

REJUVENATING INDIAN RURAL ECONOMY THROUGH RYTHU BHAROSA KENDRAM

Abstract

Rythu Bharosa Kendram (RBK) serve as one-stop shop for all of the needs of farmers at the Panchayat level. They offer services like e-crop booking for crop insurance, an agri-input store, farmer knowledge centres, a technical advisory team, YSR Rythu Bharosa, Polambadi (FFS), CCRC cards, D-krishi (Seed distribution), and others. The objective is to study the extent of adoption of technologies and services of RBKs by the farmers. The present study is conducted in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh state as it is the largest district in geographical area. Multi stage random sampling technique has been adopted to select the sample farmers for the study. The data was collected from 75 respondents by personal interview method and analysis has done by using statistical analytical techniques such as Mean scale value, Adoption Index. The study revealed that the majority of respondents (58.67%) adopted technology at a medium level followed by low adoption (26.67%) and high adoption (14.67%) levels.

Keywords: Rythu Bharosa Kendram; extent of adoption; technology and services

1. INTRODUCTION

Grama Sachivalyam, often referred to as Village secretariats, are established in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh to decentralise the administration by consolidating services and welfare offerings from various government agencies. The first state in India to introduce Village Secretariats was Andhra Pradesh. The programme was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's Grama Swarajya idea, which encourages villages to become self-sufficient, autonomous entities. Rythu Bharosa Kendram provide agriculture and allied sector services to farmers [10].

The knowledge and infrastructure gaps, particularly in rural regions, are the major problems affecting Indian agriculture today. Infrastructure issues with regard to markets, transportation, and irrigation all significantly increase the cost of farming. There are several programmes designed to advance agriculture. In terms of boosting productivity, cutting costs, or improving price realisation on the ground, we lack efficient delivery systems that can convert into efficient facilitation [6]. There comes Rythu Bharosa Kendras are first-of-its-kind seeds-to-sales, single-

window service centres set up by the state government of Andhra Pradesh [5]. These multi-functional kiosks with digital Aadhar authentication equipment act as a one-stop solution for all requirements and grievances of farmers in the state [9]. These centres sell pre-tested quality seeds, certified fertilizers and livestock feed. They also provide farm equipment and enable farmers to sell their produce at the prevailing minimum support price (MSP) via supporting systems of e-cropping, geo-tagging and CM App. They provide services like soil testing and consultancy regarding what crops to sow and quality and type of fertilizer to be used. This has helped farmers change their cropping patterns and increase profits. RBKs are responsible for the elimination of unproductive seeds and uncertified and dangerous fertilizers from the market. This has minimized crop damage and failures significantly. Manned by agriculture and horticulture officials, Rythu Bharosa Kendras are used to promote interactions between farmers, agriculture extension officers and agriculture scientists at the grassroot levels. They are used for the promotion of new farm equipment and provide training for farmers [1,3]. The RBKs were recently nominated for UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Champion Awards (CCA), which recognizes contributions of governments in boosting food security [8]. The study determines the extent of adoption of technologies and services of RBKs by the farmers

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh state as it is the largest district in geographical area. Five blocks with highest number of RBKs were selected, from each block three villages were selected randomly and five farmers from each village were selected randomly. Multi stage random sampling technique has been adopted to select the sample farmers for the study. The data was collected from 75 respondents by personal interview method and analysis has done by using statistical analytical techniques such as Mean scale value, Adoption Index.

For measuring the variable, an index was developed and the frequency was studied on three-point continuum i.e., fully adopted, partially adopted and not adopted and the score were given as 3, 2, 1 respectively and were categorized as high adoption, medium and low adoption using mean and standard deviation. For measuring the distribution of respondents according to level of adoption of RBK services and technologies mean scale value was used [2].

$$X = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}{N}$$

Where;

X_i = Mean

ΣX_i = Sum of all pairs in a distribution

N = Total number of respondents

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \left[\frac{\Sigma x_i^2 - (\Sigma x_i)^2}{n} \right]}$$

Where,

σ = Standard deviation

ΣX_i^2 = The summation of squares of individual items

$(\Sigma X_i)^2$ = The square of individual items

n = Total number of observation in the sample

$$\text{Mean scale value} = \frac{P_1 \times 3 + P_2 \times 2 + P_3 \times 1}{N}$$

Where,

P_1 = Frequency of respondents of 1st preference

P_2 = Frequency of respondents of 2nd preference

P_3 = Frequency of respondents of 3rd preference

N = Total number of respondent

2.1 Objective of the Study

To study the extent of adoption of technologies and services of RBKs by farmers.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The extent of RBK technology adoption or use of RBK services was evaluated by using Mean scale value, and the results (Table 1) showed that all respondents accepted E crop booking, INAPH Tagging which came in first place with a mean scale value of 3.0, YSR Rythu Bharosa came in second place with mean scale value of 2.97, Commodity Market Price and Product

Procurement (CMAPP) came in third place with a mean scale value of 2.67, followed by Product procurement at MSP with mean scale value of 2.63 at fourth place after this Crop health monitoring, D-Krishi at fifth place with mean scale value of 2.53.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to level of adoption of RBK technologies or utilization of services

S.No	Services Provided	Fully adopted	Partially adopted	Not adopted	Mean value	Scale Rank
1	YSR RythuBharosa	74(98.67)	0	1(1.33)	2.97	II
2	E-Crop Booking	75(100)	0	0	3.00	I
3	Crop health monitoring	45(60)	25(33.33)	5(6.67)	2.53	V
4	D-Krishi(Seed distribution)	47(62.67)	21(28)	7(9.33)	2.53	V
5	Commodity Market Price and Product Procurement (CMAPP)	58(77.33)	9(12)	8(10.67)	2.67	III
6	Quality Inputs Distribution	40(53.33)	30(40)	5(6.67)	2.47	VI
7	CCRC (Crop Cultivator Right Card)	19(25.33)	0	56(74.67)	1.51	XIX
8	Polambadi(FFS)	39(52)	26(34.67)	10(13.33)	2.39	IX
9	Crop cutting experiments	54(72)	0	21(28)	2.44	VII
10	RythuBharosa Magazines (are you a subscriber)?	24(32)	26(34.67)	25(33.33)	1.99	XIV
11	Method demonstrations	33(44)	22(29.33)	20(26.67)	2.17	XII
12	Natural farming	20(26.67)	0	55(73.33)	1.53	XVIII

13	RBK level advisory board	44(58.67))	19(25.33))	12(16)	2.43	VIII
14	RBK channel subscription	42(56)	0	33(44)	2.12	XIII
15	RBK call service-toll free number:155251	41(54.67))	12(16))	22(29.33)	2.25	XI
16	Soil testing facilities	8(10.67)	30(40)	37(49.33))	1.61	XVII
17	Kiosk (Do you utilize kiosks for fertilizer booking?)	8(10.67)	54(72)	13(17.33))	1.93	XV
18	Advisory services provided by specialists in every field i.e., VAA,VHA,VSA and VFA (Do you follow recommendations given?)	41(54.67))	21(28))	13(17.33))	2.37	X
19	Horticulture schemes-MIDH (are you a beneficiary?)	25(33.33))	0	50(66.67))	1.67	XVI
20	Subsidy on micro irrigation equipment (PMKSY) (Are you a beneficiary?)	12(16)	0	63(84)	1.32	XX
21	Product procurement at MSP	61(81.33))	0	14(18.67))	2.63	IV
22	Sericulture schemes(Are you a beneficiary?)	6(8)	0	69(92)	1.16	XXI
23	INAPH Tagging	75(100)	0	0	3.00	I

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage of adopted population

Quality Inputs Distribution came in sixth place with a mean scale value of 2.47 followed by Crop cutting experiments with a mean scale value of 2.47 at seventh place after this RBK level

advisory board at eighth place with a mean scale value of 2.43. Polambadi(FFS) was at ninth place with mean scale value of 2.39, Advisory services provided by specialists in every field i.e., VAA,VHA,VSA and VFA at tenth place with mean scale value of 2.37, RBK call service-toll free number:155251 at eleventh place with mean scale value of 2.25, Method demonstrations at twelfth place with mean scale value of 2.17, RBK channel subscription at thirteenth place with mean scale value of 2.12, Rythu Bharosa Magazines at fourteenth place with mean scale value of 1.99, Kiosk for fertilizer booking Magazines at fifteenth place with mean scale value of 1.93, Horticulture schemes- MIDH at sixteenth place with mean scale value of 1.93, Soil testing facilities at seventeenth place with mean scale value of 1.61, Natural farming at eighteenth place with mean scale value of 1.53, CCRC (Crop Cultivator Right Card) at nineteenth place with mean scale value of 1.51, Subsidy on micro irrigation equipment (PMKSY) at twentieth place with mean scale value of 1.32, at last Sericulture schemes at twenty first place with mean scale value of 1.16.

Level of Adoption of technology or services was categorized by calculating Mean and Standard deviation of fully adopted farmers. Table 2's findings show that 58.67% of respondents had medium levels of adoption, followed by 26.67% with low adoption levels

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to level of adoption or utilization of services of RBK's

S.No	Level of Adoption	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (upto 9)	20	26.67
2	Medium(9-14)	44	58.67
3	High(more than 14)	11	14.67
	Total	75	100.00

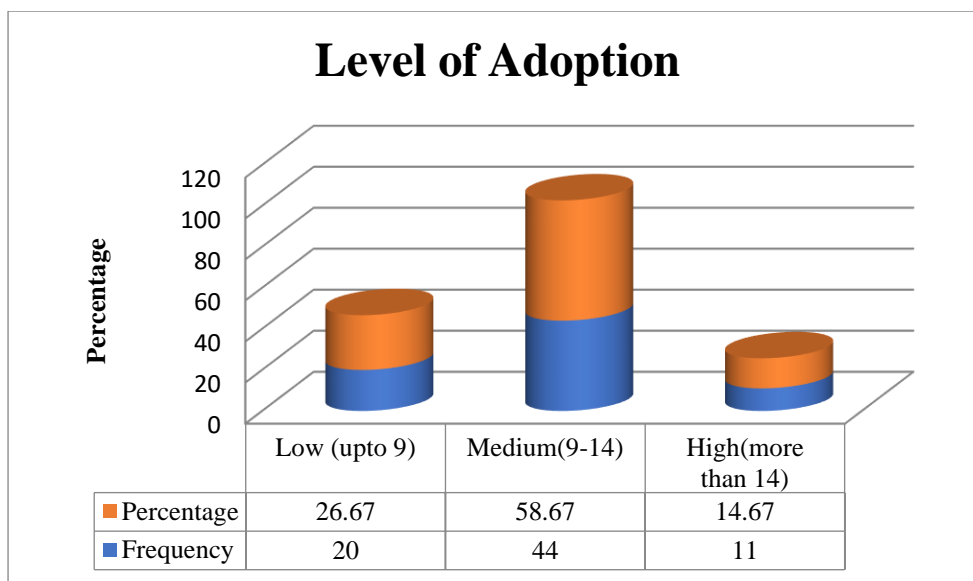


Fig 1. Bar graph showing level of adoption

and 14.67% with high levels. This may be because most respondents had farmers lack of awareness and initiative, Lack of infrastructural facilities and funds. These findings were supported by Anuhya et.al.[2], Kumar[7], Darshan [4] and Sivanarayana et.al., [11].

4. CONCLUSION

We may infer from the current study on RBKs that they offer a wide range of services and act as one-stop shops for all the needs of farmers at the panchayat level. The results of the study indicate that e-Crop booking and INAPH Tagging were advantageous to every farmer. YSR Rythu Bharosa was utilized by majority of farmers as it provides financial support during farming season for purchase of inputs. CMAPP was utilized by most of farmers as it displays data relating to cost, Procurement and marketing facilities of the farmers for their produce on daily basis for all crops. CCRC (Crop Cultivator Right Card) was utilized by few farmers as it needs land owners agreement to get the card. Subsidy on micro irrigation equipment, Sericulture schemes were adopted by few farmers as farming in this area is mostly dependent on rainfall and major crops are Bengal gram and Tobacco. The comprehensive picture of adoption pattern of RBKs shows that most of the farmers are having medium level of adoption followed by low and small extent of farmers have high level of adoption, the main reason is that majority of farmers are middle aged and have only secondary level of education.

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