

SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION IN EMPOWERING SELF-HELP GROUP PEOPLE

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This study has evaluated the performance of system of rice intensification (SRI) at women farmers' fields with the following specific objectives, to evaluate the social and economic advantages of SRI cultivation self-help group (SHG) women farmer empowerment in Tamil Nadu.

Methods: The study was conducted at Chellampatti blocks of Madurai district in Tamil Nadu. A sample of 30 system of rice cultivation SHG women farmer from each block was selected using simple random sampling technique. Socio-economic variables such as age, education, annual income, social participation, risk orientation, credit orientation, innovativeness, and economic motivation and also study economic and socio-psychological impact.

Results: The results indicated that the majority of the respondents increased the standard of living and get in decision-making power, system of rice cultivation through improves the SHG women farmer status in society.

Conclusion: The system of rice intensification cultivation gained high yield getting more income. Nowadays, money makes everything; peoples are divided only based on their economic status only, a person respect comes from his economic status. Hence, the increase in income makes a change in farming woman's mind to participate in any of the social activities because their wants are more, a person who is self-sufficient, only will get an idea about the society and social activities.

Keywords: Self-help group, System of rice intensification, Women empowerment.

INTRODUCTION

Self-help groups (SHG) engaged in development activities have the potential to empower their members through the provision of knowledge, skills, motivation, and competencies that underpin sustainable agriculture. Women empowerment is about rights and equitable societies, Social and economic empowerment increase women's access to economic resources and opportunities including jobs, financial services, property and other productive assets, skill development and market information. Empowerment of women is essentially the process of upliftment of economic, social and political status of women, the traditionally underprivileged ones, in the society. It involves the building up of a society wherein in women can breathe without the fear of oppression, exploitation, apprehension, discrimination, and the general feeling of persecution which goes with being a woman in a traditionally male-dominated structure. One major therapy prescribed by woman empowerment advocates is empowering women through legislation for ensuring participation in political decision making.

Rice is an important ingredient of the household food basket, yet the yield level has been low and uncertain in India. The operational holding-size is shrinking, and land and water resources are being degraded. And therefore, some innovative rice production practice is needed to meet its growing demand due to population pressure. Under this scenario, the system of rice intensification (SRI) may be an appropriate practice to produce more food with less input. SRI is actually an amalgamation of refined and intensive management practices for rice production at farmers' fields. The conservation of land, water and biodiversity, and utilization of the hitherto ignored biological power of plant and solar energy is the novelties of SRI. On account of its growing global acceptance, SRI has emerged as a movement among farmers. By SRI the annual income of the farmer increased. Due to increase in the income his family's standard of living also increased. This study has evaluated the performance of SRI at women farmers' fields with the following specific objectives, to evaluate the social and economic advantages of SRI cultivation SHG women farmer empowerment in Tamil Nadu.

METHODS

This study was conducted in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu. A total of 120 respondents were selected for this study. Ex post facto design was followed in this study. An interview schedule was developed by incorporating all the selected variables in consultation with experts and available literature to collect relevant data. Before finalizing the interview schedule, it was pre-tested with respondents practicing cultivating paddy for more than one decade in a non-sampling area to remove ambiguity if any, in the interview schedule. Data were collected by personal interview with respondents in their farm and home. In addition to percentage analysis, cumulative frequency, correlation coefficient, and multiple regressions were the statistical tools employed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study has evaluated the performance of SRI at SHG women farmers' fields with the following specific objectives, to evaluate the social and economic advantages of SRI cultivation SHG women farmer empowerment. Table 1 indicates nearly two-thirds of the respondents (61.70%) were found in the old age category, remaining respondents found to be young and middle age categories. The majority (79.20%) of the respondents were literates and their educational level varied from primary to secondary educational level. Secondary level education (37.50%) followed by primary education (20.00%) was identified as the predominant educational status of the respondents. The majority (84.20%) of the SRI farmers were practicing agriculture as their secondary occupation. The higher educational level of the respondents and the availability of 10 printing press, companies and factories in the study area were the reasons for the 16.00% of the respondents doing farming as a primary occupation. A meager proportion (15.00%) had high level followed by low level (13.30%) of farming experience. Thus the finding reveals that majority of the SRI farmers had medium level of farming experience followed by high and low level of farming experience.

Table 2 indicates nearly 82.00% of the respondents who had medium level of social participation and only 17.50% had high level of social participation. Very negligible percentage (00.80%) had low level of social participation. The membership of SRI farmers in farmers association, SHG, cooperative milk society, agricultural credit society, and panchayat contributed for the high level of social participation. More than 85.00% of SRI farmers possessed medium level of scientific orientation followed by 10.00 and around 6.00% who had high and low level of scientific orientation respectively. 55% of the SRI farmers had medium level of risk orientation behavior, followed by 27.50% of the SRI farmers with high level of risk orientation behavior and the rest 17.50% of the SRI farmers had low level of risk orientation behavior. 70% of the SRI farmers had medium level of credit orientation behavior 20.00% had high level and remaining 10.00% had low level of credit orientation behavior. Around 60.00% of the SRI farmers had medium

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of SRI paddy farmers (n=120)

Particulars	Categories	Total	
		Frequency	(%)
Age	Young (up to 35 years)	27	(22.5)
	Middle (above 35 and up to 45 years)	19	(15.8)
	Old (above 45 years)	74	(61.7)
Education	Illiterate	12	(10.00)
	Functionally literate	13	(10.80)
	Primary education	24	(20.00)
	Middle education	15	(12.50)
	Secondary education	45	(37.50)
Occupation	Collegiate education	11	(9.20)
	Agriculture as the primary occupation	19	(15.80)
	Agriculture as the secondary occupation	101	(84.20)
Annual income	Low	61	(50.80)
	Medium	41	(34.20)
	High	18	(15.00)
Farming experiences	Low	16	(13.30)
	Medium	86	(71.70)
	High	18	(15.00)
Area under SRI	Up to 2.5 acres	98	(81.67)
	More than 2.5 acres	22	(18.33)

SRI: System of rice intensification

Table 2: Socio-economic characteristics and Information source utilization (n=120)

Particulars	Categories	Total	
		Frequency	Percentage
Social participation	Low	1	00.80
	Medium	98	81.70
	High	21	17.50
Scientific orientation	Low	7	05.80
	Medium	101	84.20
	High	12	10.00
Risk orientation	Low	21	17.50
	Medium	66	55.00
	High	33	27.50
Credit orientation	Low	12	10.00
	Medium	84	70.00
	High	24	20.00
Innovativeness	Low	12	10.00
	Medium	84	70.00
	High	24	20.00
Extension agency contact	Low	27	22.50
	Medium	82	68.30
	High	11	09.20

level of extension agency contact, followed by 22.50% with low level and 09.20% with high level of extension agency contact. The reason for the medium level of contact with extension agencies might be due to the need for technical guidance to understand the risky and complex nature of technologies.

Most of the respondent said to the system of rice cultivation easy cultivation method, labor also reduces women handle cono weeder easy so women doing farming management, SRI cultivation gained high yield so increase income. Nowadays, money makes everything; peoples are divided only based on their economic status only, a person respect comes from his economic status. Hence, the increase in income makes a change in farming woman's mind to participate in any of the social activities because their wants are more, a person who is self-sufficient, only will get an idea about the society and social activities.

CONCLUSION

Indian Agriculture is a gambling of monsoon. Agricultural income is seasonal. The risk behind is more, because when we consider many aspects in farming. Example package of practices, seasonal changes anything else may, affect it at any point of time. Hence, future thinking regarding risk orientation is necessary, this can also be made only with increase income, man earns and manages the environment outside the home but woman only spends and manage. The home, so the saving of money related to woman's only. She takes a major part behind risk management. This will happen in the case of economic status only.

Farmers are born with debts, live with debts, and die with debts. This is the fact of poor Indian farmers. They get agricultural credit mostly from the lard lords and money lender's trader expects few, Because of the long procedure and delayed receiving of money in crop loan in Primary Agricultural Co-operatives Banks. Woman to effort credit to their farming husband from their saving made from the surplus. Which the made in any mode either it may be by SHG or in any of the weekly and monthly saving plan. This may stop the farmer suicide because of the non-institutional credit system. They are not supposed to sell their produce to the trader for want of money to clear his debts.

In SRI labor requirement is less. Hence, the woman can manage doing all the intercultural activities by herself to some extent. Hence, this not only reduces the labor cost it also increase the leadership quality of woman. This makes her to indulge in group activities with other women like the formation of SHG and association, when they involve in group activities their innovativeness also increase. Their make them to think about new small business and saving money, getting credits from bank and that they can also support the family. When we take this in economic aspect SRI women farmer family can enjoy with good standard of living, their children's will get good education, food because their expenditure for food in increased. They also indulge in purchase of land, housings, and farm machineries, etc.; so, the SRI is for the welfare of Indian farmer, to the Indian farmer, must be followed by Indian farmer.

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