

Original Research Article

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Profile of Farmers about Schemes for Doubling Farm Income

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Latur and Osmanabad district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state in latur district out of ten tehsils two tehsils where selected randomly namely Latur and Chakur and in Osmanabad district out of eight tehsils two tehsils where selected randomly namely Osmanabad and Kalamb. For the purpose of study 2 villages from each selected tehsils, (Total 2 X 4 = 8) were selected randomly for the selection of respondents. Thus total 8 villages were selected for study. From each selected village, 15 farmers were selected randomly. In this way, a total of 120 farmers (Total 8 X 15 = 120) were considered as respondent for the present study. These selections were done by using simple random sampling method for the purpose of the study. The result of profile of farmers observed that majority (66.66%) respondents belonged to middle age category, more than one third (42.50 %) of the respondents belonged to secondary education, majority (65.83 %) of the respondents were engaged in farming only, majority (56.66 %) of the respondents were possessing 1.01 to 2.00 ha of land and belonged to small farmers category while farming experience (64.17 %), 54.17 percent of beneficiaries had high annual income (above 1,49,175), while awareness about the crop insurance scheme (59.17%) then 40.00 per cent had depend upon well as main source of irrigation,76.67 percent had medium social participation, 65.83 percent had medium used mass media exposure, while 72.50 percent belongs to medium extension contact category, 67.50 percent belong to medium risk orientation category and economic motivation (70.83%).

Keywords

Doubling Farm Income, Age, Education, Crop Insurance

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Introduction

India is still an agrarian economy and a single bad monsoon takes toll on entire economy. Agriculture plays a vital role in India's economy. Over 58.00 per cent of the rural households depend on agriculture as their principal means of livelihood in India. Agriculture along with fisheries and forestry,

contributes to more than 16.00 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of country. However the growth in the agriculture sector in 2015-16 continued to be lower than the average of the last decade. Data suggests growth in farm income after 2011-12 has plummeted to more than one per cent, and has been reason for the sudden rise in agrarian distress in recent years. The 12th Five Year

plan (2012-17) had targeted 04.00 per cent growth rate, however the rate of growth of Agricultural GDP has been around 02.00 per cent against the targeted 4 per cent. If by any measure agriculture has to grow at 04.00 per cent during the 12 Plan as projected, then agriculture growth must accelerate to 08.00 per cent, which means are going to miss on 12 plans by quite a long distance. Announcing the target of doubling farmer's income by 2022, the Hon'ble Finance Minister (FM) in his Union Budget Speech 2016-17, had highlighted the need to think beyond food security of the country and to focus on income security of the farmer.

To study the awareness of schemes for doubling farm income in Marathwada region this study is important. As compared to western Maharashtra, farmers in Marathwada region are laggards. Climatic condition is hot and less rainfall are the major causes. In this situation for doubling of farmers income Govt. are implementing many schemes. It is necessary to see whether farmers are giving response or not, and to study the major obstacles in receiving and implementing scheme.

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out in the Latur and Osmanabad districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. The Latur district is situated on the Balaghat Plateau, about 540 meters to 638 meters from the mean sea level and Osmanabad district lies in the southern part of state. It lies on the Deccan plateau, about 600 m above sea level 540 meters to 638 meters from the mean sea level. The total area of Latur district is 7371 sq.km and the total area of Osmanabad district is 7569 sq. km. the total population of Latur district is 2,454,196 and total population of Osmanabad district is 1,657,576 (2011 census). In Latur district, Manjira is the main river which flows

on the Balaghat plateau along with its tributaries: Terna, Tawarja and Gharni and Osmanabad district is Parts of the Sina, Manjira and Terna River flow through the district.

The present investigation was carried out in two randomly selected districts out of the total 8 districts of Marathwada region namely Latur and Osmanabad district. In Latur district out of ten tehsils two tehsils were selected randomly namely Latur and Chakur and in Osmanabad district out of eight tehsils two tehsils were selected randomly namely Osmanabad and Kalamb. For the purpose of study 2 villages from each selected tehsils, (Total $2 \times 4 = 8$) were selected randomly for the selection of respondents. Thus total 8 villages were selected for study. From each selected village, 15 farmers were selected randomly. In this way, a total of 120 farmers (Total $8 \times 15 = 120$) were considered as respondent for the present study. These selections were done by using simple random sampling method for the purpose of the study.

Results and Discussion

Profile of the farmers

The distributional analysis pertaining to age of the farmers indicated that, slightly more than two third (66.66 %) of respondents belonged to middle age group. It was found that, more than one third (42.50%) of the respondents were educated up to secondary school level. It was observed that majority (65.83%) of respondents are engaged in agriculture as main occupation. It was found that, a majority (56.66%) respondent belongs to small land holding category. It was found that, majority (64.17%) of the beneficiaries had medium farming experience. It was observed that, more than half (54.17%) of beneficiaries had high annual income (above 1,49,175). It was observed that majority (59.17%) farmers have

medium awareness about the crop insurance scheme. It was observed that, majority (40.00%) of respondents depend upon well as main source of irrigation. It was observed that, slightly less than three fourth (76.67%) of respondents had medium social participation. It was observed that, majority (65.83 %) of the respondents had medium used mass media exposure. It was found that;

majority (72.50%) of respondents belongs to medium extension contact category. It was found that, majority (67.50%) of the respondents belong to medium risk orientation category. It was found that, majority (70.83%) of the respondents belong to medium level of economic motivation category (Table 1).

Table.1 Profile of the farmers n= 120

Profile characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	Young age (Up to 36 year)	18	15
	Middle age (between 36 to 57 year)	80	66.66
	Old age (Above 57 year)	22	18.34
Education	Illiterate	2	1.67
	Primary education (1 st to 4 th)	13	10.83
	Secondary education (5 th to 10 th)	51	42.5
	Higher education (11 th - 12 th)	29	24.17
	Graduation	25	20.84
Occupation	Farming Labour	01	0.84
	Farming	79	65.83
	Farming + livestock	20	16.67
	Farming + Service	10	08.33
	Farming + Business	10	08.33
Land Holding	Marginal (Up to 1 Ha.)	12	10.00
	Small (1.01 to 2.00 Ha.)	68	56.66
	Medium (2.01 to 4.00 Ha.)	28	23.33
	Semi Medium (4.01 to 10.00 Ha.)	12	10.00
	Big (10.00 Ha. Above)	00	00.00
Farming experience	Low (Up to 15)	27	22.50
	Medium (between 15 to 40)	77	64.17
	High (above 40)	16	15.83
Annual Income	Low (Up to 45,825)	1	00.83
	Medium (between 45,825 – 1,49,175)	54	45.00
	High (Above 1,49,175)	65	54.17
Crop Insurance	Low (up to 2)	27	22.50
	Medium (2-7)	71	59.17
	High (Above 7)	22	18.33
Irrigation Facilities	River	0	00.00
	Pond	5	4.17
	Well	48	40.00
	Bore Well	34	28.33

	Farm Pond	12	10.00
	Dam	0	00.00
	Canal	2	1.67
	None of these	19	15.83
Social Participation	Low (Up to 4)	14	14
	Medium (between 4 to 9)	92	92
	High (Above 9)	14	14
Mass media exposure	Low (Up to 6)	25	20.83
	Medium (6-12)	79	65.83
	High (Above 12)	16	13.33
Extension Contact	Low (Up to 14)	20	16.67
	Medium (14 to 22)	87	72.50
	High (22 & above)	13	10.83
Risk Orientation	Low (Up to 20)	29	24.17
	Medium (20 to 23)	81	67.50
	High (23 & above)	10	08.33
Economic motivation	Low (Up to 21)	28	23.33
	Medium (between 21 to 24)	85	70.83
	High (Above 24)	07	05.84

In conclusion the study indicated that, the profile of the farmers of schemes for Doubling Farm Income concluded from the present study that majorities of the respondents were having medium level of age, secondary school level of education, majority of the respondents had agriculture as a main occupation, small land holding category, medium farming experience and high annual income, medium awareness about crop insurance, well as a irrigation source, medium social participation, medium mass media exposure, medium extension contact, medium risk orientation, medium economic motivation.

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