

Adoption of soil and water conservation practices by the farmers in Vidarbha, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

A survey of 150 proportionately selected sample of farmers from Nandura Panchayat Samiti of Buldhana district of Vidarbha in Maharashtra revealed that majority of farmers had low level of extent of adoption SWCPs. Age, education, land holding, occupation, extension contact, risk preference and attitude had 62.12 per cent variation in extent of adoption. Level of annual income, soil type, social participation and extend of knowledge were determining factors of extend of adoption of SWCPs.

INTRODUCTION

Land and rain water are two primary resources associated with agriculture production. As consequences of increasing pressure on land the natural balance between the soil forming and soil conserving processes has been affected to serious problem of soil erosion. According to rough estimate, out of total geographical areas of 239 m ha of our country about 173 m ha are subjected to varying degrees and forms of soil erosion. The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is spread over 11 districts, having 57.33 per cent cultivated areas, out of total geographical area of the region. The success or failure of crops, particularly under rainfed conditions solely depends on the rainfall pattern and the fertile land is eroded due to various reasons. There is need to study the status of farmers about soil and water conservation practices (SWCPs) in this region and to motivate them for adoption of various soils and water conservation practices.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried during the year 2004 in Nandura Panchayat Samiti of Buldhana district of Vidarbha in Maharashtra. A sample of 150 farmers was taken from ten selected villages, with the help of simple random sampling method. The data were collected by interviewing the farmers

with the help of interview schedule. An exploratory design of social research was used for this study. For the measurement of extent of adoption, a list of soil and water conservation practices was prepared and responses of the farmers were collected on it. Extent of adoption was measured on three-point continuum *i.e.* complete, partial and non-adoption.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation are presented below:

Practice wise adoption of SWCPs:

It is observed from Table 1 that most of farmers had tillage operations and across the slope sowing was adopted completely by 76.00% and 34.66% farmers. The majority of the respondent adopted partially the practices such as intercropping (81.33%), brushwood dam at outlet (72.00%), gully plugging (62.66%), earthen bund (52.66%) and mulching (38.66%). Loose boulder structure and sunken farm pond was adopted by (34.66%) and (32.00%) farmers. Live fencing grasses in water ways and *Kharif* fallow were adopted by (22.66%), (11.33%) and (10.66%) farmers, respectively. On the contour sowing, surface drains, contour bunds, vetiver bunds, lucaena bunds, cement plug, live check dam, counter vegetative hedges, green manuring and use of

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