

Rapid Enumeration of SIPs and Diesel Pump Farmers in Pakistan

A rapid enumeration survey was conducted with SIP farmers between May-June 2021 to collect data for a group of farmers across three districts of Punjab in Pakistan. Chakwal, Jhang and Rahim Yar Khan districts were selected from Northern, Central and Southern parts of Punjab, respectively, as they were the districts with the highest number of SIP farmers for whom contact details were available. A total of 624 farmers were interviewed, of which 315 were solar and 309 were non-solar farmers. The respondents were asked a host of questions on their existing cropping patterns and irrigation practices, viz., information on the source of irrigation water, types and characteristics of pumps used, sources of water for SIPs, etc.

Among the main findings from the survey, it was found that 586 out of 624 farmers used only one irrigation pump, and 284 out of 315 SIP farmers were using SIP pumps only. In terms of types of produce, 73% of farmers were growing only field crops, whereas only 8% of farmers grew orchards crops. It was found that only 2% of farmers reported using drip irrigation, whereas 56.2% of SIP farmers reported using flood irrigation, and another 36.2% chose not to respond. All SIP farmers mentioned that SIPs were installed on groundwater tube wells. 85% of the SIP farmers interviewed (315) used their own finances to install SIPs, while only 3% of SIP farmers took loans, and another 3.5% used some sort of government subsidy to install them. Work is underway to produce a comprehensive report based on the results.