

## Attitude towards working farmer groups

M. ESAKKIMUTHU

*Department of Agricultural Communication, College of Agriculture, G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar-263145 (U. S. Nagar, Uttarakhand)*

**ABSTRACT :** India is an agricultural economy. Over 70 per cent of India's population is supported by farm sector. However, in the long run, growth of other sectors is invariably linked to the fortunes of agriculture due to intricate forward and backward linkages. Hence, India's economic status continues to be determined by agriculture sector, and the situation is not likely to change in the foreseeable future. Participation in farmer groups shape up the farmer with farmer groups' relationship in farm sector. It was noticed by various research study revealed that, inhuman practices were disappeared. The experimental study was conducted in Tamil Nadu, India. Majority of them working in group basis as whole in agriculture sector.

**Key words:** Agriculture, attitude, economy, farmer groups, farm

India is an agricultural country. Largely over 70 per cent of India's population is supported by agriculture sector. India's industrial and services sectors are growing by leaps and bounds. Tamil Nadu agriculture has its own uniqueness. It is a land for the cultivation of variety of agricultural and horticultural crops such as plantation crops, food grains, fruit crops, spices, vegetables, tubers. The main problems lack of labour. Farmer working groups had an influence on farmers livelihood security. According to Alexander (1975) reveals that, in Tirunelveli region of Tamilnadu had some inhuman practices, which need to be disappeared from the social system. These words of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, are very much relevant even in the New Millennium. Tamil Nadu has a high potential for apiculture due to large scale cultivation of horticultural crops which are the main source of remuneration for working farmers groups. Mencher (1975) indicates agricultural workers through trade unionism led an increase in wage rates. An attitude is refers to degree of likes and dislikes towards famers groups.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

An attitude scale was constructed for the present study. Among the various methods of scale construction as described by Edwards (1957) Likert's (1932) methods of summated rating scale was used for measuring attitude of working farmer groups. The first step is to collection of items were 75 items to be included in attitude scale were obtained through review of literature related to various dimensions of working farmer groups and discussion

with experts of farmers organizations. The second step is editing of the statements were 52 statements selected have been carefully edited in accordance with the criteria suggested by Edwards (1957) so as to indicate both favorable and unfavorable attitude towards working farmer groups . The third step is item analysis were 52 selected statements were administered to 35 officials of farmer organization. The responses were collected on a seven point continuum of highly unfavorable to highly favorable. The fourth step is method of scoring were after obtaining the responses from the 35 officials of farmer organization the scoring was done in the order one to seven responses, respectively in the case of positive statements and the reverse in the case of negative statements. By summing up the scores obtained for each of the statements in the scale, the total score for each of the respondents was obtained. In the next stage, the scale value and Q value of each statement was calculated by constructing a frequency table of sorting. From this frequency table, the median and Q were calculated for each statement separately. The median is the scale value of the statement and Q value indicated the extent of disagreement among the experts regarding the degree of attributes possessed by the statement. It is a measure of the spread of the middle 50 per cent of judgements. When the subjects are in close agreement with the degree of favorableness or unfavorableness shown by a statement, the value of Q will be small. The median or scale value was calculated using the following formula:

Scale value (median) =  $1 + \{(N/2 - F)/F_m\}$  i

Whereas, 1 = the lower limit of the interval in which the median falls; F = sum of all frequencies below one or the

cumulative frequency of the interval below one;  $F_m$  = frequency of the interval that contains the median ;  $i$  = width of the interval which was assumed to be one;  $N$  = number of subjects. The statements with largest  $Q$  value were omitted as suggested by Guilford (1954) and lowest  $Q$  value statements were included for final scale.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The reliability of the scale was measured by using test-retest method. The scale was administered to 30 farmer respondents and 30 working farmer groups respondents at an interval of 15 days in the state of Tamil Nadu. The correlation co-efficient (0.71) worked out between the two sets of score was found to be highly significant confirming the reliability of the scale. In the next stage validity of the scale was measured for the

content validity by determining how well the contents of the scale represent the subject matter under study. As all the possible statements covering the universe of content were selected from literature and discussion with experts, the scale satisfied the content validity. Moreover, the highly significant correlation (0.83) between the constructed scale with a similar type of scale with a similar type of scale developed by Subramony (1979) under industrial conditions confirmed the construct validity of the scale. In the next stage, the respondents can be asked to indicate their agreement or disagreement to each of the attitude statement in the scale. By assigning the respective scale value to the statements for which the respondents indicated their agreement, the attitude score of the respondent can be estimated by calculating the mean of the scale values of all those statements endorsed by him.

**Table 1: Attitude towards working farmer groups**

S.No	Statements	Scale value	Q value
1.	Working farmer groups do necessary help to maintain their families during strike period	5.167	1.362
2.	Working farmer groups members are preferred family members for their farm work	3.722	1.416
3.	Working farmer groups undergo various sufferings for the welfare	5.702	1.448
4.	Working farmer groups lose getting fringe benefits from the farmers	2.642	1.491
5.	Working farmer groups ensure continuous employment opportunities	5.278	1.532
6.	It is working farmer groups that come to the rescue of workers during needy hours	6.072	1.562
7.	The economic status of the working farmer groups could be improved over decades.	5.500	1.572
8.	Peace in the village has been distributed due to working farmer groups activities	2.371	1.710
9.	The interest of working farmer groups follows protected approach	6.167	1.763
10.	A congenial working atmosphere to the working farmer groups is made available for their farming activities	1.26	1.787
11.	Working farmer groups get reasonable wages	5.833	1.796
12.	Working farmer groups restrict the freedom of labourers in selecting he farmer of their choice to work	2.786	1.953
13.	Farmers are reluctant to invite suggestions from working farmer groups on farm operations	2.833	2.000
14.	Working farmer groups force play a great role in the prosperity	5.642	2.090
15.	There is no need for working farmer groups for their betterment	2.297	2.115
16.	There is peace in the village because working farmer groups activities	4.500	2.161
17.	Working farmer groups members are looked down by the farmers	2.373	2.187
18.	When government is taking all favourable measures of working farmer groups, there is no necessity	2.248	2.232
19.	Working farmer groups take away major portion of wages	2.250	2.237
20.	In the absence of working farmer groups get more help from the farmers	2.833	2.247
21.	Working farmer groups are a must to get prompt payment wages	4.500	2.279
22.	Working farmer groups discourage others to do the quantum of work as prescribed by the farmers	3.332	2.280

## CONCLUSION

The working farmer groups of attitude towards farming is also excellent examples of good extension practices which are a sine-quo-non for the sustainability of too many developmental initiatives in the field of agriculture. This particular case provides an insight to the processes of empowering the local working farmers group community to innovate in the assessment of needs, formulation of action plans, mobilisation of resources and institutions, implementation of development activities and evaluation of the results so as to ensure that the development process is truly a hand up rather than a hand out.

## REFERENCES

- Alexander, K.C. (1975). Changing labourer-cultivator relation in South India: In: (Ed.) Paramahalmsa, V.R.K. Changing Agrarian Relations in India. NICD, Hyderabad.
- Edwards, A.L. (1957). Techniques of attitude scale construction. Appleton Century Crofts Inc., New York.
- Guilford. (1954). *Attitudes in the history of social psychology*. Penguin Publishers, USA, Pp15-21.
- Likert, R. (1932). A technique for the measurement of attitudes. *Arch. Psychol.*, 140: 30-40.
- Mencher, J.P. (1975). Agricultural labour movements in their socio-political and ecological context: Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In: (Ed.) Nair, Balakrishnan. Culture and Society. Thomson Press, New Delhi.
- Subramony, S. (1979). A. Comparative study of successful and non- successful supervisors in industry. Ph.D. Thesis. (unpub..), University of Kerala, Trivandrum.

*Received: August 8, 2014*

*Accepted: June 28, 2016*