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ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR THE COTTON VARIETY AC 134

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Kabirwala Tehsil of Multan District is famous for cotton growing. Most of the farmers had grown cotton variety AC–134 in the year 1971-72, yet they did not get optimum yield per acre. A study was conducted to see why it was so. A total of 560 farmers randomly selected out of 28 randomly selected villages of Tehsil Kabirwala were interviewed and the data showed that most of the respondents were not aware of all the agricultural practices recommended for successful production of AC-134. Therefore, they had not adopted all of them, which resulted in unsatisfactory yield of cotton per acre.

The data also showed that the lack of awareness and interest on the part of the cotton growers were the main impediments in the adoption of recommended agricultural practices. Also, educational level and size of land holding possessed by the respondents were positively correlated with the adoption of recommended agricultural practices.

INTRODUCTION

The Multan district is famous for cotton production and Kabirwala tehsil of the district is particularly important in this regard. According to "Lal Kitab Kulliat" of Tehsil Kabirwala, 25 per cent of the total cultivated area of this tehsil was under cotton crop and, out of this, 91 per cent was sown under the cotton variety AC–134, in the year 1971-72.

Although the cotton growers of Kabirwala Tehsil had, by and large, taken up cultivation of AC-134, the adoption of the recommended agricultural practices was considered unsatisfactory in view of the established merits of the variety. In order, therefore, to gather information about the causes of non adoption of the practices, the present study was undertaken to (1) study the extent of awareness of farmers about the recommended agricultural practices for AC–134; (2) study the extent of adoption by the farmers of such recommended agricultural practices; (3) identify the factors that impeded the adoption of recommended practices; and (4) study the relationship of age, education, type of tenure, and size of land holding with the extent of adoption of the recommended practices.

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This study was limited to the response of 460 randomly selected farmers from 28 randomly selected villages of Tehsil Kabirwala. The validity of the study was further limited to the extent to which the respondents were able to provide accurate information.

METHODOLOGY

The random sample of 560 respondents was drawn from 28 villages out of the total of 281 villages of Tehsil Kabirwala. The villages were also selected randomly. The 560 respondents were personally interviewed with the help of interview schedules which were modified after having pretested them on 10 randomly selected respondents. The data collected were statistically analysed and tabulated.

The Chi-square test was used to test the significance of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Two years earlier than the present study the revenue record of Tehsil Kabirwala showed 91 per cent cotton growers had sown AC-134. Yet the yield per acre was not entirely satisfactory. The present study identified some of the possible reasons why it was so.

Firstly, the study showed, the majority of the respondents were not aware of all the agricultural practices that had been recommended for the successful production of AC-134. Therefore, although the majority of the respondents had adopted individual recommended practices, they had not adopted them as a set of techniques for getting maximum yield per acre. These findings are in agreement with those obtained by Bokhari (1966) and Khan (1969). However, Ahmad (1969) was of the view that the majority of his respondents were aware of all the agricultural practices recommended for raising different crops the in Toba Tek Singh Tehsil of Lyallpur.

Secondly, the study indicated the factors that were found to impede the adoption of recommended agricultural practices were: lack of awareness, lack of interest on the part of the farmers, and non-availability of insecticides. These findings are similar to those obtained by Jilani (1966). However, Zia (1971) did not consider lack of awareness a factor impeding the adoption which seems to be a statement creating considerable doubt.

And thirdly, the study identified a positive correlation between education and size of land holdings of respondents, on the one hand, and adoption of

the recommended agricultural practices, on the other. However, age was not found to have any relationship with adoption. These findings are in agreement with those obtained by Ahmad (1970) and Ali (1972).

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