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# A study of the extent of technological gap in adoption of paddy cultivation technology by the respondent paddy growers of Sitamarhi district of Bihar state and their suggestions

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### ABSTRACT

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Paddy provides 27 per cent of dietary energy and 20 per cent of dietary protein intake in developing countries. Over 90 per cent of the worlds' paddy is produced and consumed in Asia with over 2 billion people obtaining 60 to 70 per cent of their energy intake from rice and rice products. Paddy is a staple crop and main source of income for millions of people in the world, and is grown in all the seven continents. It is India's most important food crop being grown on 43 million hectares of land with an annual production of 95 million tonnes. The study was conducted in Sitamarhi district of Bihar State. Use of exploratory design of social research was made in the present investigation. Sonbarse, Bazpatti, Riga, Runnisaidpur and Nanpur blocks from Sitamarhi district were randomly selected on the basis of maximum area under paddy cultivation. It was concluded that about three-fourth of the respondent paddy growers belonged to medium technological gap category. The average technological gap of the respondent paddy growers was 40.20 per cent. Also higher technological gap was observed in seed treatment, water management, disease management, improved varieties and insect pest management. The major suggestions made by the respondent paddy growers for minimizing (overcoming) the technological gap were development of irrigation network with government aid, provision of quality seeds with technical know-how and training on major practices to needy farmers.

# **Key words :** Technological gap, Adoption, Paddy cultivation technology, Suggestions.

Paddy is a staple crop and main source of income for millions of people in the world, and is grown in all the seven continents. It is India's most important food crop being grown on 43 million hectares of land with an annual production of 95 million tonnes.

Rice is grown as major staple food crop. Similarly, it is also grown for the other products like parched rice (Murmura), beaten rice (Poha) and parched paddy (Lahi). Paddy is consumed by human beings after cooking as whole rice and by preparing product like Bhakari, Idli, Dosa, Uttapa, etc. The paddy straw is used as cattlefeed and as packaging material. It is also useful in manufacturing of cement as it contains silica. The byproducts after milling *i.e.* bran and husk are used for extracting edible oil and cattle-feed, respectively. Rice grain is useful in rituals and important ceremonies connected with birth, marriages and funeral from very ancient times whereas broken rice of inferior quality is used as poultry feed. In other words, rice is a major source of food and income of the farmers. The statistical data of area and production for the year 2004-05 shows that the average yield of rice per hectare in Sitamarhi district was observed 0.461 tones per hectares as against 0.811 tonnes per hectare in Bihar. In Bihar state total area under paddy during the year 2004-05 was 3.167 million hectares and the total production was 2.569 million tonnes. In Sitamarhi the total area under paddy was 0.72 million hectares with total production of 0.332 million tonnes. This indicates that, the average per hectare yield of paddy in Sitamarhi district is much less than the average yields of paddy in Bihar and India. At present, the efforts are also being made for transfer of scientific information to potential users as quickly as possible. But there exist gap between scientific information involved and its utilization by ultimate users and this may one of the reasons for low yield in paddy. The extent of yield gap is very high under Indian condition compared to the global productivity. In view of the study the specific objectives of the present study is so below;

- To study the socio-personal, socio-economic and socio-psychological attributes of respondents paddy growers from Sitamarhi district of Bihar state.
- To obtain the constraints faced by the paddy growers.

#### METHODOLOGY

The study was. conducted in Sitamarhi district of Bihar State. Use of exploratory design of social research