

1. The adoption rates among contact farmers receiving one or more visits per month by Agricultural Extension Worker are generally higher than those farmers who are not visited by the Village Extension workers.

2. High cost of production inputs, risk of adverse weather poor supply of production inputs and perceived lack of location specific recommendations are the main reasons attributed to non-adoption of high cost practices, while lack of information and non-availability of inputs appear to be the factors explaining the non-adoption of low-cost agricultural practices in most crops.

3. There is a wide variation between the local yields and state yields on one hand and yields obtained by farmers in the ICAR Extension project areas on the other. These variations show that there is a scope for increasing yields of different crops on farmers' fields.

4. The new agricultural technologies are benefitting all categories of farmers but comparatively the resource-rich farmers are deriving more benefits as to others.

The results have shown that small and resource-poor farmers/need our priority attention.

5. Training needs of the farmers in the field of agriculture are very great.

6. Although women participate in various agricultural operations, they have not been brought in the main stream of extension system by way of training etc.

(c) The following measures have been adopted to impress upon the farmers the need of use of modern agricultural technologies :

- 1. The Training and Visit System of Agricultural Extension provide farm information to the farmers by scheduled and publicised visits of Agricultural Extension Officers and Village Extension Workers.

2. The ICAR sponsored Krishi Vigyan Kendras provide training to the farmers, farm women, rural youths and school drop

outs in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, fisheries, home sciences etc. The State Agricultural Universities also train farmers etc. in the use of modern agricultural technology. The Farmers' Training Centres of the State Departments of Agriculture also organise training programmes for farmers and farm women.

3. The State Departments of Agriculture, State Agricultural Universities, selected ICAR Institutes and voluntary organisations organised demonstration on improved farm technology, field days, farmers fairs, exhibitions etc. to propagate modern and new farm techniques. Regional rural youth workshops on specified farm technologies are also organised for updating technical know-how of the rural youths.

#### Programme on breeding of equines

8089. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the Centrally sponsored programme undertaken for the development/improvement of indigenous breeds of equines; and

(b) the annual financial allocation made for the purpose during 1986-87 and proposed for 1987-88 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme (50 : 50 basis) for providing financial assistance to the States for, among other things, establishment/development of equine breeding farms of indigenous breeds of horses has been undertaken during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) During 1986-87, Rs. 5 lakhs was allocated for the programme and the proposed allocation for 1986-88 is Rs. 26 lakhs.

#### Coconut production in Kerala

8090. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :