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A STUDY ON THE CHALLENGES FACED BY FARMERS TOWARDS PADDY CULTIVATION IN ODACHERRY VILLAGE, THIRUVARUR DISTRICT

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Abstract: The current study explores to gain knowledge about the challenges facing farmers Paddy cultivation in Thiruvapur District. Poor farmers face many problems in cultivating, harvesting and marketing their produce. Currently, the global demand for rice is growing very fast. Paddy is a common commodity used for basic human needs. The financial and non-financial aspect of the Government of India is that there is no progress in the special subsidy scheme among farmers. Farmer is the backbone of our Indian farming system which is reducing the poverty alleviation of increasing socio-economic development in our society. Therefore, research effort was made to find out their problem during paddy cultivation and harvesting. This study is based on primary and secondary data. Sample of 50 respondents with data obtained from various paddy cultivators. Sample survey was conducted in Odacheri village, Thiruvapur district in Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS: Agriculture, paddy cultivation, Paddy Production, farmer details.

INTRODUCTION

Paddy rice is a major crop for most of the world's population. It is also the main source of greenhouse gas methane, which is responsible for approximately 40 million tons or 10% of global emissions each year. Sustainable rice production practices that reduce water consumption and fertilizer demand can control the rising methane emissions and ensure the livelihoods of millions of small farmers. The Coalition supports countries and farmers to meet the challenges of adhering to sustainable rice production practices with the aim of reducing methane emissions, maintaining and frequently improving paddy yields. Paddy is one of the major food crops in India. In Indian most of the states Tamil Nadu has huge cultivation of paddy. Rice production is source of income for every farmer. Over 90 % of the global rice is cultivate and selling in the Asian region comprising 80% of the universe production and consumed. Growth in Asian population (1.8 %

per annum) in this region means an increase on demand for rice. The growth rates of food grain production in India have declined to 2 per cent during the period 1996-2008 as compared 1986-97 and rice production in India is questionable on economic and ecological grounds. With 12.7 per cent malnutrition in Asia, India is projected to face food shortages in the future. In this context, increasing rice production in India is essential to maintain self-sufficiency and food security.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- ❖ To study the demographic profile of the farmers in Odacheri village, Thiruvavarur District.
- ❖ Farmers details of paddy cultivation on study area.
- ❖ Identifying the problems faced by the farmers while cultivating paddy

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The study is based on both Primary and Secondary data. Primary data were collected from Odachery village in Thiruvavarur district. The source material for secondary data is collected through books, journal, magazine and internet.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- The study focuses only on Odachery village in Thiruvavarur District.
- The survey was conducted on a village of Thiruvavarur district in Tamil Nadu.
- Sample size is only 50.
- The time period was very short.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Matiar Rahaman, Khandakar Shariful Islam, Mahbuba Jahan, (2018), in their work article examines the level of awareness and awareness of farmers about the environmental pollution caused by the unsafe use of pesticides to control rice pests. Most farmers understand the harmful effects of pesticides on human and animal health, beneficial species, fish, pesticides, soil and food. This study identifies the need to intensify farmer awareness and knowledge on integrated pest management.

R. Vasanthi et al, 2011 The study explored the Stochastic Frontier production approach to identify determinants that could increase rice production in the southern region of Tamil Nadu. Data collected for two years (2009-10 and 2010-11) under the Cultivation Expenditure Plan of the Tamil Nadu Center were used for the study. Results of balanced production process Input variables such as seed, fertilizer (NPK), labor time, machine time and pesticide are significant and, therefore, play an important role in rice production. The seed coefficient is negative and very important, indicating that farmers can reduce the use of seed in irrigated farms to get better yields. The coefficient of pesticide is negative and most significant, it can reduce the use of pesticides to increase the yield, which can lead to soil damage. To get the best yield, it is better to increase the labor and machine time in tank irrigated farms. The average fertilizer (NPK) ratio is 203.4 kg per acre, which is higher than the recommended 114 kg NPK nutrient level. However, the exact mixture of N, P and K recommended is 114 kg NPK. The results of the incompetence model show that as

the age of the head of the household increases, the level of incompetence decreases. About 14 percent of paddy farmers are technically incompetent, indicating that there are small possibilities to explore by improving their resource utilization capacity.

PROBLEMS OF FARMERS

Indian agriculture system is highly deflation methods of production on paddy and other product because not help of strain government financial aids. Farmers is depending on agriculture not other sources of income to maintain family and personal expenditure. Farmers mainly focused finance and input use of fertilizer water, machinery equipment are basic requirement of every agricultural allied activities. Farmers production of paddy after how to selling of their goods in malpractice in selling method (scaling or weighing) in marketing and not shared inadequate of proper marketing price rate. Transport is a major function of marketing goods and services from exchange of one place to another place sometimes the government limited entry pay road tax is compulsory in marketing and selling methods. Production is internal factors affecting of crop insurance, lacking of seed supply, disease and problems of post-harvest technology. In this regards the farmer is highly suffered of insurance claims of consideration on loss provide immediately to farmers.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

PARTICULARS	VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
AGE OF THE RESPONDENTS	20-40	17	32
	40 -60	17	28
	60 -80	16	32
	Total	50	100
RELIGION OF THE RESPONDENTS	Hindu	46	92
	Christian	3	6
	Muslim	1	2
	Total	50	100
EDUCATIONAL STATUS	Literate	14	44
	Primary	11	16
	Middle School	9	20
	High School	16	8
	Total	50	100
OCCUPATION	Cultivator	38	76
	Agriculture Labourer	11	20
	Government Employment	1	2
	Total	50	100
NUMBER OF EARNING MEMBERS	1	38	60
	2-3	11	22
	>3	1	18
	Total	50	100
YEARLY INCOME	<30000	11	8
	30,000-45000	9	6
	45000-60000	25	10
	60000-75000	5	10
	Total	50	100

Source: primary data.

- **Interpretation:** From table - 1, Out of 50 respondents, 17 respondents belonged to the age range of 20- 30 years. Respondents with age range between 30- 40 amounted to 17 respondents out of the total sample size and rest of the 16 respondents are 40-60 years. Most of the respondents for this survey, that is, 16 respondents belonged to the age range of 40- 50. **Religion of the Respondents:** 46 respondents are Hindu, 3 respondents are Christian and rest of the 1 respondents are Muslim. **Educational Status:** From the above table, the educational status of the respondents can be ascertained. Out of 50 respondents, 14 respondents have marked themselves as literate. Another 11 respondents have completed up to their primary education. 9 respondents have completed their middle school education. Most of the respondents, that is, 16 respondents out of the 50 respondents in total have completed up to their high school education. **Occupation:** The main occupational status of the respondents was collected which has been presented in table. It is found that, 38 respondents out of the total number of respondents are cultivators. The occupation of 11 respondents is categorized under agricultural labourers. Only one respondent holds a government employment and one respondent is a pensioner. **Number of Earning Members:** the table shows the number of earning members in the families of the respondents. The data indicates that 38 respondents have one earning member in their family. 11 respondents have 2-3 earning members in their family. Only 1 respondent have more than 3 earning members in their family. This shows that in most families the source of income is only through one earning member. **Yearly Income:** The yearly income of the respondents was assessed and the following data were gathered. Table indicates that 11 respondents earn less than Rs.30000 in a year. 9 respondents earn a yearly income of Rs.30000- 45000. 25 respondents earn a yearly income ranging from Rs.45000 to 60000. 20 respondents earn up to Rs.60000 to 75000 in a year.

PADDY CULTIVATION DETAILS

PARTICULARS	VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
TYPE OF LAND	Wet	38	76
	Dry	12	24
	Total	50	100
FARM SIZE	1-3	23	26
	3 -6	15	30
	6-9	8	16
	9-12	4	8
	Total	50	100
NO. OF YEARS CULTIVATING PADDY	<10 years	15	30
	10-20 years	6	12
	20-30 years	16	32
	>30	13	13
	Total	50	100
REASONS FOR PRACTICING FARMING	Own Interest	25	50
	Belong to the family of Agriculture	13	26
	Income	4	8
	For family consumption	8	16
	Total	50	100
Farmer satisfaction of the paddy	Yes	37	74
	No	13	26
	Total	50	100
Reason for low Production	Low Quality Seeds	12	24
	Climatic Condition	8	16
	Irrigation problem	27	54
	Insufficiency of labour	3	6
	Total	50	100

Source: primary data.

Interpretation: The type of land in which cultivation of paddy is done among the farmers of the Thiruvallur District were assessed. Table-2 shows the distribution of the type of land used. It is found that wet lands were used by 38 respondents out of 50 total respondents. Dry lands are used by 12 respondents. **Farm Size:** The size of the farm in which the respondents cultivate paddy were ascertained. Table shows that 23 respondents have land with over 1- 3 acres. The size of the farm of 15 respondents ranges from 3-6 acres. 8 respondents work with farms that range over 6- 9 acres. 4 farmers cultivate 9- 12 acres of land. **No. of Years Cultivating Paddy:** Only 15 respondents out of the total of 50 respondents have been working in the field for less than 10 years. 6 respondents have been cultivating paddy for 10-20 years. 16 respondents have been cultivating paddy for a range of 20-30 years. A total of 13 respondents have been working in the fields for more than 30 years. **Reasons for Practicing Farming:** 25 respondents practice farming out of own interest. 13 respondents practice farming because of having a familial background in agriculture. Only 4 respondents practice farming for it to be their source of income. 8 respondents have said that they practice farming because of unavailability of other employment opportunities. **Farmer satisfaction of the paddy:** Analysis of the table above shows that 37% of the respondents are satisfied with the cultivation of paddy on their land and the remaining 13% of the respondents are not satisfied. **Reasons for low production:** 12% of the respondents were affected by substandard seeds, 8% of the respondents were affected by climatic conditions,

27% of the farmers were affected by irrigation problem and 3% of the respondents are suffer from insufficiency of labours.

SUGGESTION

- ❖ The government may increase credit and subsidy facilities exclusively to increase paddy production.
- ❖ Agriculture Officers should inform farmers about crop insurance through online news.
- ❖ The government should intervene to ensure attractive market prices and insurance premiums.
- ❖ Interest free loan extension.
- ❖ Promote cultivation of high yielding, drought tolerant and salt tolerant varieties.
- ❖ As a result of traditional cultivation methods, paddy production is declining. Farmers should therefore use advanced technologies such as soil and seed testing, which should be done frequently to learn about them and achieve greater growth in the future.

CONCLUSION

From above the study has revealed that farmers face many problems during paddy production. Problems include poor quality seeds, poor irrigation, lack of fertilizer, failure of monsoon and shortage of manpower. The production rate of paddy has increased dramatically, but the yield is still lower than all other crops. Therefore, the government should provide appropriate pricing structure for the benefit of poor farmers. The majority of paddy farmers are heavily dependent on support prices, input subsidies and government intervention in marketing and input pricing products. But the above issues are still unresolved and need to be rectified by the government future progress in paddy production in our country.

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