



Measurement the attitude and priority of farmers about privatization of extension in district of Meerut of western Uttar Pradesh

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Original Research article Received on April 14, 2017 Accepted on May 19, 2017</p> <p>Article Authors Ashwani Kumar, Surjeet Kumar Corresponding Author Email ak5206428@gmail.com</p>	<p>At present we are facing the challenges of implication of WTO on Indian agriculture. Thus the extension would focus the quality cost of production, market led extension and cyber application in extension. These challenges require the change in present extension services. Private extension's filling up the gap which is created by the government extension agencies. This transition from resource based to technology based system agriculture however places greater responsibility upon the agriculture extension sector. Keeping in view the situation this study is carried out in district Meerut Four blocks were also chosen from the twelve blocks of district Meerut. Accordingly a total of eight villages were selected for the study. Thus a sample size comprised to two hundred farmers respondents. The inference that could be drawn from the analysis is that the respondents have realized the advantages of privatization in case of cultivation practices of medicinal plants and cultivation practices of fruits and vegetable crops. Besides farmers prefer those agencies that responsibility to supervise agriculture operations and ensure better income <i>i.e.</i> marketing to farmers. It is evident the study area that seed production is confirmed to commercial and horticulture crops and mainly managed by private agencies. It is also concluded from the analysis of the study that mostly farmer are willing to pay extension services rendered. It is true that farmers will be ready for cost sharing only when the benefits and w and weight their cost (Samanta,1977).</p>
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Indian Agriculture has a responsibility to double the present food production by 2010 to meet the needs of increasing population. Nutritional security is the next most important area which need the attention of extension workers simultaneously. Besides we have to prepare the farmers to face the challenges of implications of WTO on Indian Agriculture. The extension would focus the quality, cost of production, value addition: Market led extension and cyber application in agriculture. These challenges require the change in the present extension services. The process of changing role and additional responsibility, limitation of resources in public extension as created the gap. The fundamental elements in meeting these challenges in increasing production per unit area by adopting improved agricultural production technologies and marketing techniques by farmers and other entrepreneurs, this transition from resources based to technology based system agriculture, however places greater responsibility upon the agriculture extension sector. Since it is a vital channel of new agricultural information to farmer's as

well as vital channel back to researches and policy makers with farmers problems and needs. Private extension is filling up the space created by public extension. This desecrates developmental needs governmental encouragement and regulation in national agriculture. In national agriculture policy, Government is committed to involve private sector in agriculture development. Information on private extension is necessary to be placed before all stakeholders for transparency at this juncture. WTO will bring whole lot of change in Indian Agriculture. Their needs to be more extension focus on low court technologies, high production technology, value addition through processing quality, price competitiveness, marketing and use of information technology in agriculture. Government has traditionally taken dominant role in provision of agriculture extension services because of its important contribution of agriculture sector. Keeping in view, the situation of privatization of extension services in India and the limited evidences about the study in the state and particularly in Meerut district, paying fee for the

services extended by public/private extension organization and their attitude towards the privatizations of such services, the present study was structured with the following specific objectives.

- To find out the attitude of farmers about privatization of extension services.
- To search out the other of services in which farmers prefers privatizations of extension services.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research work was conducted in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh state. This district was purposively selected because nearly 60 private limited companies and NGO's are involved in extension services and supply agricultural inputs for the area. Among 12 blocks in Meerut district the private agencies as serving seeds, fertilizers, bio-fertilizers, micronutrients etc. and are intensively operation in Kharkhoda, Machhra, Kila Parikshatgarh, Rajpura block of district of Meerut. The maximum area covered by crops namely sugarcane, wheat, potato, lady finger and paddy for which private seed companies are producing hybrid and certified seeds. The above said areas were also considered for study. Accordingly a total of eight villages were prepared selected for the study. A list of farmers was prepared separately for each of the selected villages. From the list prepared, 25 farmers were selected randomly for each village irrespective of the total number of farmers in that village. Thus sample size comprised of 200 farmers respondents. The date was elicited for the respondents through pre-tested structured schedule scale were developed for the study following standard procedure. The reliability coefficient of the scale was found to be 0.81 indicating high internal consistency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result set out in (Table 1) revealed that 49% of the respondents were grouped in favourable attitude category of respondents: where as 31% and 20% of the were grouped "more favorable" and "less favorable" respectively. The favorable and more favorable categories when put together accounted for 80% of the total respondents. In the

study area, it was found that nearly 60 private national and multinational companies and NGO's are involved in extension service and supplying agriculture inputs. The private companies generally crowded in places where there profits out weight cost. The crowding of private companies implies that the areas are more fascinating for private firms in terms of farmer's response. Generally farmer attitude about any agency, private or government depends on economically benefits availability of agricultural inputs and technical and marketing services at right times from the agency. In view of the facts farmers welcomed services of private extension agencies over the governmental, particularly in the areas of seed production. This might be the possible reason for the favorable attitude of majority of the farmers about the privatization of extension services.

The result in table-2 reveal that ranking order majority (52.50%) of the respondent preferred technical services in the area of cultivation practices of vegetable crops from private agencies followed by cultivation practices of fruit crops (52%, post-harvest technology (47%)) cultivation practices of medicinal crops (42.50%), Irrigation management (40%) marketing facilities (36%), vermi-culture (35%) seed production (32.50%), honey bee keeping (27.5%), dairy (20%) credit orientation (10%) and cultivation practices of cereals (7%). Government agency extension services was also preferred by more than half of the respondents in the areas of irrigation management (60%) and post harvest tech (53%). The inference that could be drawn form the above analysis is that the respondents have realized the advantages of privatization in case of cultivation practices of medicinal plants and cultivation practices of fruits and vegetable crops. The study area is known for its vegetable production activities by the private agencies in the country. These private companies generally covered seed production in both commercial crops. The usually identify farmers with irrigation facilities and make contact for seed production. The concerned company provides seed and other inputs are purchased by farmers. The company officials pay strict supervision and remunerative price are provided. Naturally, farmers prefer those agencies that take responsibility to supervise agricultural operations and ensure better income to farmers. It is evident in the study area that seed production is confined to commercial

Table 1. Attitude of farmers toward privatization of extension services

S. N.	Category	No. of Respondents	%	Rank
1.	Less Favourable	40	20.00	III
2.	Favourable	98	49.00	I
3.	More Favourable	62	31.00	II
4.	Total	200	100.00	

Table 2. Priorities of Privatization of Extension Services by the Farmers

S. N.	Items	Respondents Priority for Total						Total	%
		Private Agency			Government Agency				
		No.	%	Rank	No.	%	Rank		
1	Cultivation Practice of Cereal	14	7	XII	18	93	I	200	100.00
2	Cultivation Practice of fruit crops	104	52	II	96	48	XII	200	100.00
3	Cultivation Practice of Vegetable crops	105	52.5	I	95	57.5	IX	200	100.00
4	Cultivation Practice of Medicinal Crops	85	42.5	IV	94	47	X	200	100.00
5	Seed production	65	32.5	VII	135	67.5	V	200	100.00
6	Irrigation Management	80	40	V	120	60	VIII	200	100.00
7	Post Harvest Technology	94	47	III	106	53	XI	200	100.00
8	Dairying	40	20	X	160	80	III	200	100.00
9	Honey bee keeping	55	27.5	IX	145	72.5	IV	200	100.00
10	Verkmismulature	70	35	VII	130	65	VI	200	100.00
11	Marketing facilities	72	36	VI	128	64	VII	200	100.00
12	Credit recitation	20	10	XII	180	90	II	200	100.00

and horticultural crops mainly managed by private agencies. In fact farmer prefers to take up seed production in horticultural crops compared to commercial crops as they fact relatively high prices. The results in table 3 show that a large majority 70% of the respondents were desired to pay towards the technical guidance services rendered in area of seed production followed by more than 60% of cultivation practices of medicinal crops 55% Post harvest technology 54% of irrigation management

cultivation practice of vegetable crops (51%), while in order of area, majority of farmers where undesired to pay for the services rendered irrespective of agency the large majority of 92% of respondents were not willing to pay towards the technical guidance of Honey bee keeping followed by dairying (89%), 86.5% of credit orientation of majority of farmers were unwilling to pay for services rendered irrespective of agency. It could be conclude form the above analysis that mostly

farmers are willing to pay for the extension services rendered. It is true that farmers will be ready for cost sharing only when the benefits and weight their cost (Samanta 1997). Since the majority of respondents (62.50%) belonged to seed producer's category had to personal experience of economic advantages due to their interaction with seed producers.

Implication

The result with respect to attitude and priorities towards privatization of extension services implies that farmers in general have realized the advantage of private intervention in the agriculture sector particularly in seed production technologies. There is scope for intervention of private agencies for extending technical services in irrigated and arrured rainfall and in the drought prone areas. Further, farmers have realized the areas such as seed production cultivation of fruit crops, cultivation of agronomical crops and irrigation through which profit can be maximized by taking technical services from private agencies and even on payment. Hence, private companies may

offer technical services in there areas on nominal change for their services. Major portion of the farmers preferred privatization in hand government subsidy approach. Majority of the research preferred privatization for all crops, for all farmer categories based on farms income and preferred privatization plus subsidy approach.

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