

APPRAISAL OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (ATMA)

The Salient findings are as follows:

1. Significant differences were observed between the farmer respondents belonging to AES I and AES IV in respect of caste, occupation, family size, material possession, farm power, livestock possession, Annual income, participation in training, extension contact and exposure to mass media / information technology.
2. Majority of the farmers respondents were young in age belonging to ST community, illiterate, having marginal size of holdings and cultivation as their main occupation with their participation in at least one social organization with low family income and found to be living in joint families.
3. Majority of the extension personnel respondents were old age with their qualifications up to graduation level having medium to high service experience with medium exposure to training programmes and engaged as extension workers in their respective organization.
4. Out of 11,8,10,7,6,7 and 10 functional areas of ATMA GB, AMC, BTT, FOs, Line departments, Private sector agencies / NGO's and ZRS/ re-mandated KVK, majority of the respondents were satisfied with only 2,1,1,6,2,1 and 2 functional areas respectively, which on an average accounts to be only 25% of the total functional areas of all the bodies associated with ATMA. The data on overall functioning of all the bodies associated with ATMA. The data on overall functioning of ATMA GB, ATMA MC, BTT, FOs, line departments, private sector agencies / NGOs and ZRS/ remandated KVK revealed that 37.7, 50.0, 48.5, 27.9, 45.0, 43.0 and 31.0 percent of the respondents were satisfied so-so with functioning of the respective bodies.

Source: Annual Report (2004-05) of BAU, Ranchi

5. When all 59 functional areas of all ATMA bodies were taken into account around 20% of the respondents expressed their dissatisfaction on overall functioning of ATMA. However, an equal percentage of the respondents were fully satisfied (40%) and satisfied.
6. The technology generation system had relatively a strong linkage with technology dissemination system in comparison to technology utilization System but weak with dissemination system had moderate linkage with technology utilization system but weak with technology generation system whereas the technology utilization system had weak linkage with technology dissemination system and technology generation system.
7. The linkage of research, extension, progressive farmers and marketing agencies with the farmer respondents were found to be very weak where as the linkage of farmers with ATMA, credit agencies and extension officers were observed to be relatively strong.
8. Majority of the farmer respondents acquired knowledge about functioning of ATMA as well as improved livestock and cop management practices to a level between 51-75 percent. However, they could not form positive attitudes towards technology intervened by ATMA and about 40% of the respondents possessed medium level of skill on selected practices whereas, higher level of skill was processed only 20% of the respondents.
9. The respondents belonging to AES IV had acquired significantly higher level of knowledge and relatively positive attitude towards technology intervened by ATMA and better skill on selected practices in comparison to their AES I counterparts.
10. The extension personnel respondents belonging to Government Organizations dominated their NGO counterparts in acquiring knowledge about ATMA. Of course, majority, of the respondents belonging to both categories had neutral attitude towards ATMA.

11. Majority of the farmer respondents had medium level of adoption of technologies intervened by ATMA and there was no significant differences between respondents of AES I and AES IV with respect to their level of adoption.
12. Through the four selected technology intervention recommended by ATMA viz. maize variety Suwan-I with N:P:K::100:60:40 kg ha⁻¹ , pigeonpea variety, T-21 with use of R. Leguminosorum, low land rice variety, Pankaj and mustard variety, Varun with N:P:K::50:25:10 kg ha⁻¹ were found to be substantially contributing to increasing the yield, income, household food security and employment, rate of their adoption and thereby spread effect in terms of areas coverage was around 50% only.
13. Results of technology assessment revealed that out of four selected technology interventions, two were rated as most appropriate by about 50% of the respondents i.e. improved variety of pigeonpea along with use of bio-fertilizers and improved variety of mustard along with balanced dose of nutrients were rated either as moderately appropriate inappropriate by majority of the respondents. Consequently about 50 percent of the farmers were not readily able to accept the recommended technologies.
14. Result of technology refinement indicated that majority of the farmers were found to be accepting the treatment of non farm trials which were the blends of bits and pieces of both farmer practices and recommended technologies.
15. About 23 percent of the strategic points mentioned in SREP did not match with those existing in selected villages.
16. In order to further improve the functioning of ATMA, majority of the respondents suggested for involving all the stakeholders in preparation of SREP, and making technology support services more demand driven and location specific, generation and

Source: Annual Report (2004-05) of BAU, Ranchi

dissemination of multiple technological options, conducting training programmes and demonstrations along input and information support, strengthening research and farmer linkages as well as need for strong R-E linkages at planning, implementation and follow up stages, more representation of farmers in ATMA GB and MC , preference for technical heads of these bodies in place of bureaucrats, small cost farmer inputs in decision making, need for farmers to farmers extension, small cost sharing by farmers on extension and encouraging partnership with private agencies for minimizing the cost of public extension system.