

B-59 Assessment of the seasonal adaptive research programme funded by CARP: a case study at Makandura Horticultural Crops Research and Development Centre, Dept. of Agriculture

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Adaptive research programme is one of the major activities being operated since 1980 by the Research Division, Dept. of Agriculture (DOA). The main purpose of this adaptive research programme, is to fine-tune the results obtained from on-station research trials to suit farmers' requirements and resources before final recommendations are made. The Departmental allocation is limited to carrying out the entire programme in Research Centres. In order to reduce the burden, CARP has initiated since 1991 Yala season, a financial assistance programme on adaptive research trials. This financial assistance has been provided to Makandura Horticultural Crops Research and Development Centre for 7 cultivation seasons. This study attempts to identify research productivity in terms of financial assistance (on researchers' point of view), natural causes which affect on-farm trials and other problems, if any, associated with the programme and to make suggestions to improve the same.

Primary data was obtained from the Research officers at Makandura, who had carried out adaptive research trials by CARP since Maha 1991/92.

Secondary data was obtained from reports and informal discussions held with Research officers and Administrators.

Sampling was not done, since the population was small. All the Research officers who had carried out adaptive research trials funded by CARP, were selected for this study. A schedule was utilized to gather relevant data and a

simple tabular analysis was performed to analyze data while supplementing them with relevant qualitative information.

41 adaptive research trials have been financially assisted by CARP at Makandura from 1991/92 Maha season to 1993/94 Maha season. These trials were carried out on 11 crops. Nine research officers have carried out these 41 trials, and of them, 15 were National Co-ordinated Varietal Adaptive Trials (NCVATs). 37 trials out of 41, were not subjected to socio-economic analysis.

Utilization of CARP funds from 1993/94 was poor - it was 26.62%. Utilization of CARP funds on labour in 1993 (for Yala and Maha season) was 39.92%, for supplies 46.27% for fuel/travelling 78.0%.

There were no principal investigators of the NCVATs Makandura, and a direct innovation was not recorded from this programme. However, the regional results of the NCVAT at Makandura for rice, okra and groundnut were supported to innovate varieties of these crops. The regional research of these NCVATs at Makandura were financially assisted by CARP and therefore, these innovations could be partly considered an outcome of CARP adaptive research programme. There were 13 problems/natural causes which affected the adaptive research trials funded by CARP. Pest and disease occurrences, flood damage due to heavy rains and water limitations were recorded as major problems in several cultivation seasons on different crops. Results could not be obtained for some of these affected trials, therefore, financial assistance of Rs.30,122 utilized on these trials, was unproductive. This amounts to 7.74% of the total financial expenditure for all the trials from 1991/92 Maha season to 1993/94 Maha season.

Utilization of CARP financial assistance was poor, however, it has improved gradually. Poor utilization of funds may be due to use of Departmental input in research trials such as labour, agro-chemicals etc. which were not accounted as expenditure in the CARP allocation, delay of releasing funds in the early stages of the programme, over estimation of individual research budgets and damage of research trials due to climatic/natural causes etc. This programme has contributed to release new varieties of rice, okra and groundnut and it was partly considered to be a research output of this programme.

The amount of financial assistance unutilized due to climatic/natural causes and other problems was relatively low and it was very difficult to control. Finally, peritoneal definition of the adaptive research has to be clarified by the

Dept of Agriculture, and an awareness programme has to be launched for Research officers to disseminate the idea. Further, Research officers should be trained to assess their individual adaptive research in terms of socio-economics status with the help of an economist.