

# CURRENT ISSUES IN CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD POLICY

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## **Use of Information Sources by the Resource-Poor Farmers in Receiving Information Related to Cultivation of Selected Winter Vegetables**

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The purpose of the study was to ascertain the extent of use of information sources by the resource-poor farmers in receiving farm information in selected winter vegetables cultivation. Attempt was also made to explore the relationship between the use of information sources by the farmers and their selected characteristics. The characteristics were age, level of education, family size, farm size, winter vegetable cultivation area, annual income, organizational participation, innovativeness, opinion towards improved winter vegetables cultivation, cosmopolitaness and agricultural knowledge of the resource-poor farmers. Banskhali, a coastal and vulnerable upazila under Chittagong district in Bangladesh was selected as a locale of the study. Data were collected from 100 randomly selected resource-poor farmers from a total of 650, those who were related to winter vegetable cultivation. Data collection took 48 days from December 27, 1994 to February 12, 1995. Seventy five percent of the respondents had medium use while the rest (25%) had high use of information sources in receiving information related to winter vegetable cultivation. Usually the resource-poor farmers preferred localize sources of information.

Majority of the resource-poor farmers, such as 79% and 59% considered the available information sources as medium useful and medium credible respectively in providing farm information at the time of need. As regard relationships, level of education, organizational participation, opinion towards improved winter vegetable cultivation, cosmopolitaness and agricultural knowledge of the farmers had significant relationship with their extent of use of information sources. The farmers also identified some of the problems such as, inadequate farm and home visits by the extension agents, lack of appropriate technologies related to use of fertilizer and insecticides by the resource-poor farmers, high price of inputs and inadequate demonstration activities in the field were major obstacles, and confronted by the farmers in receiving information. Several recommendations along with facilitating successful use of available information sources have been emphasized.