Volume : 2 | Issue : 12 | Dec 2013 • ISSN No 2277 - 8160

Research Paper | Social Science

Relationship Between Socio-Economic Characteristics of Shg Women Farmers and their Adoption of Farm Technologies in Chittoor District

Mrs. B. JYOTSNA DEVI — Research Scholar, Centre for Extension Studies & Centre for Women's Studies, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

Prof. D. USHA RANI — Director of the Department, Centre for Extension Studies & Centre for Women's Studies, Sri Venkateswara University,Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

ABSTRACT

The major focus of this paper was to analyses the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of SHG women and their adoption of farm technologies in Chandragiri and Ramachandrapuram mandals of Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. 500 hundred SHG women farmers served as respondents to this study. A structured interview schedule was used in collecting data from the respondents. The tools of analyses were percentages and chi-square. The major findings were that it was only education variable that had significant relationship with the adoption of most of the technologies studied, while age, religion and social status were not significantly related to adoption. It was suggested among others that the research extension system should be made the problems of inappropriateness and unavailability of technologies to women farmers.

KEYWORDS : Technology - Agricultural Development – Rural Development

INTRODUCTION

The importance of technology to agricultural development especially in less developed countries is widely recognized. This is predicated on the observed impact of this technology and its potential and actual contributions to the development of agriculture. Rural women, play a significant role in many agricultural activities in many countries. Women activities include plant and animal production activities such as production of food for the household, planting and weeding, harvesting and post harvest activities, livestock care and commercial farming. Specific tasks and activities are regarded in some societies as predominately female work. They are generally tedious and time consuming tasks and considered as household duties rather than work. Women time and mobility are constrained by their multiple domestic, reproductive and agricultural roles. Besides, there are more barriers that prevent women from improving their agricultural productivity than men. However, the role of women in agriculture and in rural development is increasingly recognized both at national and international levels. Women agriculturalists are associated with traditional subsistence and low-yield food crops, poverty, lack of influence and the inability to adopt crop and husbandry innovations (Youssef, 1995). It is therefore, the focus of this study to determine the relationship between socio-economic characteristics of SHG women and their adoption of agricultural technologies in Chittoor District, Chandragiri and Ramachandrapuram mandals. Specifically, the objectives are to determine the level of adoption of agricultural technologies by the respondents; establish the relationship between the socio-economic characteristics of respondents and adoption of technologies.

Methodology

The present study was carried out in Chandragiri and Ramachandrapuram Mandals of Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. The total sampling technique was adopted in the selection of respondents. This therefore, brings the total number of respondents to five hundred (500). A structured interview schedule prepared based on the objectives of the study, was used for collecting primary data. The data collected were analyses by the use of percentages and chi square (x^2). The set of technologies studied were those being Tractor, Pumping set, Trailers, Food cutters, Seed drill and other pesticides.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Level of adoption of technologies: the result of level of adoption of farm technologies by the respondents is presented in table 1.

Table- 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their Farm technologies

Farm Technologies	Category	Chandragiri		Ramachandrapuram	
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Tractor	Yes	12	4.8	11	4.4
	No	238	95.2	239	95.6
Pumping set	Yes	22	8.8	21	8.4
	No	228	91.2	229	91.6
Trailers	Yes	3	1.2	1	0.4
	No	247	98.8	249	99.6
Food cutters	Yes	25	10	60	24
	No	225	90	190	76
Seed drill	Yes	3	1.2	2	0.8
	No	247	98.8	248	99.2
Other pesticides	Yes	47	18.8	73	29.2
	No	203	81.2	177	70.8

Sources of primary Data

The data indicate that out of six farm technologies studied, it was only the use of pesticides that could be adjudged as the one most significantly adopted by the respondents, about Nearly one-fifth (18.8%) of the Chandragiri SHG women were using other pesticides, one tenth (10%) of the SHG women were using food cutters, less than one-tenth (8.8%) of the SHG women were using pumping set, 4.8 percent were using tractor and equal negligible percent (1.2% and 1.2%) of trailers and seed drill.

About One-fifth (29.2%) of the Ramachandrapuram SHG women were using pesticides. 24 percent were using food cutters, 8.4 percent were using pumping set, small percent (4.4%) of SHG women were using tractor, 0.8% of SHG women had seed drill and 0.4% of SHG women were had trailers. While comparing between the Chandragiri and Ramachandrapuram, 18.8 percent of the Chandragiri and above a quarter (29.2%) of the Ramachandrapuram SHG women were using other pesticides. While comparing between Farmers may be desirous of adopting new practices by may be constrained by inadequate information about that particular innovation, which may in part be caused by the inability of the extension personnel to reach the farmers. It has been reported that why most farmers stick to old practice may be as a result of economic inability on the part of the farmers to afford the cost of

innovations, risk involved, ignorance of existence of innovations plus their conservative attitude (Onyewaku, 1988). There may not be much difficulty coping with technology transfer among women farmers if the technologies are well presented, appropriate or relevant as well as profitable in the view of women farmers. Non adoption of some of these technologies could also be as a result of high prices, relative scarcity and indivisibility of the technologies.

Table-2: Relationship between socio-economic characteristics and adoption level of respondents:

Farm Technologies	Chandragiri				Ramachandrapuram			
	Age	Religion	Education level	Social status	Age	Religion	Education level	Social status
Tractor	2.685	0.336	15.299*	1.079	0.683	0.580	9.615*	3.375
Pumping set	1.414	0.393	13.264*	1.681	1.483	0.580	12.286*	6.870
Trailers	1.575	0.938	2.166	2.235	2.799	0.051	3.400	4.225
Food cutters	0.601	0.200	6.185	2.722	0.362	1.696	10.585*	34.804*
Seed drill	2.892	0.938	10.084*	2.118	5.621	1.102	15.946*	3.539
Other pesticides	1.201	0.636	4.921	4.893	3.621	2.655	15.363*	34.153*

Sources of primary Data

Relationship between socio-economic characteristics and adoption level of respondents: table 2 presents the Chi square between selected socio-economic variable of the respondents and adoption of farm technologies. The chi square test carried out shows that out of the variables (age, religion, educational level and social status) studied; it was only educational level of the respondents that could be said to have significant relationship with adoption. For instance, Chandragiri SHG women were had educational level significant relationship at 5% level of confidence with adoption of use of tractor, pumping set and seed drill, respectively and Ramachandrapuram SHG women were had educational level significant relationship at 5% level of confidence with adoption of use of tractor, pumping set, food cutters, seed drill, and pesticides respectively. This significant relationship between level of education and adoption level implies that the educated farmers adopted more than the less or non-educated ones. The table indicates that both Chandragiri and Ramachandrapuram SHG women age was not significantly related to adoption of most of the farm technologies studied. This agrees with the finding of Osuntogun and Adeyomo (1986) and Ani (1999) that age was not significantly related to the adoption of new recommended farm practices.

The relationship between adoption of farm technologies and religion of the both village were infinitesimally negligible. Hence, religion of women could be an important factor in technology adoption. The social status of the Chandragiri SHG women had no significant relationship with adoption of most technologies and followed by the social status of the Ramachandrapuram SHG women had significant relationship with food cutters and pesticides technologies. In this study, the finding indicates that the length of age, religion and social status among the Chandragiri SHG women and age, religion among the Ramachandrapuram SHG women were not a very important determinant of adoption of technologies. This can be attributed to the fact that farmers who have been long in the business are usually older, less educated and are more resistant to change then new entrants.

CONCLUSION

Many measures have been taken throughout the country to strengthen the performance of agricultural sector by diffusing new technologies. However, it seems that adequate attention has not been given to developing appropriate technologies for women. It is therefore, imperative that technological policies must now, more than ever, focus on creating technology suitable to the special needs of women.

This study was intended to draw the attention of the Research Extension System to the need to be more gender sensitive in designing research agenda and extension programmers that would meet the needs of women farmers in adopting technologies.

REFERENCES

1. Ani, A.O., 1999. An impact study on the adoption of improved agricultural technology by groundnut farmers in Hawul L.G.A. of Bomo State, Nigeria Ngerian J. Rural Dev. Coop., 7: 19-25 | 2. Osuntogun, N. and R. Adeyomo, 1986. Adoption of new innovations and the role of cooperative credit in the production of rice. In: Okeke, O. (ed.). Cooperatives and Nigerian Economy. Dept. Agric. Econo., University of Nigeria Press, Nigeria | 3. Youseff, N.H., 1995. Women's Access to Productive Resources: The Need for Legal Instruments to Protect Women's Development Rights, pp: 279-89. Routledge, New York, USA | 4. Manimekalai, M. & Nature And Performance Of Rajeshwari, G., Informal Self Help Groups – A Case From Tamil Nadu, Indian Journal Of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 56 (3), July-Sept, 2001. | 5. Satish, P., Some Issues In the Formational Of SHG's. Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Vol. 56 (3), July-Sept., 2001. | 6. Sharma, K.C., Micro Financing Through SHG's, Indian Journal of Agricultural Economic, Vol. 56 (3), July-Sept., 2001. |