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Dipak Nath

Dy. Director of Extension
Education, CAU, Imphal,
Manipur, India

Abhinash Moirangthem

Assistance Professor, College of
Agriculture, CAU, Imphal,
Manipur, India

Ph. Ranjit Sharma

Director of Extension Education,
CAU, Imphal, Manipur, India

Constraints encountered by the paddy growers of Manipur of north eastern region of India

Dipak Nath, Abhinash Moirangthem and Ph. Ranjit Sharma

Abstract

The study was conducted in Bishnupur, Thoubal, Kakching, Imphal East and Imphal West districts of Manipur with 180 randomly selected paddy growers. The data collection was done with a structured interview schedule though personal interview method where identified constraints were grouped in three categories such as technological, infrastructural and economical constraints. Out of technological constraints, the most serious problem was lack of knowledge on scientific crop production with mean score 2.48 (Rank I) followed by occurrence of insect-pests and diseases with mean score 2.39 (Rank II). Among the infrastructural constraints the most serious constraints was lack of irrigation facilities (MS 2.88, Rank I) and non-availability of agricultural chemicals on time (MS 2.67, Rank II). Non-availability of labour during peak period (MS 2.88) was the most serious constraint under economical constraints which got 1st rank followed by high cost of agricultural chemicals (MS 2.72) got rank II.

Keywords: Constraints, paddy, paddy grower

Introduction

Paddy is an important food crop in North Eastern region of India covering 3.51 million ha that accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total cultivated area and 7.8 per cent of total paddy area of the country. The total rice production of North-Eastern region is estimated to be around 5.50 million tons and its share in national rice production is barely 5.9 per cent (Mohanty *et al.*, 2014) ^[5]. Manipur is one of the North-Eastern states of India, covering an area of 22,327 sq km which nearly accounts for 0.7 per cent of the total land surface of India. The state is unique in producing varieties of paddy. Agriculture being the backbone of the state economy and paddy is the dominant crop grown by farmers in Manipur. Imphal West district is classified under high productivity of paddy in the state of Manipur (Thangjam, 2020) ^[2]. Area under paddy cultivation in the state is 225.77 thousand ha with a production of 602.21 thousand MT (Anonymous, 2020-21) ^[1]. Keeping this in view, the study was undertaken to find out the constraints faced by the paddy growers of Manipur.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Bishnupur, Thoubal, Kakching, Imphal East and Imphal West districts of Manipur with 180 randomly selected paddy growers. A structured interview schedule was administered to individual respondents to collect the relevant data from the respondents. The socio personal characteristics *viz.*, age, educational level, mass media exposure, marital status and social participation of the respondents were also measured. The identified constraints were grouped in three categories such as technological, infrastructural and economical constraints. In order to ascertain the degree of seriousness of the problems, the items under each category were measured in most serious, serious and not so serious level with score 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The weights mean score for each problem were also calculated to find out the seriousness of the problem (Nath, 2014) ^[3]

Results and Discussion

The socio personal characteristics of the respondents are presented in Table 1. Data presented in Table 2 reveals that out of technological constraints, the most serious problem was lack of knowledge on scientific crop production with mean score 2.48 followed by occurrence of insect-pests and diseases with mean score 2.39 which got 1st and 2nd rank respectively. Among the infrastructural constraints the most serious constraints was lack of irrigation facilities (MS 2.88) and non-availability of agricultural chemicals on time (MS 2.67) with 1st and 2nd rank respectively.

Corresponding Author

Dipak Nath

Dy. Director of Extension
Education, CAU, Imphal,
Manipur, India

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their socio-personal characteristics

(N= 80)

Characteristics	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1. Age	25- 29 years	6	3.33
	30- 34 years	29	16.11
	35-39 years	35	19.44
	40- 44 years	43	23.89
	45 years and above	67	37.22
2. Educational level	Illiterate	3	1.11
	Up to primary school	19	10.56
	Up to class X	48	26.67
	Up to class XII	51	28.33
	Up to degree level or above	59	32.78
3. Mass media exposure	Regularly	20	11.11
	Often	80	4.44
	Seldom	69	38.33
	Never	11	6.11
4. Marital status	Single	19	10.56
	Married	161	89.44
5. Social participation	No membership	25	13.89
	Member of one organization	117	65.00
	Member of more than one organization	21	11.67
	Office bearers (secretary/president etc.)	17	9.44

Table 2: Constraints encountered by paddy growers of Tripura

(N= 180)

SN	Constraints	Distribution of respondents based on seriousness of the constraints						Weight mean score	Rank
		Most serious		Serious		Not so serious			
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
A	Technological								
i.	Lack of knowledge on scientific crop production	106	58.89	55	30.56	19	10.56	2.48	I
ii.	Lack of regular visit by extension personnel to villages	76	42.22	61	33.89	43	23.89	2.18	III
iii.	Poor fertility of soil	34	18.89	98	54.44	48	26.67	1.92	IV
iv.	Occurrence of insect-pests and diseases	91	50.56	68	37.78	21	11.67	2.39	II
v.	Poor seed germination due to low soil moisture at the time of sowing	11	6.11	67	37.22	102	56.67	1.49	VI
vi.	Moisture stress during crop growth period	24	13.33	59	32.78	97	53.89	1.59	V
B	Infrastructural								
i.	Less cultivable land	31	17.22	58	32.22	91	50.56	1.67	VI
ii.	Non-availability of quality seed	99	55.00	68	37.78	30	16.67	2.57	III
iii.	Non-availability of agricultural chemicals on time	133	73.89	35	19.44	12	6.67	2.67	II
iv.	Inability to purchase modern agricultural implements	58	32.22	59	32.78	63	35.00	1.97	V
v.	Lack of irrigation facilities	162	90.00	15	8.33	3	1.67	2.88	I
vi.	Unawareness of govt. subsidy programme	55	30.56	58	32.22	67	37.22	1.93	IV
C	Economical								
i.	Non-availability of labour during peak period	159	83.33	21	11.67	0	0	2.88	I
ii.	Non-availability of timely credit facilities	98	54.44	47	26.11	25	13.89	2.29	III
iii.	High cost of agricultural chemicals	139	72.22	31	17.22	10	5.56	2.72	II
iv.	Low selling price	78	43.33	61	33.89	41	22.78	2.21	IV

Non-availability of labour during peak period (MS 2.88) was the most serious constraint under economical constraints which got rank I followed by high cost of agricultural chemicals (MS 2.72, Rank II). The moderate technological constraints were lack of regular visit by extension personnel to villages (MS 2.18), non-availability of quality seed and poor fertility of soil (MS 2.57), non-availability of timely credit facilities (MS 2.29) which got Rank III under different category of constraints faced by the respondents. Other constraints encountered were poor fertility of soil (MS 1.92, Rank IV), moisture stress during crop growth period (MS 1.59), unawareness of govt. subsidy programme (MS 1.93), inability to purchase modern agricultural implements (MS 1.97), low selling price (2.21).

Conclusion

It is very much evident from the study that there existed a wide gap between development of technologies and their transfer to actual farming situations. Hence, these constraints perceived by the farmers could be overcome by the following proper strategies like suitable and intensified awareness and training programme on production technologies among the farmers of the district (Biswas, 2013). Moreover, the Government should prepare policy to provide the minimum support price, irrigation facility, availability of agricultural chemicals, credit facilities in the state, which will encourage the growers for extensive cultivation in the district.

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