



Farmers Perceived Constraints in the Uptake of Cotton IPM Practices

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Abstract: Adoption and diffusion research in rural sociology, extension education, and agricultural economics is replete with the studies that socio-economic variables affect the adoption or rejection of the agricultural technologies. On the basis of these studies, the farmers are categorised in innovators/laggards. But the limited number of studies undertaken to find out the other reasons for adoption/rejection have comprehensively concluded that the technological attributes affect the rate of adoption, varying between 49 to 87 per cent. The study evaluation of the insecticide resistance management (IRM) based IPM programme in Punjab was undertaken to find out the outcomes of this programme by employing quasi-experimental non equivalent control group design, and the perceived reasons for non-adoption expressed by the 150 IRM trained farmers selected from 15 IRM villages. The constraints in the uptake of IPM practices were: IPM technologies not being compatible with the farming system, benefits of the technology not being visible, risk factors and complexity associated with knowledge intensive practices (software technologies) like ETL. The researchers should re-visit the IPM strategies to develop farmers compatible less complex IPM practices, and to expand the definition of ecosystem further to include farmers by eliciting their knowledge and skills. Extension professionals from the subject matter areas should move from training to education of farmers. Policy makers should take a clear cut stand, whether ecologically viable “integrated pest management” or “integrated pesticide management” is the main plant protection strategy?

Key Words: IRM, IPM, Cotton IPM, Attributes of IPM, Adoption of IPM, Constraints in Uptake of IPM
