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RESEARCH ARTICLE

An evaluation of constraints and expectations of irrigation information in command areas of Tungabhadra and Upper Krishna Projects

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ABSTRACT

An evaluation of constraints and expectations of irrigation information in command areas was studied in both Tungabhadra (TBP) and Upper Krishna (UKP) Projects during the year 2008-09. The lack of data base software (100%) and proper communication channel (100%) were the major constraints as opined by the irrigation engineers, whereas lack of cooperation from irrigation department (81-97%) followed by lack of education (73-75%) were major constraints as opined by farmers. Information on water losses in canals (80-90%) was the major expectation of engineers, whereas alternative cropping pattern (84-89%), dissemination of irrigation information through mass media (80-82%) and through WUCSs (75-77%) formed the major expectations of farmers in all regions of both the command areas.

INTRODUCTION

A large number of irrigation projects have been commissioned in India in the postindependence era for improving food production and economic development. However, in recent years the performance of irrigation projects is not to the expectations (Rao and Chakraborti, 2000). There are many reasons and one among them, improper maintenance of irrigation information system. The irrigation projects managed based on hardware and software not used. Especially in irrigation information, the irrigation information system is in still in traditional approach of using outdated structures for measuring water, manual documentation in registers, dissemination through reports, news papers, etc. Irrigation information management is the key to efficient and timely water distribution in canal command area. However, spatial coverage of irrigation information is incomplete and as a result little or no information is collected in some areas. Problems are also being experienced with the quality and reliability of information.

Irrigation management information is the broad class of information needed by stockholders to manage operations and maintenance in an irrigation system. It includes information for planning, implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation. It is vital for planning, directing and controlling operation and maintenance activities. Therefore, there is a need to assess the constraints and expectations of the irrigation information system by farmers and irrigation engineers on irrigation information system in command areas (Sankara Reddy and Yellmanda Reddy, 2003). The present study attempts to evaluate the constraints in the present irrigation information system as perceived by farmers and engineers and also throw light on their expectations in the system.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Tungabhadra (TBP) and Upper Krishna (UKP) Projects of Karnataka during the year 2008-09. Multistage random sampling procedure was adopted for the selection of sample farmers for the study. In case of TBP, three regions were selected namely, head region, middle region and tail region in the first stage. Head region comprised of Koppal and Gangavathi taluks of Koppal district, middle region comprised of Sindhanur taluk of Raichur district and tail region included command areas of Manvi and Raichur taluks. In second stage, 20 farmers were selected randomly from each of the above three regions. Thus, the total sample size constituted 60 in TBP. Similarly, in UKP, command areas of three canals were selected namely Shahapur

Key words : Constraints,

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