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A study of relationship between selected characteristics of the respondent paddy growers and technological gap in paddy cultivation of Sitamarhi district of Bihar

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ABSTRACT

Globally, the paddy productivity has gone up by almost 2.4 times in over 50 years. India stands first in paddy area, over 40 million hectares and second in production. It has almost tripled its production from merely 34.6 million tonnes (milled rice) in 1960-61 to record production of 95.68 million tonnes in 2007-08 with average productivity being 2.127 tonnes per hectare. 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 education, social-participation, socio-economic status, size of land holding, area under paddy cultivation, annual income, sources of information, cosmopoliteness, irrigation facilities, cropping pattern, cropping intensity, knowledge level, risk orientation and economic motivation exhibited negative and significant correlation with technological gap while age of the respondent paddy growers was positively and significantly correlated. However, size of family, income from paddy cultivation and occupation was not significantly correlated with technological gap.

Key words : Relationship, Characteristics, Respondents, Paddy growers, Technological gap, Paddy cultivation.

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 cattle-feed and as packaging material. It is also useful in manufacturing of cement as it contains silica. The by-products 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 as below;

- To find out the relationship between profile of paddy growers and technological gap in paddy cultivation.
- To study the extent of technological gap in adoption of paddy cultivation technology by the paddy growers.

METHODOLOGY

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