FARMING SITUTION BASED EXTENSION

- A major challenge - effective involvement of farmers in the extension and research programs
- Farmers do not adopt many new ideas largely because they do not take into account all the factors influencing the farmer’s decision to accept an innovation.

Approach and analysis of NARP Concept

- Under the National Agricultural research project (NARP) -126 agro-climatic zones
- Even within a NARP zone, crops are grown / managed under a number of situations
- Variation in rainfall, soil type and source of irrigation, Variation in soil type in terms of structure, texture, soil depth, soil reaction, drainage, landscape and variation in moisture regime linked with both rainfall and irrigation are the major considerations in delineating situations

Crop / Enterprise Based Research and Extension

- ***Analysis of major situations of a crop (within a given agro-climatic zone)***
- ***Re-synthesis of the technological package of the crop (under each crop situation) through a joint effort of researchers, extensionists and farmers***
- ***Assessment of gap in the adoption of technology and using it as the basis for working out the required extension strategy***

Table 2 : Type of situation in castor crop in Mahaboobnagar district (Andhra Pradesh)

Sowing time	Rainfed condition			Irrigated condition
	Normal field	RHC endemic field	Root-wilt endemic field	
Early		1	-	-
Normal	2	-	4	5
Late		3	-	-

- Agricultural research can be done in laboratories and experimental fields but agricultural technologies can be developed only in farmer fields. Since technology has both economic and ecological dimensions, technologies have to be location specific to be ecologically, economically and culturally sustainable” *(Swaminathan 1989)*.

Re-synthesis of technological package

Table 4 : **Specific technological packages for different farming situations of castor in Ranga Reddy district (AP) during 1992.**

S. N	Item	Technology package for different situations*				
		1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sowing time	End of May	End of June	End of July	End of June	End of June
2.	Variety	Aruna	GCH-1	Aruna	48-1	Gauch-1
3.	Seed rate (kg/ha)	10	5	10	10	5
4.	Seed method	Row planting	Square system	Row planting	Row planting	Square system
5.	Spacing (cm)	60 x 20	60 x 20	60 x 20	60 x 20	90 x 90
6.	Fertilizer (k/ha)					
	Basal / dressing					
	- N	18	18	28	18	18
	- P_2O_5	46	46	28	46	46
	Top dressing (N)	20	2		20	40

S. N	Item	Technology package for different situations*				
		1	2	3	4	5
7.	Method of fertilization	Furrow	Pocketing	Furrow	Furrow	Pocketing
		placement	Method	placement	placement	method
8.	Pest/disease control					
	RHC	Bon fire	-	Bon fire	-	-
		Vegetative		Vegetative		
		trap		trap		
	Semilooper	Broad cast	Broad cast	-	Broad cast	Broad cast
		cooked rice	cooked rice		cooked rice	cooked rice
	Bihar hairy caterpillar	-	-	Hand picking	-	
	Root wilt	-	-	-	1.Tolerant	1.Tolerant
					variety	Hybrid
					2. Longer	2. Longer
					rotation	rotation
					3.Avoid	3.Avoid
					FYM	FYM

- Refer table 2 regarding details of crop situations

The gap in adoption is due to:

Critical inputs : ***It consists of those components of technological package which require*** *cash investment and which are not being currently adopted by the farmers*

Critical practices : It consists of those improved cultural practices which are not being *followed by farmers and which can normally be implemented through the family labour or draft power.*

Conclusion

Farming Situation Based Extension concept can be usefully applied in narrowing down the gap in adoption by re-synthesizing the standardized recommendations emanated from university research by involving farmers, extensionists and researchers.

As such a crop specific and farmer driven technological recommendation can be developed, besides an extension strategy to bridge the knowledge and skill gap can also be framed thus making the job of extension worker more easy and meaningful.