

Socio- Economic Problems of Farmers in India: Focused Area Jammu and Kashmir District Udhampur

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Abstract: India is an agricultural country where more than 70% population directly depends on agriculture and the remaining depends indirectly on agriculture. 'Kisaano ki Samridhi' the well being of farmers is vital to the nations prosperity. kisan is the sentinel of our food security. Agriculture sector is the soul of Indian economy and for the people of India. Agriculture is the principle source of livelihood for more than 58% of the population of this country. India is home to an extraordinary variety of climatic regions, ranging from tropical in the south to temperate and alpine in the Himalyan north, where elevated regions receive sustained winter snowfall. In Jammu and Kashmir, Udhampur district is situated in the south eastern part where Maize, Rice, wheat, are dominant crops. The study on socio economic conditions of Farmers in said district was under taken with prime objective to focus on existing problem of Farmers in the field of agriculture.

Key Words: Maize, Wheat, Rice, Agriculture, Indian Crop.

1. INTRODUCTION:

The present study was undertaken in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir state is predominantly an agrarian economy with about 80% of its population engaged in agriculture and allied sectors. Udhampur district is situated in south eastern part of J&K state and is bounded in the west by Rajouri district in the North by Anantnag district, in the North east by Doda district, in the south east by Kathua district and in the South west by Jammu district. The agroclimatic zones of Udhampur district ranges from 600m to 3000 m. Thus cultivation of crop is possible round the year. The farmers have very small holdings ranging from 1 to 2 hectare with poor economic conditions. As per 2011 census, the population of the district is 870071 persons, which are about 6.93% of the total state population. The percentage of urban population is only 29.15%. The rural and urban population is 525859 and 116627 respectively. The farmers of Udhampur are not facilitated with the necessary needs in agriculture field, and also other organization are taking keen interest to fulfill their needs, and farmers lead their more time of their life caring over the crop and desire to get maximum yield from crops but they are unaware from new manner of cultivating the crop. Also they don't know about modern machineries that can make earth good and to get maximum yield. It was observed in this study that though organization are taking interest to aware the farmers about new ways for cultivating good crops but mainly the farmers were ignorant about the use of new variety of seeds and modern methods of cultivation.

Agriculture makes its contribution to economic development in following ways:

- By providing food and raw material to non-agricultural sectors of the economy.
- By creating demand for goods produced in non-agricultural sectors.
- By providing investable surplus in the form of savings and taxes to be invested in non-agricultural sector.
- Earning valuable foreign exchange through the export of agricultural products and
- By providing employment to a vast army of uneducated, backward and unskilled labour.

Thus, Agriculture development has a significant impact on rural development. If productivity is increased in agriculture, it reduces poverty, provides increased consumption goods, stimulation confirm employment to the increase in income the standard of living of the rural people rises. They are able to get basic amenity as of life. Such as water supply, sanitation, provision of health and education facilities, village electrification, establishment of public call offices, roads etc,

2. MAJOR CROPS:

FOOD CROPS

Maize: Maize is an important food grain as well raw material for edible oil production. It is also used to produce starch and poultry food mixtyre. In Udhampur, it is the main kharif crop which comprises of 50.1% of the total cropped area other kharif crops viz Bajra is sown in small area.

RICE is sown in only 98.52 sq km (8.8%) especially in terraces deposits.

WHEAT constitutes 36.2% of the total cropped area.

Saffron, Almond, Pulses, Oilseeds, vegetables are also grown in Udhampur.

3. CAUSES OF LOW PRODUCTIVITY:

The problems of agriculture sector are varied and complex. Low productivity can not be attributed to any single factor. It is in fact a combination of number of factors. The main problems which are responsible for low production of agriculture can be categorised as

- (a) General factors
- (b) Institutional factors
- (c) Technological factors. These factors are now discussed briefly.

(a) General factors:

3.1 Socio-economic factors: The farmer's illiteracy, superstitious nature etc, stand in the way of adoption of modern technology and improving conditions of agriculture.

3.2 Natural factors: Natural factors play an important role in the growth of agriculture if the rain is timely, evenly distributed and there is no hail storm and attack of pests, the production is plentiful. Agriculture in short is the gamble of rain.

Fertilizer: shortage of fertilizer during cropping season and imbalanced use of fertilizers.

Inadequate irrigation facilities: agriculture is suffering from shortage of irrigation water. The supply of water through tube wells is quite expensive for the farmers.

(b) Institutional factors:

Small size of holdings: Due to the application of law of inheritance. The size of holding is first decreasing with the passage of time. The holding of two or less than two acres does not allow the use of mechanized method of cultivation. The fragmented and small size of holding is an important factor of low agricultural productivity in the country.

3.3 Technological factor:

Lack of mechanization: Though mechanization of agriculture is on the increase in India, yet in most of the area of Udhampur, the old implements are still being used for agricultural production.

Inadequate the supply of input: The supply of modern inputs like improved seeds, chemical, fertilizer, pesticides, mechanized and machinery etc, are not only costly but also inadequate and irregular. The inadequate availability of the modern inputs at the time and prices is also a hurdle in the expansion of agricultural production.

Lack of infrastructure facilities: There is lack of infrastructure facilities like farm to market, roads, shortage of transport, electricity etc, in the rural areas. The unsatisfactory provision of facilities stands in the way of agricultural growth.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To know the problems of farmers mostly they face.
- To know the role of Organization for the development of Agriculture.
- To find out the fact of irrigation system and irrigation water.

5. RESEARCH DESIGN:

Methodology: The type of this research is Exploratory based on qualitative and quantitative method conducted in this endemic area through interview schedule containing close ended questions.

Research Instrument tools and Techniques of data collection In this research face-to-face interviews by interview schedule method have been conducted..

Method of Sampling A random sampling method was used for the present study and samples were participants from Udhampur city and villages of Udhampur city, where more than seventy percent people related to agriculture. The sample consisted of 20 farmers of rural areas and 20 sample divided in the union council level of city.

Method of data collection Interview schedule (close ended question)

Universe: Udhampur, District: Jammu and Kashmir.

Targeted population: Farmers (male)

Size of Samples: 20 samples of farmers have been drawn.

6. RESULT:

1. Data shows that only 70% of farmers have their own land rest 10% were cultivating land lords' land.
2. Data shows that 20% of their land irrigated by irrigation water, and 80% irrigated by sub soil water.
3. Data shows that 60% is natural shortage of water, 10% irregularity of water, 10% responded any other reason of water shortage.
4. Data shows that 70% didn't have health facility and 30% responded yes they have.
5. Data shows that 70% have educational facility nearby, and 30% responded that they don't have.
- 6.. Data shows that 50% have problem of water shortage, 10% maternal health problem, 10% have shortage of pesticides and 20% responded any other reason of their problems.

7. CONCLUSION:

It is concluded from the finding that, mostly farmers face following problems, for example: Irrigated water problem, shortage of pesticide, and they are not facilitate with their basic facilities, education problem, social security. though various organizations are there for farmers yet farmers were unaware about the modern methods of farming.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Apiculture, mushroom, sericulture, floriculture can be taken up as additional source of income.
- Growing of pulses especially quality Rajmash, virus free potato seed, Aromatic and medicinal plants ,oilseeds, millets is suitable for dry land areas.
- A major part of rainfall takes place during short period of the year. It is recommended that rain water harvesting may be maintained properly so that this water will be used in the rest of the year.
- Planning for exploitation of groundwater should be made on the basis of local natural conditions of the area. Proper plantation in the catchment area of spring should be done.
- Awareness.
- Standard of education.
- Proper arrangement of irrigation water.
- Infrastructure and mechanization.

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