

## Studies On The Effect Of Improved Agro-Techniques In The Command Area Of Srisailam Right Branch Canal (SRBC)

B. Sahadeva Reddy\* and T. S. Prasad Reddy

III AP Irrigation Project, Regional Agricultural Research Station,  
Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Nandyal-518502.

### ABSTARCT

III AP Irrigation Project is Funded by World Bank and implemented by Regional Agricultural Research Station, Nandyal, which is part of Acharya N G Ranga Agricultural University, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad. As a part of Funding I&CADA Department, Govt of AP, World Bank has asked Agricultural University to provide Agricultural Support Services in three reaches (Upper, Middle & Lower) of SRBC command which consisted of Field Demonstrations in all the reaches of the command. Results have clearly indicated that there is increase in the rate of adoption of recommended package of practices of major crops, increased input use efficiency, productivity, increased net additional returns and finally increased employment potential in beneficiary villages in comparison to non-beneficiary villages.

### INTRODUCTION

Andhra Pradesh is blessed with good land and water resources. Its rainfall is erratic and also the monsoon fails many times especially in Rayalaseema districts. The entire rain falls within a period of three or four months and that to in about 100 hours in a year. Therefore many challenges face water planners, managers, users and generally policy makers. Due to the steady rise in population, since independence, per capita land availability has dwindled from 0.48 ha to 0.15 ha and water availability has been reduced from 5300 cum to 1500 cum. Besides, there is an increase in demand of water from the domestic and industrial sectors. So availability of irrigation water has been under pressure. By forecasting this situation, highest priority was given for irrigation development in the five years plans.

The area under irrigation was only 19.4 M Ha in 1947 and it was planned to achieve the ultimate potential of 140 M Ha by 2025 in the country to meet the demand of increased population and thereby increased agricultural production. In Andhra Pradesh among the 118 lakh ha of cultivated area, only 50 lakh ha is under irrigation as against the ultimate irrigation potential of 88 lakh ha. To bridge the wide gap between the potential and actual utilization of irrigation water, the A.P Government also gave top priority for irrigation section in all five-year plans.

In Rayalaseema region, Kurnool district is drought prone and 84 per cent of cultivated area in under rainfed with low productivity. To increase the area under irrigation and agricultural productivity of the district Srisailam Right Branch Canal (SRBC) was taken up under Third A.P.

\*Author for correspondence

Irrigation Project supported by the World Bank. SRBC is now renamed as Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy Project-Right Branch Canal (NSRP-RBC) and it is an on going major irrigation project in A.P with a command area of 76,890 ha.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Under the Madduru major distributory (Block – IV), a total of eight villages were covered, out of which three representative villages were selected for carrying out of the demonstrations i.e., Konidedu from upper reach, Bhupanapadu under middle reach and Maddur at lower reach (tail end). At each reach 40 ha area was selected on either side of the canal and demonstrations were conducted from 1999-2000. For assessing the impact of the project, 40 farmers from each of the beneficiary village (Konidedu, Bhupanapadu, Maddur) and an equal number of farmers from near by non-beneficiary villages were selected randomly. The non-beneficiary villages selected were Alampur and Gonavaram against upper reach; Kowlur and Nerawada against middle reach; and Nandivargam and Timmapuram against lower reach.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 1. Impact on adoption of package of practices

Many of the farmers both in beneficiary and non-beneficiary villages were sowing with gorru and non accustomed for dibbling. Only 10 per cent of farmers in hybrid cotton and eight per cent of farmers adopted dibbling in sunflower in beneficiary villages. Most of the farmers were aware of the advantage of dibbling but due to the