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# How sustainable are the watershed management program in Tamil Nadu?

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## Abstract

Unawareness and slow adoption of conservation farming practices in India are a matter of prime concern in the ongoing scenario of climate variability and farm vulnerability. To address this, Integrated Watershed Development Project (IWDP), is being piloted in several locations as one of the measures of sustainability. Water conservation and soil conservation aspects are two eyes of this program. This study deals with evaluating the impact of conservational objectives of IWDP in Thiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu. It is focused on the involvement of user groups and the adoption of conservation practices. The factors influencing the contribution of user groups have been interpreted using Probit model. Green index has also been constructed to understand the impact of conservation measures of IWDP in increasing the productivity and sustainability of the local natural resource base. Willingness-To-Pay of farmers has been analyzed using contingent valuation method (CVM). This would help in understanding the collective participation of farmers when the government support is withdrawn. It was found that emphasize given for enhancement of human capital through practical, farmer-led training and extension is ineffective and it has to be intensified further. This will enable farmers to incorporate conservation technologies in their farming systems resulting in desirable outcomes for rural development, livelihood security and environmental sustainability.

## Biography

B.Swaminathan and K.C.Siva Balan are Ph.D scholars of Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Extension departments respectively in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The duo has published a number of research articles in various journals and attended many national and international conferences. Siva Balan is also a radio jockey by passion. G. Gautham is currently pursuing his MBA degree from the same university. An avid hockey player, he also tries his hand at various management quizzes, meets and conferences with aplomb.