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Correlates of technological gap in recommended summer groundnut technology

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ABSTRACT

An investigation was carried out in Parbhani block of Parbhani district of Maharashtra State to study level of composite technological gap in summer groundnut technology and to identify the personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics affecting the technological gap. The data collected from 120 randomly selected respondents revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to medium level of composite technological gap followed by high and low level of composite technological gap. Further, results indicated that the variables viz., education, land holding, annual income, extension contact, social participation, risk preference, economic motivation and knowledge about technological gap was positively significant. The statistical tests using multiple regression analysis revealed that among independent variables only knowledge about technology, education, economic motivation and risk preference were found to exhibit negatively significant contribution towards the dependent variable i.e. composite technological gap in summer groundnut cultivation technology.

Key words : Technological gap, Summer groundnut, Correlates.

INTRODUCTION

There has been a revolutionary change in the agricultural technology in recent years. Inspite of the various efforts from all sides, the agricultural improved technology is not generally accepted by the farmers in all respect. As such there always appear to be the gap between the recommended technology by the scientists and its use at farmer's level. This technological gap is major problem in the efforts of increasing agricultural production in the Country. India plays a prime role in the world market of protein oilseed. It occupies first place in the production of groundnut, second in sesame and castor and third in rapeseed and mustard. India is the largest groundnut growing country accounting for 40.00 per cent of the world's groundnut area and 34.00 per cent of the world's production. However, the yield levels in the country are low and have remained stagnant at around 900 kg/ha for the past few decades. In the irrigated area, majority of farmers is cultivating groundnut in summer season because of high average yield and low attack of insects, pests and diseases as compared to rabi and kharif season but its productivity was not good enough. This was only due to less adoption of improved summer groundnut production technology. The personal, socioeconomic and psychological characteristics of growers directly influence the extent of adoption of improved

agricultural technology. Hence, the present investigation was undertaken with the objectives to study the level of composite technological gap of summer groundnut technology and to ascertain correlates of technological gap in summer groundnut technology.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was confined to the Parbhani block of Parbhani district of Maharashtra State. The Parbhani block was purposively selected as it has sufficient area under summer groundnut crop. Six villages were selected purposively keeping in view the villages having more area under the summer groundnut crop and from each village, only 20 farmers were selected randomly. Thus a total 120 respondents were selected from these villages constituted the sample for the study. The data were collected from the respondents by personal interview schedule.

The technological gap in eight selected recommended practices *viz.*, soil and preparatory tillage, seed and sowing technique, seed treatment, use of chemical fertilizers, application of gypsum, intercultural operations, use of plant protection measures and utilization of irrigation water in summer groundnut cultivation were considered together for worked out composite technological gap. Then the respondents were categorizes viz., low, medium and high on the basis of mean \pm S.D. The technological gap in selected recommended practices was calculated by

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