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PROBLEMS FACED BY THE AGRICULTURISTS IN CHITTOOR DISTRICT

C. CHITTI BABU

Research Scholar, UGC-HRDC, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

Dr. P. KOTHANDARAMI REDDY

Associate Professor, UGC-HRDC, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati

Abstract

The problems of Indian farmers are even bigger than what government anticipates. No one thinks agriculture as a respectful profession anymore. Gone are the days when people used to prefer farming over government job. Agriculture has become the most important occupation of our country. The development of agriculture turned to be a boon to the human civilization as it also gave way to its development. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the entire economy. It has been associated with the production of essential food crops. It is the basic source of food supply of all the countries of the world. It is the backbone of the economic system of the country. In providing food and raw material, it also provides employment opportunities to very large percentage of the population. Groundnut, fruits and vegetable, paddy and sugarcane occupied the first four ranks among the crops in the Chittoor district. Agriculturists still face a lot of problems in every walk of life which affects the pace of socio-economic development and their sustainability and livelihood. They invest all financial resources, but they are unable to generate enough production of cultivations. The present article made an attempt to elevate the problems faced by the agriculturists in Chittoor district.

Keywords: *Agriculture, Development, Problems, Production and Sustainability.*

Introduction

Agriculture has become the most important occupation of our country. The development of agriculture turned to be a boon to the human civilization as it also gave way to their development. Agriculture plays a crucial role in the entire economy. It has been associated with the production of essential food crops. It is the basic source of food supply of all the countries of the world. It is the backbone of the economic system of the country. In

providing food and raw material, it also provides employment opportunities to very large percentage of the population. Groundnut, fruits and vegetable, paddy and sugarcane occupied the first four ranks among the crops in the Chittoor district. Agriculturists still faces a lot of problems in every walk of life which affects the pace of socio-economic development and their sustainability and livelihood. They invest all financial resources, but they are unable to generate enough

production of cultivations. Agriculture is the chief occupation of the people in the Chittoor district. So the study of crop farming and its planning is of considerable importance. The confusing diversity of agricultural practice and pattern of crop farming is due to variations in topographical, agro- climatic, cultural, socio-economic and technological conditions.

Cropping pattern indicates that the spatial crop sequence in given area at a particular time of point. Cropping pattern may be defined as spatial and hierarchical order of areal unit association of different crops at a point of time in particular area. These types of analysis help to identify the most important crops of the area and the areal differentiation in the diversified agricultural economics. The cropping pattern is an ever changing phenomenon. The appearance of new high yielding and hybrid varieties are likely to change the entire picture of agriculture. In crops land distribution leads to evolve future crop, planning and orientation of agriculture. Kharif and Rabi are the two important growing seasons in the study area, however Kharif season is dominating one. Out of the total cropped area, more than 70 per cent of the cropped area comes under Kharif season remaining percentage of cropped area is under the Rabi season. In general Rabi crop has been practicing in potential irrigated source areas. Since Chittoor district has diversity in geographical location, a considerable number of crops are cultivated.

The problems of Indian farmers are even bigger than what government anticipates. No one thinks agriculture as a respectful profession anymore. Gone are the days when people used to prefer farming over government job. Now even farmers don't want their kids to become a farmer. Young people going away from farming. Many farmers are not in farming by choice but because it's the only way they can earn their bread. Many have no knowledge of recent agriculture developments. They still rely on the knowledge passed over their ancestors. So awareness about new developments is very much necessary in Chittoor district.

Farmers lack motivation. It becomes quite clear from the fact that sometimes they do have the knowledge but they don't want to try any new crop because they think what if this crop turns out bad. They want to be on safer side. They don't want to take risks. Small

farmers can't even afford risks. In this scenario assurance from government comes as great help. There are schemes but the implementation is not proper. Recently union government has announced that farmers can claim insurance even if only 30 per cent of crop is damaged, previously it was 50 per cent. This is indeed a good step which will definitely help the farmers but it's more important to ensure that they get the insurance money in time. A small farmer invests all of his money in the hope that this season he would have enough grain to go through the year but when the crops goes bad, he loses everything so it's necessary to ensure that he gets the money before the next crop.

Water supply is the significant factor in farming. Rain is also an important source. In our country, the supply of water is based on the amount of rainfall. Farmers suffer a lot due to the scarcity of water. Because of this, the yielding field reduced. 53 per cent farmers faced water problems. The ratio of ground water level decreases, even the water scarcity continues after constructing bore well. Due to the water scarcity, farmers can't able to get high yielding of crops. If the amount of rainfall increases, they can get high water supply decreases, due to less rainfall so that production of crops will be reduced automatically. Farmers faced number of problems and suffered due to declining crop yields, widening yield gaps in comparison with best yields in the Chittoor district, increasing prices of agriculture inputs resulting in increased cost of cultivation and changes associated with climate variability.

Nearly one-third of the Indian GDP is contributed by agriculture practices. It is the source of income and job for the major part of country. India is known as the land of farming. There are some challenges that these farmers have to face. It is not considered as a major profession. Most farmers are poor and many are not farmers by their choice but their family condition and education. Many farmers rely on the information passed by their ancestors which may be wrong. They have to work for whole year and if their crops get damaged they are left with debt and different problems. Usually these farmers take loans from their local zamindars to survive and end up losing their land because they could not return the loan amount. Insufficient rain can ruin their crops. Rice cultivation requires three times more water. Many rely on diesel pumping for irrigation

which is costly. Soil, seed, manure, insects, crop damage, these are some major problems that could occur in farming.

Objective of the Study

To study the Problems and Challenges faced by the Agriculturists in Chittoor district.

Methodology

The primary data for the present study are collected through the problems of agriculturists, sample investigation with the help of a structured schedule of questions in selected villages in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. Chittoor district has been divided into three revenue divisions namely Chittoor, Tirupati and Madanapalli revenue divisions. It

has been observed that the researcher selected one village in each revenue division in Chittoor district about the problems of agriculturists.

The researcher has taken totally 440 samples of agriculturists in selected villages in Chittoor district. A sample of 170 agriculturists in Samudrapalle in Chittoor division has been taken. Gollavaripalem in Tirupati division a sample of 200 agriculturists has been taken and 70 agriculturists in Chinthamakulapalle in Madanapalli division has been taken as sample. Farming related problems and challenges faced by the agriculturists selected villages in Chittoor district in Table.1

Farming related Problems & Challenges faced by the Agriculturists in Chittoor district (%)

Problems	Samudrapalle in Chittoor division	Gollavaripalem in Tirupati division	Chinthamakulapalle in Madanapalli division	All Chittoor district
Inadequate Irrigation Facility	62 (36.47)	73 (36.50)	18 (25.71)	153 (34.77)
Loan Crisis	19 (11.18)	21 (10.50)	9 (12.86)	49 (11.14)
Declining Crop Productivity	12 (7.05)	14 (7.00)	8 (11.43)	34 (7.73)
Inadequate Availability of Fertilizer	9 (5.30)	11 (5.50)	7 (10.00)	27 (6.14)
Costly Agricultural Inputs	16 (9.41)	19 (9.50)	8 (11.43)	43 (9.76)
Poor Quality & Inadequate Availability of Seed	8 (4.71)	10 (5.00)	4 (5.71)	22 (5.00)
Inadequate price of produced grain	14 (8.24)	15 (7.50)	5 (7.14)	34 (7.73)
Lack of market for sale of grown products	12 (7.05)	13 (6.50)	5 (7.14)	30 (6.82)
Lack of Skill and Knowledge of Modern Agriculture	7 (4.11)	11 (5.50)	3 (4.29)	21 (4.77)
Disasters and Climate Change	11 (6.48)	13 (6.50)	3 (4.29)	27 (6.14)
Total	170 (100)	200 (100)	70 (100)	440 (100)

Source: primary data

From the above table.1 the problem of inadequate irrigation facility is 62 agriculturists in Samudrapalle in Chittoor division, 73 agriculturists in Gollavaripalem in Tirupati division and 18 agriculturists in Chinthamakulapalle in Madanapalli division in Chittoor district. The percentages of Samudrapalle are 36.47 per cent, 36.50 per cent in Gollavaripalem and 25.71 per cent in Chinthamakulapalle. Overall Chittoor district is

34.77 per cent. Agriculturists facing poor quality and inadequate availability of seed as 8 agriculturists in Samudrapalle and it has 4.71 per cent, Gollavaripalem there are 10 agriculturists and it has 5.00 per cent and Chinthamakulapalle there are 4 agriculturists and it has 5.71 per cent. In overall Chittoor district 22 agriculturists and it has 5.00 per cent. Lack of Skill and knowledge of modern agriculture was 7 consider farmer for

agriculturist in Samudrapalle, 11 agriculturists in Gollavaripalem and 3 agriculturists in Chinthamakulapalle and 4.11 per cent is in Samudrapalle 5.50 per cent in Gollavaripalem and 4.29 in Chinthamakulapalle. Overall Chittoor district is 4.77 per cent.

Conclusion

Agriculture is gambling of nature, farmers have to change their cropping pattern and methods of farm in the Chittoor district to maintain sustainability in agricultural sector. The technical improvements have changed the traditional system and pattern of agriculture. Sometime farmers receives low price for their crops. There is no pricing policy followed by

the government to the development of cultivation. So the Government should set reasonable prices for cultivation to develop the farmer's standard of living. Use of modern techniques, crop insurance, provision of credit facilities, basic infrastructure and research facilities are needed to remove the problems of cultivation in future.

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