<u>**2007-08**</u>

Strategies for Improving the Performance of Farming Systems in Rainfed Areas

Rainfed farming continues to be the key for future development of agriculture in the country. Keeping in view the importance of developing rainfed areas, the present study was conducted with the following objectives:

Objectives

1. To clarify the concept of rainfed farming
2. To document the initiatives undertaken to support farmers in rainfed areas
3. To understand the profile of farmers in the rainfed areas
4. To study the access to inputs, technical services and advisory support among the farmers in rainfed areas
5. To explore the types of farming systems being followed by the farmers and examine their level of performance in the rainfed areas
6. To understand the constraints faced by the farmers in rainfed agriculture along with their suggestions for improvement.
7. To suggest strategies for improving the performance of farmers in the rainfed areas.

The study covered 12 states in the country. Two villages from one block in each one of the districts in 12 states were selected based on certain rainfed area parameters. Twenty farmers representing marginal, small, medium and large farmer categories from each village were selected on random sampling basis. In all, the sample consisted of 480 farmers. The data was collected by personal interview through a pre-tested structured interview schedule. The data has been analysed and the results presented, relating to the profile of farmers in rainfed areas, access to inputs, extension and research by farmers, existing farming system practices being adopted, economics of farming systems alongwith the constraints and suggestions for improvement. The study also provides state specific recommendations for improving the performance of farmers in the rainfed areas.