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The Rajasthan Geographical Association

Exploring the Adoption Behaviour and Determinants of Agricultural Modernization using Path Analysis in Hathras district, Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

Modernization of the smallholder agricultural sector provides the stimulus and impetus to reducing development disparities across the world. The purpose of this study is to highlight determinants of agricultural modernization by the farm households of Hathras district in Uttar Pradesh. The study uses correlation, multiple regression, path analysis and z-score to access the adoption behaviour and determinants of agricultural modernization using 420 households in fourteen villages in Hathras district. The study finds that farm size, education, peer emulation, organizational support and agro-communication have greatly influenced the modernization process in agriculture in the region. The implication for policy and practice are discussed.

Keywords: Agriculture, Farm Modernization, Agricultural Modernization, Path Analysis.

Introduction

Modernization of the smallholder agricultural sector provides the stimulus and impetus to reducing development disparities across the world. This has been a subject of considerable focus among policymakers and development specialists not only at the level of farming households but also at the level of national and international policies (Omano, 1998). The agricultural sector plays a critical role in the Indian economy especially to millions of rural populations that depend on small scale agriculture for food and income. The sector contributes to about 16 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and supports approximately 60 percent population that engages directly in it (FAO, 2018). Smallholder agriculture

remains the major engine of rural growth and livelihood improvement in the developing world (Hazell & Diao, 2005). Meeting the challenges of eliminating food insecurity and improving rural incomes in India will require transformation and transition out of the semi-subsistence, low-input, low productivity farming system that currently characterizes much of rural India (Islam & Ahmad, 2017). The existing yield levels of a majority of crops remain much lower than the world average. The predominant causes are small farmland, low irrigation, use of low quality seeds, low adoption of improved technology, and knowledge deficit about improved agricultural practices. However, the horizontal expansion of agriculture is quite impossible in India; hence it's time to

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