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A STUDY ON CHALLENGES FACED BY FARMERS TOWARDS CULTIVATING PADDY AT DHARAPURAM TALUK

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ABSTRACT

The present study examines to gain knowledge about the challenges faced by the farmers towards cultivating paddy. The poor farmers are facing lot of problem while cultivating, harvesting and marketing their products. Now-a-days, the global demand for the rice is growing at a very rapid rate. But the farmers who are the main causes and who undergo various hardships for the cultivation of agricultural produce were not entitled to enjoy the benefits to the fullest. So, the study was attempted to identify their problem while cultivating and harvesting the paddy. It also tries to provide some best remedies for their risk taken at that particular period. This study was based on both primary and secondary data. With a sample of 250 respondents the data obtained from various paddy cultivating farmers. The survey was analyzed with the help of convenience sampling method in Dharapuram Taluk of Tirupur District in Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, Paddy Production, farmer, Marketing problems, Satisfaction

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the back bone of the Indian economy. Nearly 65% of the India's population is still directly and indirectly depending on agriculture for live hood and employment. Agriculture has a long history of 10,000 years which is the major unorganized sector in India. At the time of Independence 50% of the National Income is Agriculture where as now, its contribution decreased to 25%. It is the source of raw material for industries and it provides support to the transport system. It also play important role in India's International trade. In recent year there has been a great diversification of Indian agriculture such as horticulture, livestock, fisheries, etc.,.

Today, India occupies a significant place at the global level as the second largest producer of paddy. It is very significant that 1/3 of the world rice area that is 83 million hectares is in India. It is grown in almost all the state of India but it is cultivated in the river valley, deltas and low lying coastal area in North Eastern and Southern India. The major paddy producing states are Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Among this Tamil Nadu is one of the mainly paddy producing state in India. Paddy is the main stable food crop of Tamil Nadu. It is extensively cultivated in all the

district of the state. Tamil Nadu is second place in the production of paddy. Therefore an attempt has been made to a study on farmer satisfaction towards production of Paddy.

2.OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

- ❖ To study the Socio Economic profile of the farmers
- ❖ To identify the problems faced by the farmers while cultivating paddy
- ❖ To offer suggestions to improve the production level of paddy crop.

3.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

J. Gunawardana, E. A. Oczkowski, (1992)¹, in his study, reveals that an aggregate analysis of supply response in the paddy sector of Sri Lanka is conducted to identify the impact of pricing policy, irrigation, institutional credit and concessional sales on area and overall supply. It is concluded that it provides incentives to the expansion of paddy production, concessional sales of rice act as a disincentive. **Zainal, A.M., Nasir, S.M., Chiew Eddie, F.C., and Ghazali, M.M.**, (1994)², in their empirical work describes, revealed that farmers who adopt more sustainable practices do not suffer yield sacrifices and it helps farmers to understand reason for possibly using less agricultural chemicals and inorganic fertilizers **Bob Baulch, Henrik Hansen, Le Dang Trung, Tran Ngo Minh Tam** (2008)³, in his paper examines whether there is spatial integration between and within paddy markets in the north and south of Vietnam.. These results suggest that national level policies cannot be relied upon to stabilize or support paddy prices in Vietnam. **Zainalabidin Mohamed, Rika Terano, Juwaidah Sharifuddin and Gelnaz Rezai** (2015)⁴, in their research, aimed to determine the factors that contribute to unsustainability of paddy farming. Regression analysis is used to analysis the two variables. The result revealed that the awareness campaign should be carried out by the relevant agencies about sustainable agriculture. **Muhammad Matiar Rahaman, Khandakar Shariful Islam, Mahbuba Jahan**, (2018)⁵, in their working paper examine farmers' level of knowledge and awareness of environmental pollution due to unsafe use of pesticides for controlling rice pests. The majority of farmers understood the harmful effects of pesticides on health of human and animals, beneficial species, fish, insect resistance, soil and food. This study identifies a need to intensify farmers' awareness and knowledge of integrated pest management.

4.METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

4.1 SAMPLE SELECTION

The study was carried out in Dharapuram Taluk of Tirupur District in Tamil Nadu. For the purpose of the study, 500 respondents were selected using convenient random sampling technique.

4.2 AREA OF THE STUDY

Agriculture is a predominant occupation in Dharapuram Taluk. There are many agricultural products produce in this area especially paddy, groundnut, vegetables, banana etc. The paddy occupies an important place in this Taluk economy.

4.3 PERIOD OF THE STUDY

The study covers a period of six months May 2020 – October 2020 which was utilized for collecting the data, analyze of data and preparing the final report.

4.4 DATA COLLECTION

The primary data were collected through a field survey of a pre-tested questionnaire. It is circulated among the 84 respondents using convenient sampling. The secondary data pertaining to the study was obtained from the various sources such as research study, newspapers, websites, internet, journals & magazines and also from the library sources.

4.5 STATISTICAL TOOLS TO BE USED

To make the research work effectively and find the result fruitfully the data from the respondents were arranged systematic manner and tabulated well. To make the research work effectively the following statistical tools like Percentage Analysis and correlation were used.

4.6 DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis has been done using SPSS 20 (Statistical Package for Social Sciences).

5.LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- ✘ The area was wide since it is confined only to Dharapuram taluk, so results cannot be universally accepted.
- ✘ The study is based on production and hence may vary with time.

6.ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

6.1 TABLE:1

**SIMPLE PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS**

PARTICULARS	VARIABLE	FREOUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age(Years)	Below 35 Years	28	11
	35 to 45 Years	91	37
	45 to 55 Years	106	42
	Above 56 Years	25	10
	TOTAL	250	100
Educational Qualification	Illiterate	90	36
	School level	116	46
	College Level	30	12
	Others	14	6
	TOTAL	250	100
Occupation	Agriculture	204	82
	Agriculture & Business	37	15
	Agriculture & government	9	3
	TOTAL	250	100
Types of paddy	Co-43	67	27

	IR-20	61	24
	ADT 37-39	65	26
	ADT 45	29	12
	Others	28	11
	TOTAL	250	100
Farmer satisfaction of the paddy	Yes	145	58
	No	105	42
	TOTAL	250	100
Reason for low production	Low Quality Seeds	68	27
	Climatic Condition	80	32
	Irrigation problem	54	22
	Insufficiency of labour	48	19
	Total	250	100

Source: Primary data

The demographic features of consumers were analyzed and the results are presented in Table.No.1 In the analysis age of the respondents reveals that predominantly above middle age people 45-55% prefers to do agriculture work in their land. Around 37% of respondents belong to 35-45 years of age. Similarly 11% of consumers belong to below 35 years and 10% of the respondents belong to above 56 years of age. The educational qualification of the consumers indicates that 46% of the farmers are school level while 36% of the respondents are illiterate. Similarly 12% of the respondents are degree holders, only 6% are from various courses. In the term of occupation 82% of the respondents are doing only agriculture, while 15% of the respondents are doing both Agriculture & Business and finally 9% are employed as Agriculture & government Job.

The above table shows that, majority 27% of the respondents use Co-43 seed for their land ,24% of the respondents use IR-20 seed for their land,26% of the respondents use ADT 37-39 seed for their land ,12% of the respondents use ADT 45 for their land and 11% of the respondents use other seeds for their land. An analysis of the above table reveals that, 58% of the respondents are satisfied the cultivation of paddy in their land and remaining 42% of the respondents are not satisfied. In terms of low production, 27% of the respondents are suffer from low quality seeds,32% of the respondents are suffer from climatic condition,22% of the farmer are suffer from irrigation problem and 19% of the respondents are suffer from insufficiency of labours.

6.2 TABLE NO:2

**CROSS TABLE BETWEEN
IRRIGATION, TYPES OF PADDY AND REASON FOR LOW PRODUCTION**

PARTIAL CORRELATION			
FACTORS	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	NO.OF RESPONDENTS
IRRIGATION FACILITIES OF THE FARMERS	1.17	0.375	250
TYPES OF PADDY	2.56	1.301	
REASON FOR LOW PRODUCTION	2.33	1.074	

From the above table, the Mean value in the partial correlation is 1.17 and the standard deviation .375 for the farmer's irrigation facility. In the Paddy type reveals that the Mean value is 2.56 and the standard deviation is 1.301. In the Mean value is 2.33 and the standard deviation 1.074 for low production of the paddy.

7. FINDINGS

The demographic profile of the farmers shows that only above middle respondents are farmers. It was found that the income from the agriculture is not sufficient to run their family. So they are engaged in other business also. It is ascertained that majority of the farmers use Co-43 seeds to get more yield. Finally identifies that most of the landlords were suffered from Monsoon failure.

8. SUGGESTION

- ✓ As the result of using the traditional methods of cultivation, the production of paddy is getting down. So the farmer have to apply the advanced techniques like soil and seed experiment are to be made frequently to be aware of them and achieve of the higher growth in future.
- ✓ The officials of agricultural department at the taluk level have to visit the farms and provide their valuable suggestions related to the availability of hybrid and quality seeds, water management, use of manures and fertilizers and methods to raise production of paddy.
- ✓ The government may raise the loan and subsidy facilities yet exclusively for raising paddy production.
- ✓ Agricultural officers should inform the farmers about crop insurance through online message.

9. CONCLUSION

From above the study it is concluded that farmers are facing a lot of problems, during production of Paddy. The problems are low quality seeds, irrigation problem, and demand in fertilizers, Monsoon failure and insufficiency of labour. The production rate of paddy surprisingly increased but return is still lower than all other crops. So the government should afford an appropriate price structure to the poor farmer to be benefited. This agricultural land depends on monsoon rains. If monsoon fails, and then the farmer will be in trouble. In this situation, the government has to provide some financial support to farmers at correct time, especially to the small and medium farmers. Result indicated that farmers do aware of what is happening to the surroundings with regards to the modern cultivating methods to reduce production cost and insure their product on time to get proper support from the government.

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