

DIFFICULTIES OF FARMERS PRACTICING ORGANIC FARMING IN KARNATAKA AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION (n-ACH)

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in the Eastern Dry Zone (EDZ) of Karnataka state during the year 2013 to know the achievement motivation of farmers practicing organic farming and to document their difficulties. The findings show that 43.12 percent of the respondents had high level of achievement motivation and 34.38 percent of respondents had medium level of achievement motivation. The major difficulties expressed by the farmers relating to organic farming were, recommended Bio-control practices are of high cost and not effective in controlling pests, scarcity of FYM and other organic manures, lack of market information and market access, non availability of recommended package of practice and laborious process involved in application of organic practices, difficulties in getting the organic manures compared to the chemical fertilizers, which can be bought easily, insufficient training, non-availability of skilled labours, lack of minimum support price for the organic products, non availability of required quantity of Neem seed kernel, farmers were not sure whether all the nutrients with the required quantities can be made available by the organic materials.

KEYWORDS: Traditional Agriculture, Human Welfare, Neem Seed

INTRODUCTION

The practice of organic farming, said to be the best known alternative to the conventional method, also originated in the west, which suffered from the ill effects of chemical agriculture. However, organic farming is based on the similar principles underlying our traditional agriculture. Organic farming aims at the human welfare without any harm to the environment which is the foundation of human life itself. Organic farming is gaining momentum all over the world as it offers a means to address food self reliance, rural development and nature conservation. The common thread in this approach is the sustainable use of bio-diversity, in terms of both agriculture's contribution to biodiversity and biodiversity's contribution to agriculture. People's consciousness towards healthy food, ecology and pollution free environment through conventional farming has encouraged them in practicing organic farming. Organic farming requires less financial and external inputs and places more reliance on the natural and human resources on farm, which are abundant in our country. Considering all the aforesaid aspects, the Government of India and many State Governments have felt it necessary to promote organic farming in a big way. In this direction Government of India launched the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), standards and accreditation during 2000 and National Organic logo "India Organic" has been created. The physical features of Karnataka include coastal plains, Western Ghats and plateau enabling it to grow a variety of crops. The annual average rainfall of Karnataka being 1130 m.m. and moderate temperature provide ideal conditions to grow a variety of crops throughout the year. The State is also known for its excellence in horticultural crops and animal husbandry.

Thus Karnataka is often called as state with Cafeteria of Crops. The movement of organic farming is growing in India and from the past three to four years, government of India is also interested in saving their farm lands. The government of Karnataka has made a separate cell called as organic cell especially for farmers. The Government of Karnataka is giving 100 hectares of area in each district and taluk, being converted to organic farming and for each districts in Karnataka, the state government has selected Non Government Organizations and given them the responsibility to work with farmers to make their farms organic. Fifty percent of the funding for organic farming is been done by Government of Karnataka and rest is by the farmers. All these efforts are directed towards conserving natural resources, using indigenous knowledge and improving status of farmers through organic farming.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Eastern Dry Zone during 2013 and randomly selected 160 farmers constituted population for the study.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Difficulties Expressed by Farmers Practicing Organic Farming

Results of table 1 reported that majority of respondents (90.62%) expressed the problem that the recommended Bio-control practices are of high cost and not effective in controlling pests, followed by 88.75 percent highlighted the constraint Scarcity of FYM and other organic manures. lack of market Information and market access, Non availability of recommended package of practices and laborious process involved in application of organic practices and Difficulties in getting the organic manures compared to the chemical fertilizers, which can be bought easily were major constraints pointed out by 78.12, 70.00 and 67.50 percent of respondents, respectively. Around sixty percent of farmers expressed the constraints of Insufficient training (59.37%) followed by Non availability of skilled labours (55.62%). Around fifty three percent of farmers (53.12%) projected the constraint of lack of minimum support price for the organic products and Non availability of required quantity of neem seed kernel (49.37%). Lastly 46.87 percent of farmers expressed that they are not sure whether all the nutrients with the required quantities can be made available by the organic materials.

Achievement Motivation of Farmers Practicing Organic Farming

The theorists of achievement motivation contend that highly achievement oriented individuals display some distinctive behavioural pattern. It is a striving for success in competition with some standard of excellence. McClelland defined achievement motivation as a spontaneously expressed desire to do something well for its own sake, rather than to gain power or love or recognition further various researchers have reported that the need for achievement (n-Ach) and definitely influences performance. Students with high n-Ach were found to perform better in school than those with low n-Ach and with comparable intelligence. In the business world high n-Ach people advance further than low n-Ach people with the same training and opportunity for advancement. Farmers who are pursuing organic farming have proven to the world that, their farming system is distinguished from other agricultural systems and above all is competitive and able to provide agricultural products of good quality while minimizing negative side effects.

There is no adequate and proper documentation of the efforts made by such farmers. As a result not much literature is available to other farmers about such practices. Farmers lack ready-made packages to jump into such alternative farming methods, their fear and doubts about such efforts kept unanswered. Although there are some studies

conducted on the characteristics of achievement motivation of farmers, there are no studies on achievement motivation of farmers practicing organic farming. By keeping above factors in mind the present study was undertaken to find out the constraints of farmers practicing organic farming and to assess their achievement motivation. Further, the results from table 2 revealed that majority (43.12%) of respondents had high level of achievement motivation and 34.38 percent of respondents had medium level of achievement motivation followed by 22.50 percent of farmers had low level of achievement motivation.

CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

The results of the study revealed that 43.12 percent of the respondents had high level of achievement motivation and almost 34.38 percent of respondents had medium level of achievement motivation. Further, ten constraints were expressed by farmers regarding practicing of organic farming. Organic farming practices followed by farmers with variation. Hence, there is need to standardize the practices on participating basis and evolve package of practices related to organic farming. In order to motivate farmers to take up organic farming provision has to be made profitable by providing minimum support price for organic produce by the government. Karnataka State Department of Agriculture (KSDA) should give more emphasis on imparting training programmes to improve the skill of farmers and achievement motivation level for preparing e farmers to take up organic farming in future.

Table 1: Difficulties Expressed by Farmers Practicing Organic Farming (N=160)

Sl No	Category of Constraints	Number of Farmers		
		Frequency	Percent	Rank
1	Recommended Bio-control practices are of high cost and not effective in controlling pests.	145	90.62	1
2	Scarcity of FYM and other organic manures.	142	88.75	2
3	Lack of market information and market access.	125	78.12	3
4	Non availability of recommended package of practice and laborious process involved in application of organic practices.	112	70.00	4
5	Difficulties in getting the organic manures compared to the chemical fertilizers, which can be bought easily.	108	67.50	5
6	Insufficient training.	95	59.37	6
7	Non availability of skilled labours.	89	55.62	7
8	Lack of minimum support price for the organic products.	85	53.12	8
9	Non availability of required quantity of Neem seed kernel.	79	49.37	9
10	Farmers are not sure whether all the nutrients with the required quantities can be made available by the organic materials.	75	46.87	10

Table 2: Achievement Motivation of Farmers Practicing Organic Farming (N=160)

Category	Number	Percent
Low	36	22.50%
Medium	55	34.38%
High	69	43.12%
Total	160	100.00%

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