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A study on problems faced by farmers with special reference to Erode district

Mr.K.Sivasubramani

Assistant Professor/MBA

K.S.R.College of Engineering, Tiruchengode.

Email Id:Sivachild24@gmail.com

Ms.K.Jeevapriya

I-MBA

K.S.R.College of Engineering, Tiruchengode.

Email Id: jeevapriya0711@gmail.com

Ms.V.Nandhini

I-MBA

K.S.R.College of Engineering, Tiruchengode.

Email Id:nandhini2017bca@gmail.com

ABSTRACT — Rural farmers account for the greater part of the population of any developing country such as Nigeria. Governments of developing countries have a major responsibility of ensuring that there is adequate rural development in their various communities and local governments which would lead to effective and efficient agricultural systems that will not only supply food and animal protein but also foster the utilization of natural resources in a sustainable manner. When the rural farmers lack access to knowledge and information that would help them achieve maximum agricultural yield, they are not only grope in the dark but are driven to the urban centres in search of formal employment, as the only option for survival (Munyua, 2000). Blait (1996) pointed out that the least expensive input for improved rural agricultural development is adequate access to knowledge and information in areas of new agricultural technologies, early warning systems (drought, pests, diseases etc), improved seedlings, fertilizer, credit, market prices etc. There have been short-comings of traditional print and library based methods (Van and Fortier, 2000) of providing such agricultural information to rural farmers who are generally illiterate and relatively remote from formal sources of information (e.g. extension stations, libraries). Aina (2007) also, was of the opinion that farmers would benefit from global information, if information centres, are cited in rural areas complete with all information and communication gadgets.

Keywords — Agricultural, Problems in agricultural.

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY:

The net irrigated area was 58.87 Mha in 2004-05. Presently, the total net irrigated area covers 45.5 per cent of

the net sown area, the remaining 54.5 per cent is rainfed. The degradation of land and surface as well as ground water resources results in fast deterioration of soil health. Losses due to biotic (insect-pests, diseases, weeds) and abiotic (drought, salinity, heat, cold, etc.) stresses account for about one-fourth of the value of agricultural produce. The storage, transportation, processing, value addition and marketing of farm produce need to be improved to enhance household food, nutrition and livelihood security. Indian agriculture is characterized by agro-ecological diversities in soil, rainfall, temperature, and cropping system. Besides favorable solar energy, the country receives about 3 trillion m³ of rainwater, 14 major, 44 medium and 55 minor rivers share about 83 per cent of the drainage basin. About 210 billion m³ water is estimated to be available as ground water. Irrigation water is becoming a scarce commodity.

Thus proper harvesting and efficient utilization of water is of great importance. Intensive cultivation as a result of introduction of high yielding varieties in the mid 1960's required higher energy inputs and better management practices. Land preparation, harvesting, threshing and irrigation are the operations, which utilize most of the energy used in agriculture. The share of animate power in agriculture decreased from 92 per cent in 1950-51 to 20 per cent in 2000-01.

It is estimated that the energy input to agriculture would have to be increased from the present level of 1.3 to 2.4kW/ha. The constraints of low productivity in agriculture were realized and thus, central and state governments emphasized the need for accelerated development of agriculture. Adoption of high yielding varieties by farmers coupled with the use of higher doses of fertilizer and assured irrigation through tube wells accelerated the pace of progress in agriculture. As a

result of adoption of improved inputs and management practices, the total food grain production increased from a mere 50.8 million tonnes in 1950-51, to 212 million tonnes in 2006-07 and productivity increased from 522 kg/ha to more than 1707 kg/ha (Table 2). The productivity of wheat, rice and oilseeds increased to a greater extent than other crops. The increase in production of food grain was possible as a result of adoption of quality seeds, higher dose of fertilizer and plant protection chemicals, coupled with assured irrigation. The growth in production of fruits (46 million tonnes), vegetables (91 million tonnes), milk (81 million tonnes), fish (57 million tonnes) has also increased. As a result, not only the country has achieved self-sufficiency in foods but have adequate agro-produce for export. Our agriculture is now at the crossroads (Table 3). The use of certified/quality seeds by the farmers has increased to 700,000 tonnes. The fertilizer consumption has increased to 21.65 million tonnes (more than 112.69 kg/ha) in 2006-07 from 0.29 million tonnes in 1960-61. It increased at an annual growth of 11.7 per cent. The use of technical grade plant protection chemicals has increased to 56.11 thousand tonnes (0.4 kg/ha) from a meagre of 8.62 thousand tonnes in 1960-61. Crop and site specific agricultural mechanization and agro-based small and medium enterprises in rural sector using a proper blend of conventional and renewable energy sources will facilitate in enhancing agricultural productivity and profitability resulting in higher income for farmers and better quality of life. Agriculture in India is one of the most important sectors of its economy. One of the biggest success stories of independent India is the rapid strides made in the field of agriculture. From a nation dependent on food imports to feed its population, India today is not only self-sufficient in grain production but also able to feed the rest of the world.

Let us have a look at the statistics Demand - Supplies Trends and projection of Food in India Prepared by ICRIER

1) Projected Domestic Demand and Supply of food in India

The above projections made considering that the economy grows at 8% per annum

2) India share in the world's food production:

- According to the FAO, India tops in the production of one eighth of all agri-commodities in the world like Mango, Castor seed, Banana, Lemons etc.
- Contributes to almost 18% of its national GDP (about 5% of national GDP from horticulture) while about 70% of its population is engaged in the agricultural food chain.
- Large irrigated area (57 mill. acres v/v USA's 60 mill. acres versus the global 1382 million hectares) and diverse agro-climatic zones (with the consequent potential to raise three crops annually) can catapult India into one of the leading players in world food trade.
- Ranks first in world production of Mango, Pomegranate, Cashew Stands second globally in the production of fruits and vegetables (170 million tonnes)
- Fruits & vegetables (of Horticulture crops) occupy about 65% of area under cultivation (91 million

hectares -next to China) and 90% of horticulture production.

- Fruits account for 13% of global production from 12% of area under cultivation.
- Accounts for 14% of global production of vegetables from merely 14% of area under cultivation.
- Exports of cashew stood at Rs. 269.27 crore in December 2009 (During the period April-December 2009 -82053 tones valued at Rs. 2316.44 crore were exported).
- Plenty of opportunities in processing, storage & logistics to minimize post-harvest losses in fruits-vegetables which are huge.
- Several multinational entities (PepsiCo, Tesco, Wal-Mart etc.) keen on India as a sourcing hub.
- Largest producer, consumer & exporter of spices (Rs. Cr. 464 or \$100 million for 39 thousand tonnes during the November 2009).
- Large global producer of food grains-about 234 Mill. Tones.
- Exports of Fresh Fruit and Vegetable have grown to about Rs. Two Thousand Crores with the top rung occupied by Cashew at US\$ Million 533 compared to the world trade at US\$ Million 1690.

India is a leader in many of the food commodities and therefore the responsibility of India is to feed its own population and also to feed the rest of the world.

"Let all of us contribute to yet to another Green Revolution elevating the India's position in the world's stage" Efresh made effort in explaining the overall agricultural scenario in India, which will be useful information to the user in order to better understand the position of India.

VISION 2015

A vision, strategy and action plan was finalized in 2005 for giving boost to growth of the food processing sectors. The objective was to increase the level of processing of perishable foods from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.6% to 3%. The level of processing of fruits and vegetables is envisaged to increase to 15% by 2015.

Food processing ministry, the level of processing has gone up from 6% in 2005 to over 11% in 2009, similarly the level of value addition from 20% in 2005 to 26% which is a remarkable achievement.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the impact of climate change and many related issues.
- To identify the problems faced by the farmers in production, selling etc.
- To suggest better solutions for the improvement in agriculture.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

- The project entitled "problems faced by the farmers in agriculture" is a detailed study about problems and its working mechanisms. The study has a greater scope because the major problems of the farmers can be identified and also it will be useful for the further research.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Business research is a systematic inquiry that provides information to guide business decisions and aimed to solve managerial problems. Research methodology is a way to solve the systematically solve the research problems. It may be understood a science of studying how research is done scientifically. It includes the overall research design, the sample procedure, data collection method and analysis procedure.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design is primarily descriptive in nature. Sample selection was convenience in nature, as to collect data from students in engineering courses, in Perundurai region.

DATA COLLECTION

The survey was conducted using a self-completion questionnaire method, whereby questionnaires are handed out to respondents for self-completion and returned to the researcher immediately.

The data used for the purpose this study are

- ❖ Primary Data (Primary data for the study was collected by the questionnaire method. The structured question was administrated to the respondents (consumers)

- ❖ Secondary Data

SAMPLING TECHNIQUES

- ❖ Non – Probability Sampling – Convenience Sampling

STATISTICAL TOOLS USED

- ❖ Simple percentage analysis method

- ❖ Ranking method

- ❖ Chi-Square test.

3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In many countries plastic bags have largely replaced the use of re-usable bags and containers for shopping. In India, the share of plastic waste in total solid waste has risen from 0.6% in 1996 to 9.2% in 2005. Over 50% of this waste comprises used plastic bags and packaging. Plastic bag usage can be environmentally very damaging. The bags take hundreds of years to degrade and fill up landfill sites. Plastic litter can also lead to clogged drains, which result in sanitation, flooding and sewage problems. In addition, plastic bags can harm animals through ingestion and the incineration of plastic bags pollutes the air and releases toxic substances. Plastic bags are also responsible for using up oil, a scarce natural resource. These concerns have caused governments across the world, including the authorities in India, to introduce legislation to limit the use of plastic bags. They have used a variety of regulatory instruments for this purpose. These include the mandatory pricing of plastic bags, explicit levies on each bag, taxes at the manufacturing level, discounts on the use of 'own bags', awareness campaigns, command and control approaches and, in some cases, a total ban on the use of plastic bags. The evidence on the effectiveness of such policies is mixed. For example, plastic bag retail levies in Ireland have resulted in a dramatic fall in the demand for plastic bags, and an environmental levy at the point of manufacturing in Denmark has been similarly effective. However, complete bans have yielded mixed results.

ADVANTAGES OF BANNING PLASTIC BAGS:

- This would cut down on litter on the ground, in trees, and in ponds, lakes, and rivers.
- Plastic bags jam up recycling systems.
- Banning plastic grocery bags is done in many large cities like Chicago, Austin, Seattle, and Toronto.
- It takes 400 to 1000 years for plastic grocery bags to rot.
- Only 5% of the bags are recycled.
- Canadians use between 9 and 15 billion plastic grocery bags each year; that's enough to circle the earth 55 times.
- Animals that live in water may be killed or injured because of swallowing bags or getting caught in them.
- Might encourage people to think twice about buying junk because they don't have more bags to carry things in.
- Plastic bags tear and cause things to break or spill.
- People will get used to bringing re-usable bags into the grocery store.
- Oil is used to make plastic → this leads to damaging the environment for more oil wells, oil sands, and the search for more oil.
- Re-usable bags just need to be washed regularly to avoid spreading germs and bacteria

DISADVANTAGES OF BANNING PLASTIC BAGS:

- Disposable cups are a much bigger problem.
- Enforcing the ban will be difficult for bylaw officers.
- People who work in businesses that make plastic bags will lose their jobs.
- People who are poor won't be able to afford to buy re-usable bags.
- Many people will forget to bring their re-usable bag to the grocery store.
- People aren't used to having to provide their own re-usable bags.
- Some people will be very upset with the bylaw and the government.
- Many people use the plastic grocery bags for garbage → they would have to buy plastic garbage bags if this by law was passed.
- People may not buy as much and that might make businesses lose money.
- Plastic bags are needed for wrapping things like frozen food, meat and produce that would spread germs and bacteria.
- Plastic bags only produce less than 1% of all litter.
- Could just charge people a nickel for every plastic bag they need for their groceries → that money could be used to help educate people about the problems caused by littering
- Germs and bacteria in re-usable bags may make people get sick
- Educating people and giving people rewards for re-cycling plastic grocery bags might work better than fines

- Ireland lowered the use of plastic grocery bags by 94% during the first year of charging for them
- Banning plastic grocery bags might make grocery stores use paper bags again → that could lead to more forests getting cut down

4. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

DEMAND OF LABOUR

Interpretation:

From the above table shows that 44% of the respondents are waiting for Labour, 40% of the respondents are using modern technology, 16% of the respondents are Labour from outside.

WHAT PRODUCT DO YOU INTEND TO BUY IN ONLINE

Interpretation:

From the above table 34 % of respondents are using green manure, 27 % of respondents are using Soil Ameliorants, 26 % of respondents are using Bio fertilizer and 13 % of respondents are using micro Nutrient.

RANKING METHOD:

S.NO	PROBLEMS	TOTAL MEAN SCORE	RANK
1	WATER PROBLEM	4980	I
2	LABOUR PROBLEM	3252	V
3	SEED DEMAND PROBLEM	2730	VI
4	MACHINERY PROBLEM	1776	VIII
5	CLIMATE PROBLEM	4024	III
6	ANIMALS PROBLEM	1216	IX
7	FINANCIAL PROBLEM	2344	VII
8	FERTILIZER PROBLEM	3542	IV
9	GOVERNMENT SUPPORT	620	X
10	WORK LIFE IMBALANCE	4509	II

Interpretation:

It is revealed that “water problem” is ranked as no.1 with a total score of 4980. “Work life imbalance” is ranked as no.2 with a total score of 4509. “Climate problem” is ranked as No.3 with a total score of 4024. “Fertilizer problem” is ranked as No.4 with a total score of 3542. “Labour problem” is ranked as No.5 with a total score of 3252 “seed demand problem” is ranked as No.6 with a total score of 2730. “Financial problem”, “machinery problem”, “animal’s problem” and “government support” was ranked as no. 7, 8, 9 and 10th problems.

5. FINDINGS

- Above 32 % of the respondents are cultivating rice.
- Above 85 % of the respondents say land are damaged by animals yes
- Above 78% of the respondents are preventing the feeds using crackers.
- Above 44% of the respondents are demands of labour are waiting for labour.
- Above 88% of the respondents are prevailing in the village during the day for sun light.
- Above 44% of the respondents identification of potential yield and yield gap are crop
- Above 34% of the respondents are integrated nutrient management are green manure.
- Above 28% of the respondents are interactions with

S.NO	INTEGRATED NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT	NO OF RESPONDENTS	%
1	Green Manure	34	34
2	Soil Ameliorants	27	27
3	Bio Fertilizer	26	36
4	Micro Nutrient	13	13
	TOTAL	100	100

formal group in ngo.

- Above 32% of the respondents are skill developments for formers using crop based training.
- It is revealed that “water problem” is ranked as no.1 with a total score of 4980. “Work life imbalance” is ranked as no.2 with a total score of 4509. “Climate problem” is ranked as No.3 with a total score of 4024. “Fertilizer problem” is ranked as No.4 with a total score of 3542. “labour problem” is ranked as No.5 with a total score of 3252 “seed demand problem” is ranked as No.6 with a total score of 2730. “Financial problem”, “machinery problem”, “animals problem” and “government support” was ranked as no. 7, 8, 9 and 10th problems.

6. SUGGESTIONS

- Government can take measures to prevent the animals damage in the land
- The government can provide more seeds to farmers for cultivation.
- Government should take steps to increase price of agriculture goods.
- Water problems is one the major problem faced by respondent should take steps to rectify it.

7. CONCLUSION

The findings of the study indicate that mostly animals are damage the land, seed demand problem, fertilizer problem, financial problem, machinery problem, farmer work life is imbalance government should support farmers to reduce demands and to produce more goods. Agriculture faces many challenges, making it more and more difficult to achieve its primary objective - feeding the world – each year. Population growth and changes in diet associated with rising incomes drive greater demand for food and other agricultural products,

while global food systems are increasingly threatened by land degradation, climate change, and other stressors.

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