

A Study On Farmers Satisfaction Towards Agriculture Subsidy Schemes In Erode District

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture has been and will continue to be the backbone of the Indian economy for a long time. Agriculture provides a living for the vast majority of Indians and should never be overlooked. The future of agriculture is a critical issue for planners and all other stakeholders. The government and other organizations are attempting to address important agricultural difficulties in India, such as small farmer holdings, primary and secondary processing, and supply chain, infrastructure enabling effective resource use, and marketing by removing intermediaries in the market. We find that the majority of farmers are satisfied with the government's subsidies, particularly the fertilizer subsidy.

Keywords: *Agriculture, farmer's satisfaction, fertilizer subsidy,*

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture has been and will continue to be the backbone of the Indian economy for a long time. Agriculture provides a living for the vast majority of Indians and should never be overlooked. Its contribution to GDP has decreased to less than 20%, whereas other sectors' contributions have increased at a much higher rate, while agricultural production has increased. This has transformed us from a begging bowl for food after independence to a net exporter of agricultural and associated products. According to the second advance forecasts for 2019-20, total food grain production in the country would be a record 291.95 million tones. The market for inputs was impacted by policies towards privatization, liberalization, and globalization more quickly. After 2003, there were modifications made to agricultural marketing that allowed for private investment in emerging markets, contract farming, futures trading, and other things. Despite the lower rate of change, these marketing act revisions have resulted in certain adjustments. Numerous start-ups in the agricultural sector by highly educated young people demonstrate their ability to comprehend the enormous potential of investing resources and time in this industry. Over the next ten years, the combined influence of technology will alter how agriculture is practiced. The productivity and returns of agriculture are complicated by all the limitations, but the sector still has a significant untapped potential in India.

AGRICULTURE IN ERODE DISTRICT

Agriculture is essential to the district's economy because agriculture provide a living for the bulk of the population. The district accounts for 4.8% of the state's geographical area and 4.0% of its net cropped area. The district's cultivation intensity and irrigation area are 109% and 70.40%, respectively, compared to the state averages of 117% and 52.80%. The agricultural action in the district is strongly supported by perennial rivers, the two main rivers in the district being the Cauvery and the Bhavani. Sathyamangalam, Gobichettipalayam, and Erode taluks' agricultural industries greatly benefit from the river Bhavani. In the Bhavani taluk, irrigation services from the Cauvery River are only marginally available. Another river, the Noyyal, runs through the Erode Taluk, although it is extremely polluted and its water is not used for cultivation. Paddy, sugarcane, turmeric, banana, tapioca, groundnut, cotton, and tapioca are the main crops farmed in the district. The region is marked by a subtropical environment with moderate humidity and temperature that is part of the Southern Plateau and hills. Among the non-food crops, oil seeds constitute the major item. 55.23 % of the total area under non-food crops is accounted for by oil seeds. Ground-nut and sesame is the most popular oil-seed raised here. Among other non-food crops raised here, the most important items are cotton, sugarcane and tobacco, sugarcane. Cotton is grown in few hectares while tobacco is raised in 912 hectares in the district. In respect of all commercial crops also improved varieties have been adopted by the farmers and this has helped them to maintain high yields

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To identify the socioeconomic factors influencing farmers in Erode District.
2. To analyze farmers' satisfaction with agricultural development schemes in Erode District.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

V.P.S. Arora ²⁰¹³: It was determined that there are numerous issues to take into account while developing policies for environmental protection, farm productivity sustainability, etc. Uvaneswaran, S.M. Mohan Priya T. 2014: Crop insurance is better for large-scale farmers rather than small and medium-sized farmers because the premium is high and the coverage is minimal because in actual reality it doesn't operate as an instrument during the period of loss. Sasmita Patnaik and Mamata Swain 2016: According to the various needs of the farmers, several insurance programs such as crop, weather index, single peril, and revenue insurance must be offered. It is necessary to promote self-help organizations and microfinance organizations to offer agriculture insurance. 2017 T Snekalatha The majority of farmers, it was found, were happy with the services the State Bank of India offered in Tiruppur. Farmers need greater knowledge about the market conditions in order to maximize their marketing benefits. S. K. Jamanal, K. V. Natikar and S. V. Halakatti ²⁰¹⁹: The policy makers, insurance company, administrators etc should consider the satisfaction level of the farmers and try to improve the implementation of crop insurance scheme. V.Rajalakshmi²⁰¹⁹ The main purpose of the research paper is to investigate to the rural development schemes in India special reference to impact of MGNREGS in Vellore District in Tamil Nadu. From the findings of the research, it is found that MGNREGS has increased employment opportunities especially for rural women in Vellore district comparing to other schemes launched by the government of India and also women who are working under MGNREGA have less satisfaction on their work and earnings and low level of awareness in this scheme.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

The study is designed in a descriptive manner. The researcher spoke with farmers who were eager to take advantage of various development programs and had specialized knowledge in agricultural farming and harvesting in order to gain a thorough understanding of the study's issues. The study will

take place in the Erode District. The survey approach is the foundation of the investigation. The study relies on both primary and secondary sources of data. The number of farmers chosen for the current study's sample was 90.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The survey only covers farmers in the Erode District, hence the Farmers Awareness and Satisfaction may not be generalized to other districts in Tamil Nadu. Farmers are not willing to disclose their entire data for a variety of reasons. Due to time and financial restrictions, the study was confined to a small sample of responders.

DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:

Table 1.1 PERCENTAGE ANALYSES

Variables	Frequency	Percentage
Gender of the Respondents		
Male	52	58
Female	38	42
Total	90	100
Age of the Respondents		
Below 20 years	30	31
21 years to 40 years	27	32
41 years to 50 years	10	12
51 years to 60 years	3	4
Above 60 years	20	22
Total	90	100
Education Qualification of the Respondents		
Below 10th Std	25	28
12th Std	34	38
UG Degree	14	16
PG Degree	3	3
Others	14	16
Total	90	100
Family Size of the Respondents		
Less than 4 People	26	29
4 – 6 People	43	48
More than 6 People	21	23
Total	90	100
Location Area of the Respondents		

Ordinary Village	31	34
Remote/Backward Area	41	46
Rural & Urban Combined	18	20
Total	90	100

Distance from Residence to Farm of the Respondents

Near by	22	24
Below 3 Km	26	29
3 – 5 Km	23	26
Above 10 Km	19	21
Total	90	100

Farming Experience of the Respondents

Below 5 Years	11	12
5 – 10 years	32	36
11 – 20 Years	14	16
21 – 30 years	17	19
Above 31 Years	16	17
Total	90	100

Farm Size of the Respondents

Below 5 acres	17	19
5 - 10 acres	16	18
11 - 20 acres	23	26
21 – 30 acres	19	21
Above 30 acres	15	16
Total	90	100

Farmer Income (per year) of the Respondents

Upto Rs.50,000	18	20
Rs.51,000 – Rs.1,00,000	22	24
Rs.1,00,001 – Rs. 2,00,000	33	37
Above Rs. 2,00,000	17	20
Total	90	100

Aware of New Scheme of the Respondents

Yes	55	61
No	35	39

Total	90	100
Satisfaction Level Of Farmers		
Highly satisfied	20	22
Satisfied	23	26
Neutral	18	20
Dissatisfied	15	17
Highly dissatisfied	14	15
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

INTERPRETATION:

Majority 32% of the respondents are in the age range of 21 to 40 years old, making up the majority of the 58% male respondents. 37% of the respondents are mostly qualified up to the 12th grade. The average family size of respondents (48% of them) is between 4 and 6. 46% of responders are primarily from remote or underdeveloped areas. 29% of respondents' distances from their homes are less than 3 km. 36% of the respondents had 5 to 10 years of farming experience on average. 26% of respondents have farms between 11 and 20 acres in size. The majority of respondents' income, 37%, is in the range of Rs. 1,001,001 and Rs. 2,000,001. Majority a new scheme's timely awareness is supported by 61% of respondents. 26% of respondents in the majority are content with government subsidies.

Table 1.2 FRIEDMAN TEST FOR SUBSIDY THEY AVAIL REGULARLY

Subsidy	Mean Rank	Rank
Fertilizer subsidy	3.74	1
Irrigation subsidy	4.66	2
Seed subsidy	4.68	3
Power subsidy	4.80	4
Export subsidy	5.22	5
Credit subsidy	5.52	6
Agricultural Equipment subsidy	5.76	7
Price Subsidy	6.32	8
Agricultural infrastructure subsidy	6.90	9
Loss Subsidy	7.40	10

Source: primary data

INTERPRETATION:

From the Table No.: 1.2, The Friedman test was used to rate the subsidies they receive on a regular basis. Fertilizer subsidies rank first, irrigation subsidies rank second, and seed subsidies rank third.

**Table 1.3 FRIEDMAN TEST FOR PREFERENCE TO CULTIVATE / HARVEST
REGULARLY**

Cultivate / Harvest regularly	Mean Rank	Rank
Turmeric	4.10	1
Groundnut	4.06	2
Coconut	4.44	3
Paddy	4.96	4
Tapioca	5.02	5
Sesame	5.44	6
Banana	6.08	7
Sugarcane	6.32	8
Ragi	6.54	9
Maize	8.04	10

Source: primary data

INTERPRETATION

From the Table No.: 1.3 the Friedman test has been used for ranking preference to cultivate / harvest regularly, Turmeric stands First, Groundnut stands Second and Coconut stands in Third Rank in the preference to cultivate / harvest regularly.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

1. Majority 32% of the respondents are in the age range of 21 to 40 years.
2. Majority 58% male respondents.
3. Majority 37% of the respondents are mostly qualified up to the 12th grade.
4. Majority 48% of the respondent's family size is 4 – 6 people.
5. Majority 46% of the respondents are located in Remote / Backward Area.
6. Majority 29% of respondents' distances from their homes are less than 3 km.
7. Majority 36% of the respondents had 5 to 10 years of farming experience on average.
8. Majority 26% of respondents have farms between 11 and 20 acres in size.
9. Majority 37% of respondents' income is in the range of Rs. 1,001,001 and Rs. 2,000,001.
10. Majority 61% a new scheme's timely awareness is supported.
11. Majority 26% of respondents in the majority are content with government subsidies.
12. Fertilizer subsidy stands as First Rank in the Subsidy they avail regularly.
13. Turmeric stands First Rank in the preference to cultivate / harvest regularly.

SUGGESTION:

In the Erode district, agriculture employs approximately 80 percent of the people, and 43 percent of the total land area is under cultivation. In order to strengthen the new scheme marketing network, the government should also analyze its policies and regulations. Indian agriculture requires additional development because agriculture continues to provide a source of income for the majority of the country's

inhabitants. On a daily basis, the farmer must be informed of new trends and changes in the agricultural field. Farmers should use innovative technology in cultivation and postharvest management. Farmers should not be resistant to accepting scientific advancements in farm operations and should be interested in learning new technologies such as the internet, computer, Smartphone, and automated machinery, among other things. Agriculture must change from being seen as a low profile occupation to one with significant visibility. Young people need to be encouraged to pursue it as an intellectually exciting and financially viable job. Young people should be informed on how to pursue a career in agriculture utilising a variety of venues, including social media, seminars, and the establishment of education and training facilities at the college level, among others.

CONCLUSION:

Agriculture is the backbone of the Indian economy. Globalization has had a significant impact on Indian agriculture over the last 20 years. The social, physical, and economic infrastructure of Indian agriculture has changed significantly. The central government has taken numerous initiatives to support Indian agriculture. A National Institute for Agriculture has been formed to lead agricultural development research. The state government had launched a number of initiatives and policies to boost agricultural product marketing and farmer conditions in the state. The farmers in Tamil Nadu's developed and developing districts are more knowledgeable and satisfied in agriculture. It signifies that the level of development in any area influences a person's level of satisfaction to some extent, but not entirely, and that the government has not implemented effective strategies for increasing agricultural marketing in all of the state's districts in accordance with their respective levels of development. However, governments played significant roles in improving the state's agricultural marketing mode.

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