Factors Affecting the Success of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

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The GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) program has been initiated by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) as a solution for the overuse of fertilizer and agrochemicals while increasing the production and marketing standards of agricultural commodities. Although the GAP has been given wide publicity, the issues faced by GAP producers have not been evaluated. Therefore, this study investigates the perception of GAP producers, factors affecting the level of adoption of GAP practices, achievement of intended outcomes by GAP producers, and technical efficiency (TE) of GAP producers. The necessary data was collected by surveying a random sample of 33 GAP farmers who cultivate snake guard, long bean, salad cucumber, and capsicum. The GAP farmers' perception was analyzed using descriptive analysis. GAP farmers have a positive perception of the overall benefits of the GAP program, income, farmgate price, and attraction of new markets, and a negative perception of financial support. The factors affecting to adoption level were analyzed by multiple linear regression. The information received and training received from DOA had a significant relationship with the adoption level of GAP. Of the surveyed GAP producers, 80% of snake guard, 71% of long bean 100% of salad cucumber and capsicum had lower costs of production compared to the DOA estimates. The TE is analyzed by stochastic frontier analysis. The technical efficiency ranged between 0.31 to 0.99 and the mean TE was 0.79 implying that there is a 21% scope of increasing the production without any additional inputs. The technical efficiency has been affected by the level of adoption and number of meetings per year with officers of DOA. The findings are useful for the further development of the SL-GAP program.

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