Research Methodology for Agricultural Economics
The Author

Dr. K. Nirmal Ravi Kumar is presently working as an Associate Professor and Head (Agricultural Economics) in Agricultural College, Mahanandi in Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University. He had a brilliant academic career and he specialized in ‘Agricultural Marketing’ both in his post-graduate and doctoral programmes. He is actively involved both in agricultural research and teaching activities during the past twelve years in the University. He published 50 articles in popular agricultural journals. He also contributed two technical bulletins on economic aspects of irrigation water management highlighting the research priorities in major irrigation commands of Andhra Pradesh and need based technological interventions to address the same during his active stint in “Andhra Pradesh Water Management Project”, an international project funded by The Royal Netherlands Embassy. His interested areas include International trade of Indian agriculture, Farming systems approach, Irrigation water management etc. The following are the other major contributions (books) by the same author:

- Indian Agriculture in the 21st Century – Challenges and Opportunities
- World Trade Agreement and Indian Agriculture – Implementation Experience
- Microeconomic Analysis in Agriculture in 2 Vols (Set)
- Objective Agricultural Economics (Two Editions)
- Farmers Indebtedness in India – An Economic Analysis
- Agricultural Marketing in 2 Vols (Set)
- Methodology for Social Sciences Research in Agriculture
- Agricultural Production Economics
- Farm Managerial Economics
- Encyclopedia of Rural Management
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K. Nirmal Ravi Kumar
Associate Professor and Head (Agricultural Economics)
Agricultural College,
Mahanandi

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– Dedicated to –
Late K. RAMA CHANDRA RAO
Foreword

Research methods and procedures are more or less similar across several branches of social sciences. Researchers carry out research either on fundamental aspects or on applied aspects and whatever the case may be, it requires a scientific methodology to be followed in executing the activities in the project. Hence, a sound methodology for executing the research activities is dispensable for the researchers. In this context, this text book is more than a theoretical discussion of research and its methodology. In addition to the theoretical discussion, the practical concepts of research relating to ‘how-to-get-it-done’ were also thoroughly analyzed in this book. In this context, this text book ‘Research Methodology for Agricultural Economics’ will provide an opportunity to the researchers to apply those matters that have been discussed. It makes the researchers to go into the field and to observe research and to evaluate it. As we learn by doing, this book will make the researcher to practically execute the research activities right from initial conception of the problem till the final submission of the report. I complement the sincere efforts of Dr. K. Nirmal Ravi Kumar in bringing out this text book duly considering the latest syllabi, as prescribed by the IV Deans’ Committee recommendations appointed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This text book is written in a style intended to provide basic, practical knowledge and techniques for the benefit of the students and also help the students especially, who are untrained and under trained in the methodological aspects of doing research in general and agro-economic research in particular. I hope this text book will be very useful.
and instructive for the post-graduates and doctoral students of Agricultural Economics, who engage in research activities during their respective course programmes. It will also be of immense use for the Academicians, as it harbours standard and updated material pertaining to the concepts of Research Methodology.

(Y. Eswara Prasad)
It is a noted fact that, research in social sciences continues to lag behind than the research in natural sciences. This calls for designing suitable methodologies in the execution of research activities in social sciences, especially in the agro-economic related concepts. Agro-economic research is gaining immense significance now, especially in the context of meeting the economic welfare of the farming community. This requires clarity both in terms of theoretical orientation and in practical execution of concepts in different research activities for the welfare of farming community and other relevant stakeholders. Hence, the knowledge pertaining to the methodological issues in agro-economic research is very much essential, as they make the learners more refined in executing the research projects at the grass root level. It is essential that, the knowledge on these issues will not only benefit the scientific community in identifying and addressing the prioritized researchable issues, but also help the fresh students in having a thorough understanding about the importance of this subject in their future scientific activities. In this context, this text book on ‘Research Methodology for Agricultural Economics’ deserves a special mention, as it harbours and dealt with all the basic concepts in a practical and applicable approach for the scientific execution of agro-economic research. This text book also provides
an opportunity to understand the basic concepts on Research Methodology and thus, even help the Academicians for explaining them to their students. Considering these efforts made in this text book, I complement Dr. K. Nirmal Ravi Kumar in bringing out this important and timely publication. Further, it contains an up-dated and standard material on the various aspects of Research Methodology duly covering the latest syllabi as prescribed by the several State Agricultural Universities in India.

(K. RAJA REDDY)
Dean of PG Studies
Author’s Note

I consider this as a bold attempt to present a comprehensive text material on the fundamental aspects of Research Methodology for Agricultural Economics. With a limited experience in the field of research (5 years) and in teaching (6 years) in the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, I will not dare enough to make a tall claim regarding the originality of the material incorporated in this text book entitled, ‘Research Methodology for Agricultural Economics’, but I certainly admit that, the concepts are dealt in-detail in a lucid form, so as to enable the students and Academicians to learn, understand and conceptualize the same. The present volume can serve as a standardized text book for the post-graduates and doctoral students, who wish to pursue their career in the field of Agricultural Economics in different State Agricultural Universities.

This task of writing and publishing the text book both on the theoretical and practical concepts of ‘Research Methodology for Agricultural Economics’ has been one of the most challenging and satisfying experiences of my life. Finally, last but by no means least, a grateful kiss goes to my wife, Meena, my son, Sri Ram, my brother, Vijay and cheerful thanks to my mother Janaki for their love and support. Their devotion, patience and understanding were indispensable. I gratefully dedicate this
piece of work to my late father, Sri. K. Rama Chandra Rao, who instilled in me at an early age the importance of education and the value of hard work. I only wish you could have been here to see me finish the journey I started with your efforts and initiatives. I know you would have been so proud.

K. Nirmal Ravi Kumar
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