

FARMERS ATTITUDES TOWARDS ADOPTING MODERN TECHNOLOGY IN PADDY CULTIVATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COMPOUND GRANULE FERTILIZERS

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(RJT/PGDM/2002/56)**

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An independent research thesis submitted to the Rajarata University of Sri Lanka in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Masters Degree in Business Administration

**Faculty of Management
Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
August 2005**

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ABSTRACT

Sri Lanka is a country which has ideal conditions for farming. Our history indicates that we were self-sufficient in rice production during ancient times. With the increase of population, every country has to increase their food production too according to the demand. That is similar to Sri Lanka too. But always, the available land area for cultivation is limited and the only available solution is to uplift the yield of any crop from the same cultivation area. In this context, adopting new technologies for agriculture is of utmost importance. Therefore, modern methods and practices should be adopted. Farmers' attitudes are a crucial factor in introducing modern technologies.

Rice is our staple food and paddy is the major cultivation crop in Sri Lanka. But paddy farmers are always facing troubles to sell their products and remain with financial problems. But using modern technologies in paddy is must to enhance productivity. There are only a few researches done to study farmers' attitudes towards adopting modern technology in paddy cultivation. The main aim of this research is to study farmers' attitudes towards these modern technologies with a special reference to compound granule fertilizers. Chemical fertilizers play a major role in enhancing the yield per given area.

Varietal selection, seed quality, land preparation, crop establishment, water management, weed control, fertilizer management are some of the vital areas that can be developed with modern technology. The information was collected from farmers with direct interviews and using a questionnaire consisting of thirty seven questions. Considering the fact that farmers are a homogeneous society, only a hundred farmers

were selected as a sample of the total farmer population. The area selected was one AGA division of Ampara District. Ampara is one of the largest paddy cultivation areas in Sri Lanka, with major irrigation schemes.

Literature review was done before the research to study attitudes and behaviour of farmers, modern technology in paddy cultivation and about compound granule fertilizers.

The objectives were to evaluate the level of modern agriculture practices used by farmers, to measure the attitudes of farmers towards adopting modern technology in paddy cultivation with a special reference to compound granule fertilizers.

There were three main hypotheses for the study; attitudes towards adoption of modern technology by the paddy farmers will have a great impact on yield increase, farmers' attitudes towards adopting technologies such as varietal selection, seed paddy, pest and disease control are positive, and farmers' attitudes towards adopting of modern compound granule fertilizers are in a slow process.

The main limitations for the research were the restriction of the study to one division of Nindavur AGA territory of Ampara District, only 20% of the farmers were interviewed from this area and mainly focussed only to one independent variable out of modern technologies.

The data collected from the farmers were fed to SPSS software package and the analysis was done with it. The main focus was to find mean, standard deviation and correlation. The extent of agreement according to the five scale ratio has been tabled with each independent variable.

Chapter One

Correlation matrix, mean score and standard deviation were used for hypotheses testing and it was found that all three hypotheses setup at the beginning of the research were accepted.

The final conclusion was that the farmers' attitudes towards adopting varietal selection, certified seed paddy and pesticides are very positive and they have adopted those too. But the adoption of compound granule fertilizers is in a slow process and only large scale farmers have adopted it with a much more positive attitude. But most of the farmers are willing to learn about it and have a liking to use it.

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