Theme	Sustainable Agriculture
Title	Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Practices in Farmer Field School Villages
State	Bihar, Madhya Pradesh (MP), Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh (UP) and West Bengal (WB)
District	Munger (Bihar); Sehore and Vidisha (MP); Bundi (Rajasthan); Allahabad (UP); Murshidabad (WB)
Evaluation Agency	iKOnet Research & Consultants Private Limited, Kolkata
Date of Submission	March, 2016

Executive Summary

Study Objectives: The purpose of the study was to assess the (i) dissemination of knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices in the project villages within and beyond member farmers of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS), (ii) adoption of recommended practices by farmers and proven benefits accrued due to adoption, (iii) comparative analysis on crop economics for the major practices promoted against traditional methods of farming.

Key Findings:

1. Composite summary on practices promoted and adoption among member farmers of FFS and fellow farmers (non-FFS) are listed below:

   Bihar (Munger): Awareness and adoption of System of Rice Intensification (SRI) for paddy was highest compared to other practices and the SRI adoption was most amongst marginal and small farmers.

   Madhya Pradesh (Sehore and Vidisha): 66% of FFS farmers adopted broad bed furrow (BBF) sowing in Soya bean as compared to 34% of non-FFS farmers. Awareness about different practices was maximum among marginal farmers as compared to any other class of farmers.

   Rajasthan (Bundi): Among FFS farmers, awareness (93%) and adoption (73%) of Line Sowing with Reduced Seed Rate was higher than any other practices for soya bean cultivation. Further, adoption of BBF was highest among OBC farmers and lowest among SC farmers.

   Uttar Pradesh (Allahabad): For paddy, the spread of awareness and adoption was similar across the marginal, small and medium size farmers. For wheat, 89% of FFS farmers had adopted zero tillage which is higher than any other study location.

   West Bengal (Murshidabad): Among all categories of farmers, the level of awareness (FFS-92% & non-FFS- 90%) and adoption (FFS- 60% & non-FFS- 55%) of varietal introduction was high.

2. The survey also took note of different practices promoted in the survey locations and gauged the economics for Paddy, Wheat and Soya – the three major crops promoted across locations.

   Paddy: Spending on fertilizer decreased as compared to traditional practices, to Rs. 1451/acre from Rs. 1881/acre. Similarly, the labour cost decreased from Rs. 4305/acre to Rs. 4029/acre. Simultaneously, productivity increased from 15 quintals to 21 quintals, increasing farm incomes from Rs. 5371/acre to Rs. 13,740/acre.

   Soya bean: A minor drop in expenditure was noticed (Rs 853) over traditional practices due to increased expenses on high yielding seeds. The productivity in soya bean increased marginally

from 5 quintals to 6 quintals. However, net income witnessed an increase from Rs. 4,916/acre to Rs. 7,667/acre.

Wheat: Cost on seed witnessed a decline from Rs. 1938/acre to Rs. 1781/acre after adopting sustainable agricultural practices. Productivity (per care) saw an increase from 12 quintals to 14 quintals. The resultant increase in income was from Rs. 7,831 to Rs. 10,341.

Please write to us at: itcmsk@itc.in for the full study