

ADOPTION OF IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES BY THE COTTON GROWERS

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Most of the farmers of Tehsil Sahiwal had grown cotton but they did not get optimum yield per acre. This study was conducted to see why it was so? A total of 150 farmers randomly selected from 15 randomly selected villages of Tehsil Sahiwal were interviewed and the data showed that most of the respondents were not aware of all the agricultural practices recommended for successful production of cotton. This resulted in unsatisfactory yield of cotton per acre. The data also showed that lack of awareness and interest on the part of 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

Agriculture is the most important sector of Pakistan's economy. It continues to play a pivotal role in the economy of Pakistan. It supports three-fourth of country's population and contributes about 80% foreign exchange earnings (Economic Survey, 1988-89). Cotton occupies an important position in the crop husbandry of Pakistan. Being the chief source of raw material to the textile industry, it plays a remarkable role in balancing the agricultural economy of the country. The available statistical evidence shows that despite all efforts towards increasing its production the average yield per acre in Pakistan is still far below the level of major cotton producing countries of the world. Low yield of cotton is the result of poor crop management practices. In order, therefore, to gather information about the causes of non-adoption of improved practices, the present study was undertaken to (1) determine the extent of awareness of farmers about the recommended agricultural practices, (2) study the extent of adoption by the farmers of such recommended

practices, (3) identify the factors that impeded the adoption of recommended practices and (4) study the relationship of age, education, type of tenure and the size of land holdings with the extent of adoption of recommended practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was confined to the response of 150 randomly selected farmers from 15 randomly selected villages of Tehsil Sahiwal. One hundred and fifty respondents were personally interviewed using an interview schedule. The data collected were statistically analysed and tabulated. The Chi-square test was used to test the significance of the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study indicated some of the possible reasons for the unsatisfactory per acre yield obtained by the cotton growers. Firstly, it was observed that the majority of the respondents was not aware of all the recommended agricultural practices.

Therefore, although majority of the respondents had adopted individual recommended practices, they had not adopted them as a package for getting maximum yield per acre. These findings are in agreement with those of Ali (1972) and Shakir (1982). Secondly, the study indicated that the factors found to impede the adoption of agricultural practices were: lack of awareness, lack of interest and finance on the part of farmers and non-availability of adequate amount of fertilizers and insecticides. These findings were somewhat contrary to those of Zia (1971).

The study also 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, the age was not found to have any relationship with adoption. These findings conform to those of Ali (1972).

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