

CHAPTER VIII

CHANGE PRONENESS



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Lasudia and Naplakhedi villages have progressively adopted modern agricultural technology to raise crop yields. Total cropped area of both the villages is 1966 acres which has not increased for the last three years because the entire area which could be cultivated has been brought under cultivation. The use of machine by the villagers has progressively increased during the past few years as presented in the table below :

Table 28
Increase in the purchase of machines

Sl. No.	Machines	1979	1980		1981	
		No.	No.	%	No.	%
1.	Tractor	2	5	150	9	350
2.	Cane crusher	6	11	83	17	183
3.	Duffan	15	26	73	40	166
4.	Sprayer	21	37	76	51	142
5.	Winnower	22	32	64	56	154
6.	Electric Motor	49	85	73	114	132
7.	Thresher Bullock driven	51	64	25	78	52

Between 1979 and 1980 the purchase of tractors increased by 5%. Between 1980 and 1981 this percentage increased to 350. During the same period an increase of 83% and 183% is seen in the purchase of electrically operated cane crushers.

Bullock drawn duffan is an improved sowing device which is replacing the local sowing implement called 'Moi.' The rate of increase in this case was 73% and 166% during the period under discussion.

The trend in use of sprayers and winnowers is more or less similar. It was 76% and 142% in case of sprayers and 64% and 154% in case of winnowers. The use of electrically operated motors for irrigational purposes has increased by 73% and 132%. The use of bullock-drawn threshers has increased by 25% and 52%. Increased use of chemical fertilizers and improved seeds demand irrigation, consequently the number of wells have increased by 34% and 59%.

The use of chemical fertilizers seeds and insecticides has also increased as shown in the table below:

Table 29

Trend in the use of fertilizers, improved seeds and insecticides

S.No.	Some inputs	1979	1980	1981		
				%	%	%
1.	Chemical Fertilizers (Qtls)	7010	8073	15	9316	32
2.	Improved seeds(Qtls)	500	750	50	900	80
3.	Insecticide (Lit)	377	580	53	800	112

In both the villages in 1979 only 7010 quintals of chemical fertilizers of different kinds were used. This increased by 15% and 32%. For the same period 50% and 90% increase in the use of improved seeds have been noticed. Use of insecticides also increased by 53% and 112%.

This increase in the use of production pre-requisites indicates the change proneness of the respondents. Attempts were made to re-confirm this by obtaining response to the following statements aimed at determining their attitudes towards farming.

1. A cultivator should grow more than two crops just to avoid loss caused by growing less than that number.
2. A cultivator should be prepared to take risks if he wishes to continue farming.
3. The greater a farmer is prepared to take risks the better will be his financial condition.
4. A cultivator should not accumulate large debts for agricultural pursuits.
5. A little confidence and risk eventually leads to success in agriculture.
6. Agriculture is largely risk-free and if a farmer takes a few precautions he need not suffer from anxiety.

7. Production increases by the efforts of the cultivators and not by the grace of God.
8. A cultivator with a small holding should not adopt any new technique till it is successfully tested and approved by cultivators with large holdings.
9. A cultivator should adopt new techniques with full confidence.
10. A cultivator should always try to prove himself as an ideal cultivator.
11. A farmer should always think that utmost care in cultivation is a holy and important work.
12. A cultivator should always try to show that he can perform any simple or difficult task while farming.
13. A cultivator should always be eager to accept new ideas in the field of agriculture.
14. A cultivator should believe that the land is just like mother and he should have some attachment with it.
15. Indulgence in any side business diverts the attention of a cultivator always from the land. This may eventually prove harmful and may cause losses.

Response to these items have been tabulated in table 30.

Table 30

Attitude towards farming

S. No.	Item No.	Progressive Farmers Average	Conservative Farmers Average	Landless Farmers Average
1.	1	2.03	1.82	0.03
2.	2	1.74	1.58	0.0
3.	3	1.76	1.25	0.0
4.	4	1.76	1.43	0.0
5.	5	1.77	1.53	0.03
6.	6	1.83	1.56	0.03
7.	7	1.92	1.71	0.03
8.	8	1.99	1.58	0.03
9.	9	2.00	1.94	0.03
10.	10	1.95	1.74	0.0
11.	11	2.00	1.79	0.03
12.	12	2.03	1.84	0.03
13.	13	2.14	1.69	0.03
14.	14	1.13	1.84	0.03
15.	15	1.75	1.43	0.03
Overall average		1.95	1.64	0.22

The average responses of farmers were 1.95, 1.64 and 0.22 for progressive farmers, conservative farmers and landless farmers categories respectively. The average

item values of progressive farmers have been shown in the table. The items showing more than the overall average were 1, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

The conservative category rated these in a slightly different manner. Those with more than the overall average were item numbers 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

The average value of total response was 0.22 in the case of landless category. This is the lowest.

The data confirm the original assumption that the progressive category is more change prone than the conservative and that the landless are the most conservative in this respect.

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