

PREFACE

The Training and Visit system of extension in agriculture has covered several million farming families in many developing countries. It was first introduced in 1967 in Turkey by Daniel Benor for cotton and wheat crops. In India this particular system of extension has been introduced through the World Bank during 1974 in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In mid seventies, it was initially introduced in six Districts of West Bengal. Later on the T & V System has been adopted in all other districts of this state and as principal means of agricultural extension. An analysis of several extension approaches adopted previously shows that the extension services in India failed to satisfy the need of the farming masses.

The unique approach of Training and Visit system is that it is a systematic time bound programme of training and visits of field extension workers combined with specified working schedules and close supervisions. Through this research work an attempt has been made to examine the knowledge, attitude and response of the farmers in terms of their contact with KPS and adoption of agricultural innovations. Efforts have been made to examine the credibility of this particular system of agricultural extension in transforming traditional agricultural practices in two Districts of northern parts of West Bengal.

I record my profound gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. R.S. Mukhopadhyay, Reader, Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, North Bengal University for his valuable guidance, scholarly suggestions, inculcating an aptitude for research in me and above all his immense fatherly tolerance.

I am equally grateful to Debkumar Sarkar, Nikhilesh Pandey, Asis Sarkar, the three senior Agricultural Officers, Gout. of W.B. and Niharda, Senior lecturer, B.C.K.V. for their sagacious advice and prompt help. I place on record my gratefulness to my Colleagues of Dept. of Agriculture from whom I received ever willing help.

I acknowledge my heartfelt thanks to Sri Sandip Kumar Kedia, alumnus of North Bengal University for typing of the manuscript.

I wish to acknowledge my debt to the farming people of North Bengal who provided hospitality and vital information during the field work.

It is indeed a pleasure to express thank to my daughter Suku, son Pochu and wife for the active assistance and the constant inspiration. I am deeply beholden to my wife.

At last, but not the least , I owe a great debt to my parents, uncles, brothers, sisters, all my relatives and in-laws for their selfless sacrifices, silent blessings, love and constant encouragement during my academic carrier.

*Asis Bandyopadhyay 12
Asis Bandyopadhyay 4/24*