

The objective of Second Agriculture Extension Project (SAEP) was to increase farm production and income through closer integration among the extension services provided by different line agencies. Department of Agriculture, Department of Cultivation Board were expected to participate in extension programmes, implemented at grass root level by Field Extension Teams (FETs).

According to the Integrated Agricultural Extension Strategy (IAES) of the SAEP, it was expected from FETs to deliver general extension programs to farmers through Farmer Reference Groups (FRGs) and Problem Census/ problem Solving (PC/PS) techniques. The objective of this study is to estimate the impact of SAEP at grass root level.

This study was carried out in Matara district. Akuressa, Yahamulla, Walikatiya, Borala and Athuraliya villges were selected on random basis for the investigation. Pre-tesed questionnaires, different PRA techniques and informal interviews were used to collect information from farmers and extension officers. Secondary data were also obtained from relevant sources. Data were analyzed using standard analytical techniques for impact assessment studies.

Results reveal that extension workers from respective agencies have prioritized work from their own agencies rather than those of extension programmes designed by the SAEP. Budget allocations, promotion of croup and livestock specific programmes and promotional prospects for extension have made a tendency to grant priority for the programmes of line agencies.

It is also evident that the formation of FRGs has shown a marginal success. On average, each member of FET has formed 5-7 FRGs instead of 20-30 expected from SAEP. Although, PC/PS is considered an effective technique for problem identified problems remain unsolved.