

A Study on Risk Perception of Women in Adoption of the Diversified Agricultural Production Activities

Ritu¹, Lali Yadav² and Sushma Kaushik²

¹Ph.D Scholar Dept. EECM COHS CCS HAU

²Retired Professor, COHS CCS HAU

³Professor & Head, COHS CCS HAU

E-mail: ¹chikkararitu@gmail.com, ²laliyadav2002@gmail.com, ³sushma.kaushik9@gmail.com

Abstract—The present study was undertaken with the main objective of identifying the risk perception of the respondents in adoption of the diversified agricultural production activities. Agriculture activities are the basic source of revenue and play an important role in the growth of its GDP. The sector helps to provide the gainful employment to a large percentage of population especially in Pakistan. Farmers are always operating under risky conditions. They have to face many risks and uncertainties arising from natural, economic and social environments. We analyze data from 200 women respondents who were actively involved in processing diversified agricultural activities in Haryana state. Result analysis that Majority of the respondents reported under high perceived risk category for the diversified agricultural production activities in terms of uncertain weather conditions (60.5%), risk in shifting from one to another crop/enterprising (59.0%), risk in changing variety (53.5%), risk in new enterprise (52.5%), risk in producing increased variety of commodities (51.0%), limitation pertaining to soil fertility (49.5%), uncertain irrigation facilities (52.0%), risk in right selection of seed variety (46.5%), risk in access/availability/feasibility of improved implement (48.5%) and genuinely issue of pest/insect material (47.5%).

Keywords: Diversification, Agriculture, Risk Perception, Production

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture constitutes a large share of National output and employs a majority of the labour force in most developing countries; hence the sector has been integrated into any thinking about development (World Bank, 2003). However, whereas agriculture led growth played an important role in slashing poverty and transforming the economies of country. According to Baker (2005), technical change is the engine of long-term growth and it becomes technically important through diffusion. This is more so for agricultural production, where the prospect of enhanced production offered by improved agricultural technologies is recognized, according to the World Food Program, as essential to improving the household food security of small scale farmers, raising rural incomes and creating national surplus that can improve the

basis for economic growth. Women faced problems such as lack of child care facilities, poor skills, lack of training, farm technology, the lack of infrastructural facilities, non-availability of raw materials, transport facilities and lack of markets in diversified agriculture (Kamulon and Kumar, 2005). Afzalet al. (2009) found that poor economic conditions were the main constraints in agricultural operations followed by lack of social interactions and social conflicts and transportation difficulties of women and low payment of work for women at 3rd position. In consideration of these issues in mind, the presented study was designed with the following specific objective;

- To assess the risk perception of women in production diversified agricultural activities.

Methodology

Participants: A sample of 200 women respondents who were actively involved in diversified agriculture and were covered under the project entitled, “Capacity building of women in agriculture through diversification of agriculture” operated under RKVY were selected randomly.

Tool Used: An interview schedule was prepared to collect the data as per objectives of the study. The interview schedule was pre-tested. Based on the results of the pre-test, the schedule was modified and finalized.

Statistical Analysis: The data thus, collected were computed, tabulated and analyzed using frequency, percentage, mean score, two sample mean (paired ‘t’) test and co-relation.

Procedure

The study was conducted in purposively selected district Hisar of Haryana having State Agriculture University and other state and central intuitions pertaining to agriculture and allied areas. Two blocks namely; Hisar-I and Hisar-II covered under RKVY, a project entitled, “Capacity building of women in

agriculture through diversification of agriculture” was purposively selected by covering villages of Mangali, Kaimri, Rawalwas and Shapur. Proportionately, a sample of 200 respondents was covered under this study. A set of 24 independent variables (socio-economic, personal, communication and psycho-situational) and entrepreneurial motivation and capacity building as dependent variable, constituted the variables for the study.

Results

Risk perception of the respondents for adoption of diversified agricultural production activities

Results regarding production showed that uncertain weather conditions, risk in shifting from one to another crop/enterprise, risk in changing variety got first, second and third rank respectively. Regarding technological risk perception first rank was observed by inadequate knowledge and skill of innovative appropriate irrigation technology followed by poor skill and knowledge of optimum utilization and placement of fertilizers (II rank) lack of guidance for controlling

Table 1: Risk perception of the respondents in adoption of the diversified agricultural production activities (n=200)

Risk Perception for Production Issues	Extent of perceived risk			Weighted Mean	Rank
	H (3)	M(2)	L (1)		
Uncertain weather conditions	121 (60.5)	65 (32.5)	14 (7.0)	2.53	I
Risk in shifting from one to another crop/enterprise	118 (59.0)	68 (34.0)	14 (7.0)	2.52	II
Risk in changing the variety of crop	107 (53.5)	88 (44.0)	5 (2.5)	2.51	III
Risk in undertaking new enterprise	105 (52.5)	80 (40.0)	15 (7.5)	2.45	IV
Risk in producing increased variety of commodities	102 (51.0)	84 (42.0)	14 (7.0)	2.44	V
Limitation pertaining to soil fertility	99 (49.5)	87 (43.5)	14 (7.0)	2.42	VI
Uncertainty in irrigation facilities	104 (52.0)	72 (36.0)	24 (12.0)	2.40	VII
Risk in right selection of seed variety	93 (46.5)	90 (45.0)	17 (8.5)	2.38	VIII
Risk in access/availability/feasibility of	97 (48.5)	80 (40.0)	23 (11.5)	2.37	IX

improved implement					
Genuinity issue of pest /insect material	95 (47.5)	78 (39.0)	27 (13.5)	2.34	X

H=High, M= Moderate, L= Low

pathogens and application of insecticides/pesticides and fungicides (III rank). The present findings are in tune with results of Palinkas and Székely (2008) which showed that contagious diseases represent the highest-scoring risk in crop farming, followed by output price and production risks. Policy risks are also among the top concerns for crop producers. It was interesting to note that all the respondents, who perceived risk parameters in adoption of new technology got an average score 2.24 and above, indicating that there is a scope to propagate technical input in terms of knowledge and skill to promote diversified agricultural technological activities among the farmers so as to minimize their risk perception. Naziret *al.* (2013) found that majority of the women participated in sowing, harvesting and picking activities and were facing problems in looking after their children and household chores and farm related problems. Riazet *al.* (2012) mentioned that women are the major contributors in agricultural and livestock activities.

Conclusion

After careful scrutiny of the above set composed data, the predominantly regarding risk perception of the respondents for adoption of diversified agricultural production activities that majority of the respondents reported under high perceived risk category for the diversified agricultural production activities in terms of uncertain weather conditions, risk in shifting from one to another crop/enterprising, risk in changing variety, risk in new enterprise, risk in producing increased variety of commodities, limitation pertaining to soil fertility, uncertain irrigation facilities, risk in right selection of seed variety, risk in access/availability/feasibility of improved implement and genuinity issue of pest/insect material..

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