

Technology Adoption under NFSM Programme for Pulses Crops in Maharashtra: An Empirical Assessment

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The study shows positive impact of NFSM programme on pulses crops cultivation in Maharashtra since the element of profit involved in their cultivation was substantially high after its implementation. The plausible reasons for rise in profit margins could be traced to higher productivity, higher prices on offer, adoption of improved varieties of seeds, higher adoption of recommended practices (including application of organic manure, chemical fertilizers, and so on), assistance received under NFSM-pulses programme, etc. The initiation of NFSM-pulses would certainly pay rich dividend since the major thrust of this programme is on increasing seed replacement and the replacement of older varieties by newer ones. It offers much more than what the earlier programmes did, especially with respect to capacity-building, monitoring and planning.

I Introduction

Studies have shown a sluggish and erratic growth in pulses and coarse cereal production, though most of them are area specific (Moorti *et al.* 1991, Bhatia 1991, Shah 1997). In the late 1970s and early 1980s, several studies raised concern about a possible deceleration in the growth of foodgrain production, indicating a decline in the momentum of the green revolution and possible exhaustion of the potential of available technology (Alagh and Sharma 1980, Desai and Namboodiri 1983). Some of them also expressed serious doubts about the productivity of modern inputs used in increasing quantities to sustain growth. The Government of India is now giving a top priority to boost the production of pulses in the country with the objective of meeting their domestic requirement and also to reduce their imports.

India is reckoned as the largest producer and consumer of pulses in the world, accounting for about 25 per cent of global production, 27 per cent of consumption, and 34 per cent of food use (Price *et al.* 2003). Nevertheless, she is the top importer of pulses in the world with 11 per cent share in global pulse imports during 1995-2001, though imports accounted for about six per cent of domestic consumption. Since pulses production in India fluctuated widely without any long-term trend, there has been a steady decline in the per capita

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