Modern Agricultural Technology and Rural Development in Sri Lanka: A Case Study of TRINCAP Project in Trincomalee District

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Abstract

This research has scrutinized the modern agriculture technology and rural development via core farmer practices. The targeted area of this study consists of five Grama Niladhari Divisions from Morawewa, Thampalagamam, and Kuchcheveli Divisional Secretariat Divisions in Trincomalee District.

The objectives of this research were to measure the contributory factors, which limit the spread of modern technology and agricultural development, how to popularize modern technology in rural areas in a sustainable manner with participatory approach, and how to utilize the rural resources at optimum level. For achieving these objectives, the study was used multidimensional approaches, with the employment of both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Also relevant data for the study were gathered from the secondary as well as primary sources. The main primary data collection methods were questionnaire survey from 50 samples, and some interviews were conducted by use of questionnaires on qualitative and quantitative aspects, key informant interviews were held with the government officers, officials of TRINCAP- JICA, some beneficiaries of the TRINCAP projects and others. Primary date was processed by using relevant qualitative analysis methods, and the SPSS package was utilized for qualitative data analysis.

This study was aware several institutions disseminate modern agricultural technology in the rural areas of the country, but training and services were not reached sufficiently to the rural farmers. Also most of the farmers were not adopted the emerging scientific knowledge in their farming activities due to lack of knowledge, and skills. During the study, it was identified that the training programme and study tours are most essential to acquire modern agricultural technologies by rural farmers. It was found, that the Core Farmer practices play a significant role in disseminate relevant modern agricultural technologies among the farmers and surrounding areas and supported to rural development process. It was identified, that the deficiencies in government delivery mechanism in respect of modern agricultural technologies by agriculture extension services, and it is very essential to acquire knowledge and skills from time to time.

The cultivation practices were embraced of modern and scientific ways with participatory approach of beneficiaries by developed a Community Action Plan for the implementation of TRINCAP projects by adopting modern agricultural technologies through conduct of several training programmes and study tours for the beneficiary community. In terms of modern technologies, this project was considered to disseminate relevant modern agricultural technologies for the cultivation practices among the farmers via core farmer concept.

It was found that the, application of gained technologies specifically, land preparation, clean seedlings, introduction of new crops, systematic farming practices, pest and weed control, water management practices, application of organic and chemicals fertilizers, harvesting and post harvesting practices and marketing were led to gain more profits with less imputes. It was identified, that the system of crop rotation and inter-cropping practices were highly appreciated by most of the farmers with optimum usage of scarce resources and obtain more profit against less input. It was found that the application of modern technologies in the livestock were led more profits also rural farmers were gained more benefits by implementation of this projects. These types of activities are highly welcome by rural agricultural community for their sustainable development process in the future.