

CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

[1] The structure of the family determines the decision of adoption of new farm practices. It has been noticed that 65 percent of the families under study belong to nuclear family structure. Because they can take their decisions independently. On the other hand, 35 percent of the respondents in the present investigation belonged to the joint families.

[2] Eighty-eight percent of the farmer respondents finance their farm forestry through their own savings. Next follows the banks which provide finance to the farm forestry farmers, constituting 18 percent of the total sample. Other agencies which finance farm forestry include relatives, money lenders and other sources.

[3] Eighty-five percent of the farmers out of 100 under study derive their income during the gestation period from dairy activity. The remaining farmers however, earn their income during gestation period from selling of minor forest products.

[4] The most important problem faced by 65 percent of the respondents is inadequate supply of seedlings. On the other hand, 55 farmers faced the technical problems during the plantation and 35 farmers have difficulty in choosing the right species.

[5] Majority of the farmers adopt indifferent approach towards farm forestry. The number of farmers adopting intensive farm forestry is however, very low.

[6] While studying the size of the land holdings of the respondents it is found that majority of the farmer respondents held land holding in excess of 10 acres. They can therefore, afford to allot some piece of land for farm forestry purposes.

[7] While searching for various reasons for adopting farm forestry it is noticed that 80 percent farmer respondents turned to farm forestry due to irregular, erratic and insufficient monsoon rainfall. Further, 64 percent of the respondents took to farm forestry due to their expectation of definite and large profit margins. 55 percent of the respondents have taken up the farm forestry under the influence of new approach towards agriculture. Other factors which influenced the farmers to take to farm forestry are the unprofitable traditional farming and problems in its management.

[8] The main factor responsible for the development of the farm forestry in the area under study is the efforts of Govt. Officials from the Farm Forestry Department. Again, Govt. information media like T.V. Radio, and the demonstration effect through friends influenced the respondents to take up the farm forestry. Other factors responsible include published matter, relatives and neighbours.

[9] Eighty-five percent of the farmer respondents have taken advantage of the free distribution of seedlings by the Govt. 20 percent farmers get the subsidy and technical know-how. However, the extent of financial assistance by way of loans is negligible.

[10] While observing the kinds of trees planted in the four talukas under study, Eucalyptus dominates over the other varieties. As far as the fodder and fruit trees are concerned, Chaudgad taluka is quite ahead of others. In case of timber also Chaudgad taluka is progressive. But, in case of Moringa, Hukkeri stands first. Whereas, in case of Bamboo and Guava Chaudgad taluka is far ahead.

[11] Farm forestry is being practised in combination with the traditional crops. Majority of the farmers combine groundnut, grass, paddy and jowar with farm forestry. Other crops undertaken with farm forestry include sugar-cane, Nachana, Chillies, Corriander, Kultha and Wheat.

[12] Eucalyptus is one of the popular monoculture models of farm forestry in the area under study. 80 percent of the farmers practise mixed farm forestry. Whereas, only 20 percent practise monoculture farm forestry.

[13] Majority of the farmers receive their income from farm forestry in the form of fodder at the earliest. Next comes the fruit. Fuel is also major important source of income, whereas income from minor forest product is meagre.

[14] Most of the farmers face the problem of marketing of farm forestry produce. Besides this, they also claim to face the harassment by the Govt. Officials. As the farm forestry produce is mostly bulky in size, they also face a major problem of transportation of the produce.

SUGGESTIONS

[1] Credit is the most important factor in farm forestry, as trees take a long time to mature. As we have Industrial Bank, Agricultural Bank at the apex, there should be Forestry Bank as well. Trees are nothing but Life Insurance Policies of farmers. A separate set of norms for financing repayment of loans should be evolved.

[2] Dairy farming is the best supplementary farm activity in farm forestry. Research should be conducted to produce different varieties of grass. A demonstration model of five families in every village should be created to propagate the importance of farm forestry.

[3] Every big village or a cluster of small villages should have its own Nursery. Rural youth should be trained and employed in the Nursery programme. Different species of trees in that rural Nursery should be chosen under the guidance of Range Forest Officer and Deputy Conservator of Forest. Some sort of compulsion of species of trees is quite necessary in the long term interest of the country.

[4] Intensive farm forestry farmers and mixed farm forestry farmers should be awarded "Vrikshmitra". A permanent committee of

Vrikshmitras should be created at the district level and the Chairman of that committee should be either Deputy Conservator of Forest or Deputy Director of Forest.

[5] A suitable model of farm forestry below one acre should be developed in every taluka by the Department of Social Forestry.

[6] Similar to the advertisements of the Family Planning Programme in T. V. and Radio, it is also necessary to have regular advertisements of farm forestry in India.

[7] Daily news papers should be encouraged to publish matters regarding farm forestry programmes.

[8] Free distribution of seedlings to the farmers to a certain extent is desirable. But after the quota is completed, the prices must be charged.

[9] Non-Govt. agencies should be encouraged to develop their nurseries and plantation programme around the hills by creating green belts and help to maintain ecological balance.

[10] Govt. should conduct periodic surveys on spatial basis to estimate the extent of plantation and to diagnose various problems faced by the farmers who undertake farm forestry.

[11] Youth clubs should be utilised for plantation programmes through JRY. ✓

[12] Religious leaders should be included for propagating farm forestry and implementing social forestry programmes.

[13] A cluster of villages or a particular taluka should be assigned to the development of particular species so that a substantial raw material will be available. The processing units then, will be economically viable.

[14] Acacardium, Agave, Bambusa and Guava have great potentialities to generate rural employment in these areas. Food processing units, baskets, mats, cycle carriers and rope making require some amount of training. Hence, training centres should be started.

[15] Schools and colleges are the centres for bringing about change in the society. It is therefore, necessary to involve schools and colleges in social forestry in particular, be included in their syllabi. Old religious stories about importance of planting trees should be included in primary school text books. Buddha's teaching about planting trees should be highlighted.

[16] Recently, the value of trees standing on farms were brought under the purview of Wealth Tax Act. Imposition of Wealth Tax on tree growth is a great disincentive to the programme of farm ✓

forestry. Therefore, tree growth should be excluded from the Wealth Tax Act. Also Land Revenue from the farm forest should be exempted for tax purpose.

[17] Universities and research institutes should be given adequate financial aid for undertaking research related to social forestry.

[18] The importance of visual aids in propogating farm forestry should be taken. Various agro-forestry extension programmes may be undertaken with the help of preparation of pamphlets, displaying cards, sign boards, charts, posters, documentary news letters, cinema slides and advertisements through news papers/magazines.

[19] Since people's participation in the forestry programme, particularly social forestry, is a sine qua non for its success, there is urgent need for evolving a viable, effective and operational model. Possibilities should be explored to entrust the implementation of some components of the programme direct to the local bodies, voluntary agencies or other non-Govt. organisations. Also, the process of meaningful involvement of the people would lead to "social fencing" resulting in the reduction of unit cost of afforestation.

[20] Tree for Every Child Programme should be made broad based. This programme envisages the promotion of school forestry

programmes based upon the interests of the children themselves in the trees of their choice. Under this project, those schools which have necessary land and water facilities will be enabled to raise nurseries of appropriate seedlings within the school compound itself with the participation of children.

[21] An Eco-Development Force consisting predominantly of ex-servicemen can be formed for the purpose of restoring damaged hill eco-systems through afforestation and soil conservation. To begin with, two units of this force can be organised to work in the Western Himalayan region or Western Ghat Development Scheme.

[22] National Day like 15th August and 26th January should be started after plantation of a tree.

[23] Birthdays of national personalities should be celebrated by planting trees.

[24] Social Forestry Programmes should not be target oriented. Quality of the programmes will have to be maintained.

[25] Lastly, for the development of farm forestry, subsidy variations should be practised.