

ADOPTION OF ECO-FRIENDLY CONSERVATION PRACTICES

IN THE NILGIRIS DISTRICT OF WESTERN GHATS

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ABSTRACT

Green revolution related agricultural practices played major threat and challenges to human and animal health as well as to ecological niche of The Nilgiris biosphere reserve in various dimensions. The commercial agricultural practices have tripled the agricultural production but resulted in the rapid erosion of crop and livestock diversity, loss of inherent soil fertility; break down of biological pest regulation, soil erosion and environmental problems. Due to increased use of expensive and poisonous chemicals fertilizers and pesticides which finally made the farmers poorer and more dependent on markets and outside agencies. In this context, the eco-friendly conservation practices minimize the agricultural production risks and conserve the sustainable management of the The Nilgiris biosphere reserve. The study was conducted purposefully in The Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu and ex- post facto research design was used for the study. The samples of 80 farmers were selected from all four blocks. Totally, 320 respondents were selected from the district. Thus, 118 adopters and 202 non- adopters were identified. Further, it infers that the 118 adopters are not supposed to be the adopters of all the identified 58 eco friendly conservation practices in total. There existed non- adopters also in the post stratified adopter categories. The relative advantage of eco friendly conservation practices would naturally demanded for optimum yield, sustainable productivity and better quality of the products. The adoption of eco-friendly conservation practices were measured by using 58 items of eco-friendly agricultural practices. These are the important eco-friendly conservation practices documented in that study area. They were listed in the categories of afforestation practices, agro forestry practices, integrated farming system, soil and water conservation practices, watershed management, biodiversity conservation practices, low external input for sustainable agriculture and agronomic practices for crop cultivation. Nowadays, The Nilgiris district farmers are getting awareness and they are very much eager to protect the environment, in order to satisfy their basic needs at present and also in future. This is the major reason for switching over to practicing the eco friendly conservation practices. But only slightest percentage of farmers is practicing the eco friendly conservation practices.

KEYWORDS: Green Revolution, Agricultural Production Risks, Products