREI programme by rice growers of Odisha, India

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Abstract

The present study was conducted during the year 2016-17 in Mayurbhanj and Bargarh districts of Odisha state to assess the constraints faced by beneficiaries during implementation of the government programmes like Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI). A total of 80 BGREI beneficiary farmers were selected as respondents for the study through stratified and random sampling methods from 8 villages of two districts in Odisha state. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule through personal interview and focused group discussion. Major constraints perceived by farmers were 'lack of extension supervision and technical guidance', 'lack of timely supply of inputs through the programme', 'biased attitude shown by government officials towards beneficiaries', 'lack of proper marketing facilities and transportation of produce', 'delay in payment of the produce sold by the farmers in mandies', 'lack of irrigation facility in Rabi season for farming' and 'lack of storage facility of the produce 'as expressed by the beneficiaries. As suggested by the farmers, 'agricultural extension officials should monitor all these constraints related issues', 'ensure all these facilities' and 'should strictly adhere to the guidelines along with possible supports to beneficiary rice farmers' for effective implementation of the programme.

Keywords: Constraints, BGREI programme, rice farmers, bringing green revolution to eastern India

Introduction

The programme of "Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)" was launched in 2010-11 to address the constraints limiting the productivity of "rice-based cropping systems". As per the BGREI Operational Guidelines-2016-17, BGREI comprised of broad categories of interventions such as 1. Block Demonstrations, 2. Asset Building, 3. Site Specific Activities, 4. Marketing support & post-harvest management, 5. Seed production & distribution, 6. Subsidy on Need-based Inputs, and 7. Training programme on Cropping System Based Demonstrations (Anonymous, 2017) ^[1]. As reported by Indra and Kushawaha, (2007) ^[2] many causal factors such as lack of awareness, high cost of inputs, indifferent behavior in the administration, lack of guidance and technical supervision etc. affected effective implementation of any programme. Since the BGREI programme had already completed over 5 years of its implementation at the time of data collection, it was thought proper to study the constraints experienced and perceived by the farmers as well as suggestions made in implementation of the programme for necessary refinement to improve its effectiveness.

Materials and Methods

The study was undertaken in Bargarh and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha state during 2016-17. Mayurbhanj and Bargarh districts were purposively selected for research work because BGREI programme has been running in Mayurbhanj and Bargarh districts since its inception. Secondly, both districts are located in two separate agro-ecologies and very widely geographically apart, one i.e., Bargarh is located in the western Odisha, while the other i.e., Mayurbhanj is located in the northern Odisha. Two blocks from each district were selected, in such a way that each block was covered under BGREI programme prior to last 3 years. From each selected block, 02 BGREI-implemented villages and from each selected village, 10 numbers of beneficiaries were selected randomly for investigation. Thus, a total sample size of 80 beneficiaries was selected as respondents for the study. Data were collected using a structured interview schedule and focused group discussions. For data analysis three statistical tools viz., Frequency, Percentage and Ranking were used to reveal the results.

Results and Discussion

The guidelines of the programme Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India clearly spelled out well defined institutional arrangements assigning responsibility to each individual in the implementation process. Training programmes are also organized for all the stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the duties and responsibilities. But the study revealed that majority of the beneficiaries (91.25%) faced 'Lack of extension supervision and technical guidance' ranked 1st, followed by 'Lack of timely input supply through the programme' (66.25%) ranked 2nd, 'Government officials had shown biased attitude towards beneficiaries' (65.00%) ranked 3rd, 'Lack of proper marketing facilities and transportation of produce' (56.25%) ranked 4th, 'Delay in payment of the produce sold by the farmers in mandies' (51.25%) ranked 5th, 'Lack of irrigation facility in Rabi season for farming' (43.75%) ranked 6th, and 'Lack of storage facility of the produce' (42.50%) ranked 7th respectively. Some of the less important constraints were 'Lack of electricity facility at farm for pump operation to irrigate the field' (30.00%) ranked 8th, 'Input dealers are charging higher price than actual price for inputs' (28.75%) ranked 9th, 'Lack

of proper knowledge in insect pest management' (18.75%) ranked 10th, 'The supplied seeds are of very poor quality' (16.25%) ranked 11th and 'The supplied seeds were of very poor quality' (12.50%) ranked 12th respectively (Table 1). More than half (56.25%) of the beneficiaries expressed that 'marketing of produce' was a problem for them, which has a direct bearing on their family income. Most of the farmers of eastern Odisha were facing problem in getting minimum support price (MSP) for their produce. Whenever they sell at government outlets like LAMPs, Govt. officials were not cooperating with the farmers during the sale of their produce, rather saying that their produce was of low quality and gave them reduced/ less price for their produce. Storage of produce was also a major constraint for the farmers in western Odisha, as they produce a large volume of paddy for which they don't have the facility to store them in houses and finally they are forced to do distress sale locally at very less price even at the rate of less than Rs.800/quintal, which was almost half of the MSP. The similar trends in findings were also reported by Thyagarajan and Vasanthakumar (2000) [4], and Rao *et al.* (2001) [3].

Table 1: Distribution of the beneficiaries according to constraints perceived by them during adoption of BGREI recommended technologies (n=80)

Sl. No.	Particulars/ Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Lack of extension supervision and technical guidance.	73	91.25	I
2	Lack of timely input supply through the programme.	53	66.25	III
3	Government officials had a biased attitude towards beneficiaries.	52	65.00	III
4	Lack of proper marketing facility and transportation of produce.	45	56.25	IV
5	Delay in payment of the produce sold by the farmers in mandies.	41	51.25	V
6	Lack of irrigation facility in Rabi season for farming.	35	43.75	VI
7	Lack of storage facility of the produce.	34	42.50	VII
8	Lack of electricity facility at the farm for pump operation to irrigate the field.	24	30.00	VIII
9	Input dealers are charging a higher price than the actual price for inputs.	23	28.75	IX
10	Lack of proper knowledge in insect pest management.	15	18.75	X
11	The supplied seeds were of very poor quality.	13	16.25	XI
12	Lack of getting good exposure towards new technology	10	12.50	XII

Data pertaining to suggestions from the beneficiaries to overcome the constraints faced by them during adoption of BGREI interventions are presented in the Table 2. It was found that majority (93.75%) of the beneficiaries suggested 'Provision of timely guidance and support from Agricultural officials like VAWs, AAOs etc. regarding rice production technologies, new schemes, credit, insurance and subsidies' ranked 1st, followed by 'Provision of input supply should be properly and timely' (72.50%) ranked 2nd, 'Effort should be taken to eradicate biased attitude of government officials towards beneficiaries' (71.25%) ranked 3rd, 'Marketing problems and problems for selling of paddy should be shorted out and solved as soon as possible by the government' (62.50%) ranked 4th, 'Efficient and responsible govt. officials should be appointed in mandies' (57.50%) ranked 5th, 'Efficient irrigation techniques and facilities should be

provided' (50.00%) ranked 6th, and 'Storage warehousing structures should be created by the government' (48.75%) ranked 7th respectively. Other less important suggestions were, 'Solar pump facility should be provided at farm' (36.25%) ranked 8th, 'Government should fix the input price of the produce and also should nominate an official for continuous monitoring and evaluation' (35.00%) ranked 9th, 'Control measures for diseases and pests should be demonstrated and training should be given to the farmers' (25.00%) ranked 10th, 'Good quality seeds of high yielding and hybrid varieties should be provided' (17.50%) ranked 11th and 'Field Day, KissanMela should be organized seasonally' (13.75%) ranked 12th respectively. While assessing various agricultural programmes, Uphoff (2004), Singh and Varshney (2010) [6] and Singh (2016) [7] have also reported similar types of findings.

Table 2: Distribution of beneficiary households according to their suggestions for more effective implementation of BGREI programme (n=80)

Sl. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Provision of in timely proper guidance and support from Agricultural officials like VAWs, AAOs etc. regarding rice production technologies, new schemes, credit, insurance, and subsidies.	78	97.50	I
2	Provision of input supply should be properly and timely.	58	72.50	II
3	Effort should be taken to eradicate biased attitude of government officials towards beneficiaries.	57	71.25	III
4	Marketing problems and problems for selling of paddy should be shorted out and solved as soon as possible by the government.	50	62.50	IV
5	Efficient and responsible govt. officials should be appointed Mandies.	46	57.50	V

6	Efficient irrigation techniques and facilities should be provided.	40	50.00	VI
7	Storage warehousing structures should be created by the government.	39	48.75	VII
8	Solar pump facility should be provided at the farm.	29	36.25	VIII
9	Fixed price	28	35.00	IX
10	Control measures for diseases and pests should be demonstrated and training should be given to the farmers	20	25.00	X
11	Good quality seeds of high yielding and hybrid varieties should be provided.	14	17.50	XI
12	Field day, Kissan Mela should be organized seasonally.	11	13.75	XII

Conclusion

The programme of “Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI)” was launched to address the constraints limiting the productivity of “rice-based cropping systems” and all-round development of the people and particularly rice farmers living in Eastern India. The constraints expressed by the beneficiaries indicated that the guideline developed for the purpose has not been followed. Therefore, it is suggested that the Govt. officials of the agriculture department have to monitor all the constraints identified and ensure all possible supports for the development of the rice farmers in Odisha and Eastern India as well, in order to develop socio-economic status of rice farmers.

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