



Research Article

Extent of knowledge about soil and water conservation practices by the farmers in watershed development project area

■ I. M. TAMBOLI, B. M. THOMBRE AND J.M. DESHMUKH

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MEMBERS OF RESEARCH FORUM :

Corresponding author :

I.M. TAMBOLI, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, LATUR (M.S.) INDIA

Co-authors :

B.M.THOMBRE AND J.M.DESHMUKH, Department of Extension Education, College of Agriculture, LATUR (M.S.) INDIA

Summary

In India hardly 35 per cent of the total cultivated area is under irrigation. With all efforts we can bring only 50 per cent of the total cultivated area under irrigation and the rest of 50 per cent of the total cultivated area will be permanently under the mercy of rain. In order to increase the production, productivity in dry land area and to narrow down the economic status between irrigated farmer and rainfed farmer, watershed concept has been evolved. In order to achieve an overall improvement in dry land areas, all the aforesaid components were brought under one umbrella that itself is called as watershed management. So it is necessary to know about how many people have knowledge about soil and water conservation practices. With this the study entitled extent of knowledge about soil and water conservation practices by the farmers in watershed development project area was undertaken. The major result was that, majority of the farmers had medium level of knowledge of soil and water conservation practices.

Key words : Knowledge, Soil and water conservation practices, Watershed development project

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Introduction

The concept of watershed management was evolved in early 1980's. In India the functioning of departments like Agriculture, Soil and Water Conservation, Horticulture, Forestry, Animal husbandry and Fisheries in isolation has not resulted expected progress. Hence, the concept of watershed management was evolved with sole objective of using the land according to its capability, thereby reducing the production and productivity on sustainable basis.

Watershed management is the rational utilization of land and water resources for gaining optimum production and with minimum hazards to natural resources. It essentially relates to the practice of soil and water conservation in the watershed, which means proper land use, protecting land against all forms of deterioration, building and maintaining soil fertility, conserving water for farm use, proper management of local water for drainage, flood protection and sediment reduction and increasing productivity from all prevailing land uses.

The concept of watershed development has gained much importance in the recent past. It is due to realization of need for conservation of most valuable natural resources like soil, water, forest and so on. It is considered as an integrated approach towards bringing out the rural development in general and the development of all the land based activities in the particulars. So it is necessary to every farmer to have knowledge about soil and water conservation practices. The present study was undertaken with following objectives.

– To know the personal characteristics of the farmers in watershed development project area, level of knowledge of soil and water conservation practices by the farmers and relationship of independent variables with knowledge of soil and water conservation practices by the farmers.

Resources and Research Methods

The present study was carried out in Bindusara watershed development project designed by Government of