

## Chapter 7

# Summary and Conclusion

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Decentralizing a large, complex national extension system is not easy, but the Government of India appears to be moving toward this long-term goal. Although ATMA model has been successful in addressing many of the extension problems and has shown exceptional impacts during the NATP phase but it seems to be going the T&V way. It is therefore, imperative that in the country like India, which has a vast territory and extremely diverse socio-economic and agro-climatic situations, ATMA model should be introduced and implemented with utter cautious. Different ATMAs should be empowered with sufficient administrative, financial and implementation flexibilities to address the basic problems in their operational jurisdiction.

ATMA calls for the creation of social capital via formal organizations such as FIGs with horizontal ties at village level, FACs with vertical ties at block level and FFs with vertical ties at district level. However, the modalities of formation and sustaining social capital have not been addressed, and the strong social capital inherent in such developments as self-help groups appears to have been ignored within ATMA. Farmers need to become proactive in using their social capital for collective bargaining, economies of scale, development of geographic labelling and reaching wider markets. Finally, farmers need to rise to the level of controlling production, processing and marketing of their crops and interacting with agricultural research and extension workers.

### **Research Setting:**

The area of investigation of this study is situated in the state of west Bengal located in the eastern part of India. The state of West Bengal in eastern India has a unique social, cultural and ecological background, which influence the hung standard and behavioural patterns of the people in many ways. The area of investigation belongs to the Ausgram-I Block of Burdwan district, Habra-II block of North 24 parganas district and Haringhata block of Nadia district, all the area of investigation is selected purposively. A total number of 55 respondents were selected by purposive sampling method. The independent variables selected for the study were Age ( $X_1$ ), Participation Index ( $X_2$ ), Education ( $X_3$ ), Marital Status ( $X_4$ ), Family size ( $X_5$ ), Land Holding ( $X_6$ ), Cropping Intensity ( $X_7$ ), Income ( $X_8$ ), Expenditure ( $X_9$ ), Distance ( $X_{10}$ ), Conveyance ( $X_{11}$ ) while five dependent variables selected for the study were Perception Level ( $Y_1$ ), Impact of ATMA ( $Y_2$ ), No of Projects ( $Y_3$ ), Fund Utilization Efficiency ( $Y_4$ ), Success of The Project ( $Y_5$ ).

### **Research Methodology:**

After collection of data, data were processed and analyzed in accordance with the outline laid down for the purpose at the time of developing the research plan. Process implies editing, coding, classification and tabulation of collected data. The main statistical tools and other techniques used in the present study are as follows:

1. Mean
2. Standard deviation
3. Coefficient of Variance
4. Correlation of coefficient
5. Multiple regression analysis
6. Path analysis

7. Canonical analysis
8. Time trend analysis
9. Problem Cause and solution analysis
10. Matrix ranking
11. Venn diagram
12. SWOT analysis

**Some specific problems faced by ATMA at field level:**

- Operationalization of BTT is a major problem before.
- The BDO (superior officer to BTT Convener) did not come under the purview of ATMA and he had little understanding of the concept leading to weak performance in some blocks.
- Convergence of various Central and State sponsored programs with its activities is difficult in absence of clear cut policy directives from the state government.
- Functions ATMA GB is required to meet regularly on quarterly basis, but meetings of Governing Board are not regular in the districts. Attendance in GB meetings is also an issue, especially with respect to official members.
- IDWG is not very effective in providing leadership to the ATMA activities.
- The role of SAMETI in a project state was to function as mini-MANAGE for PIAs it however barring a few cases it did not properly cater to the HRD needs of the ATMAs. Most positions in SAMETI are vacant for varying periods.
- In case of the State Nodal Officer appointed to coordinate between ATMA & State Govt., much needs to be done.

### **Conclusion:**

There has been improvement in the extension system and farmers have taken keen initiatives in the development process leading to their empowerment. For the first time a very systematic effort was made to identify the major constraints faced by the farmers and research gaps. Scientists have become more responsive to the needs of the farmers and have sharpened their focus of research to meet the location-specific requirement of the farmers of different size groups. The need-based training and exposure visits to the farmers and farmer-led extension have played a very effective tool for the technology dissemination. There has been considerable improvement in the adoption of new technologies and farm practices by all the categories of the farmers.

The role of information technology was also realized by the project and at many places good infrastructure has been created and the relevant information was provided to the farmers. The farmers' response was found to be quite encouraging. However, the relevant information relating to the improved technologies and farm practices need to be provided in local languages for easy dissemination of knowledge. Information per se is necessary but efforts have to be made to convert them into enhancement of knowledge base of the farmers.

It is clear that the young farmer with high education status is always interested in different aspects of ATMA. These young generation is to be encouraged.

### **Recommendation:**

- Posts of ATMA functionary should be made permanent.
- More freedom is to be provided to BTM and ATM .

- While selecting the FIAC member it is advised to select young and progressive farmers and avoid to select political persons.
- Youth and women farmer should give more importance in choosing farmer friend.
- ATMA governing body meeting should held on a regular basis.
- Training should be location specific.
- Refresher Courses for extension worker should be given regularly for updating their knowledge.

**Future scope of the research:**

Although the present study has been conducted in a very small area, the study has opened up new direction to explore different dimensions related with the study. So, the future scope of the research is written below :

- Similar studies may be conducted in other blocks and districts of west Bengal.
- The future study of this particular topic has a scope to include several contextual and realistic variables other than the variables included in this study.
- A comparative study may be conducted between ATMA and other line departments.
- The study may be carried out to find out the specific training needs of the farmers which they want from ATMA.