

ABSTRACT

Pigeon Pea Variety Acceptance: An Analysis of Research and Adoption Issues in Trinidad and Tobago

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This study investigates the research and extension issues which pertain to the adoption of improved varieties of the pigeon pea, *Cajanus cajan* L. Millsp. in Trinidad and Tobago. It employs a four-faceted methodology.

By way of an historical-descriptive analysis, it was discovered that earlier efforts (pre-1962) have produced an improved form of a variety which is more popular among growers. Two features viz. "Evenness of Ripening" and "Large Seed Size" attest this fact.

A survey of growers in three locations has revealed that farmers are inclined to procure seeds from previous harvests and friends and neighbours. Earlier types are annually reintroduced this way.

An appropriate Extension method is absent and this has retarded technology transfer. This was also the finding of Henderson (1964) and recent Rapid Reconnaissance (Sondeo) investigations (1990).

Twelve case studies were developed by introducing growers to a new variety: UW10. This helped to determine how the technology would fit into current farming systems.

Three of the twelve sold profitable yields. Those growers who followed more recommended practices were more successful.

Fourthly, interactive constructs were proposed and measured from a co-orientational analysis of the views of farmers, extension officers and scientists. These were as follows: Understanding, Accuracy, Congruency and Peer Agreement. Their measurements were patterned from a study by Groot (1970) who worked with rice growers in the Philippines. The interaction described and measured seemed adequate to facilitate an Extension process in the transfer of new technologies related to pigeon pea cultivation .

This study concluded with eleven major recommendations to guide the efforts of future research-extension linkages. It proposed five objectives for the Faculty of Agriculture's (UWI) grain legume programme with respect to pigeon pea cultivation.