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Assessment of relationship between profile of paddy growers and their attitude towards farm mechanization

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Warangal district of Telangana state during the year 2022 to assess the relationship between profile of paddy growers and their attitude towards farm mechanization. Warangal district of Telangana state selected randomly having considerable area under paddy cultivation. Three talukas from selected district and from each taluka four villages were selected purposively having considerable area under paddy cultivation, total 12 villages are selected from Warangal district for the study. From each selected village, ten paddy growers were selected randomly, in this way a total 120 respondents were considered for the study. An Ex-post-facto research design was followed for the study. A well-structured interview schedule was developed with the objectives of the study. The collected data was analysed, classified and tabulated. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and coefficient correlation were used to interpret the findings and draw the conclusions. According to correlation analysis, age and size of family shows positive and non significant relationship with attitude of paddy growers towards farm mechanization. Education, land holding and farming experience shows positive and significant relationship with attitude. Extension contact, mass media exposure, social participation and knowledge level shows positive and highly significant relationship with attitude of paddy growers towards farm mechanization.

Keywords: Profile, paddy growers, attitude, farm mechanization

Introduction

Paddy is a labour intensive crop and requires work intensive harvest. One hectare takes approximately 850-900 man-hours for cultivation. Because of labour shortages and rising labour wages, mechanization in rice cultivation is gaining importance. The current state of mechanization in paddy cultivation, mechanization is used in (60.00%) of land preparation, (05.00%) of transplanting, (50.00%) of irrigation, (25.00%) of fertilizer application, (03.00%) of harvesting, and (20.00%) of threshing processes. Specific mechanization for implementing abundant human and animal power sources with additional mechanical and electrical power will be advantageous in Indian conditions. Mechanization of small sized land holdings would be essential in increasing production of paddy. Scientists, extension personnels, and government agencies can make significant contributions in achieving this goal. Adequate farm power is essential to boost paddy production by achieving farm operations on time. The efficient utilisation of inputs in agriculture, as well as the timeliness of operations has become more important in attaining optimal yields from various crops which has been made feasible by mechanization. It is true that Indian farmers have the lowest earnings per capita due to the low yield per hectare of the holdings. Mechanization is one of the few important ways to increase farm production per hectare. In India, mechanization may be required at various levels. It can be done in three ways in general.

- By introducing improved agricultural implements to be operated by bullocks on small-scale holdings.
- By enhancing existing sources with small tractors, tractor-drawn machines and power tillers on medium-sized holdings.
- By using the large size tractors and machines on the remaining holdings to supplement animal power source.

Materials and Methods

For the study, Warangal district was selected from Telangana state having considerable area under paddy cultivation. Three tehsils/mandals viz., Parvathagiri, Raiaparthi and Wardhannapet were selected having considerable area under paddy cultivation and four

villages from each tehsil/mandal were selected having considerable area under paddy cultivation. From each village ten respondents were selected randomly constituting the sample size 120. Ex-post-facto research design was used for the study. The data collected was analyzed, classified and tabulated. To interpret findings and draw conclusions, statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and coefficient correlation were used. Independent variables are Age, Education, Size of family, Land holding, Farming experience, Extension contact, Mass media exposure, Social participation and knowledge level selected for the present study. Attitude was selected as a dependent variable. Attitude schedule was developed by reviewing the previous research studies, consulting and discussing with the guide. Thirty-Four statements were chosen and graded on a three point scale: 'Agree,' 'Undecided' and 'Disagree' with ratings of 2, 1, 0 for positive statements and 0, 1, 2 for negative statements respectively. Respondents were asked to choose one of option from a three-point range. The highest possible score was 68 and the lowest possible score was 0.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Correlation coefficient between selected profile of the paddy growers and their attitude towards farm mechanization

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Coefficient of correlation (r)
1	Age	0.040 ^{NS}
2	Education	0.224*
3	Size of family	0.081 ^{NS}
4	Land holding	0.204*
5	Farming experience	0.207*
6	Extension contact	0.613**
7	Mass media exposure	0.642**
8	Social participation	0.399**
9	Knowledge level	0.647**

* Significant at 0.05 level of significance

NS- Non Significant

**Significant at 0.01 level of significance

Table 1 indicated that among the profile of the paddy growers, Age and Size of the family shows positive and non significant relation with the attitude where as Education, Land holding and Farming experience shows positive and significantly correlated with the attitude. The variables like Extension contact, Mass media exposure, Social participation and Knowledge level shows positive and highly significant relation with the attitude of paddy growers towards farm mechanization.

Conclusion

An attempt was made in the present study to assess the relationship between profile of the paddy growers and their attitude towards farm mechanization. The result of the study revealed that among the profile of the paddy growers, Age and Size of the family shows positive and non significant relation with the attitude where as Education, Land holding and Farming experience shows positive and significantly correlated with the attitude. The variables like Extension contact, Mass media exposure, Social participation and Knowledge level shows positive and highly significant relation with the attitude of paddy growers towards farm mechanization.

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