

Problems & Solution of Marginal Farmers of Rural Area: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT: India is the agricultural country & it is the base of Indian Economy. Maharashtra is a highly industrialized state in India, but agriculture is the main occupation in the state. The state agriculture is rainfed & region like Marathwada, Vidharbh have several droughts & farmers are in risk. Therefore it is very necessary to focus on socio-economics problems of rural marginal farmers & to find out the solution.

So present study is undertaken to find out the problems of the marginal farmers & solution suggested by the farmers. Fifty (50) farmers were randomly selected from study area. The Primary data is collected by questionnaire & interview of rural marginal farmers, similarly secondary data from books, internet, research papers etc. Drought, natural calamities, total dependence on agriculture, lack of supplementary business, bad habits, laziness, modern life style etc are the social problems while problems in agriculture are small farm land, literacy, lack of irrigation, climatic change, unemployment conflict due to generation gap. Farmer suggested solutions like Pension facility, processing industries, irrigation facilities, clubbing of small field, modern agriculture, 0% loan facilities etc. So that marginal farmers will be protected. At the same time most of the farmers don't want subsidies on seeds, fertilizers etc. but strongly demanding pension facility for food security not for luxuries life.

KEYWORDS – Problems, Solution Marginal Farmers, Pension, Loan, Processing industries

I. INTRODUCTION

Rural farmer or farmers are those who live in rural areas & fully depend of agriculture & its allied activities for their survival. But the problem of rural farmers are a major barriers in economics development of a rural economy of a country like India, where around 85% people are lived in rural sector. Therefore government of developing countries have a major responsibility of ensuring that there is adequate rural development in their various communities & local government which would lead its effective & efficient agriculture system that will not supply food & animal protein but also foster the utilization of natural resources in a sustainable manner [1] when the rural farmers lack access to knowledge & information that would help them achieve maximum agricultural yield, they are not only grope in dark but are driven to the urban centers in search of formal employment as the only option for survival [2]. Blait in 1996[3] pointed out that the least expensive input for improved rural agriculture development is adequate access to knowledge & information in areas of new agriculture technology, early warning systems for drought pest disease, improved seeds, fertilizers, market prices etc.

India is the agriculture country & it is the base of Indian economy. Indian culture joint family, primary relationship, total dependency on agriculture are main factors of Indian rural society. Today India is well known in the world due to agriculture practice, rural society & rural problems in the villages. Most exploited poor strata like marginal farmers who has the land holding around 2 to 4 acre. It is difficult to survive of family on limited land. The farmer gets suffer & cannot cope up with the problems. Quality of life goes down & his economical, social, political status is an average level. They have to do other supplementary occupation to overcome the situation [4].

Our country which has the capacity to produce three crops in a year, the ceaseless cases of farmer suicides are an ignominious fact. The statics of the deaths are so high that there is nothing personal. Death count of a disaster raises more sympathy than the suicides of the Indian farmers. It has become more of a factor to lash the ruling party by

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the opposition than a warning sign to actually do something Indian agriculture is largely an unorganized sector. No systematic institutional & organizational planning is involved in cultivation, irrigation harvesting etc. [5]

Maharashtra is a highly industrialized state of India, but agriculture is the main occupation in the state, the agricultural calendar of Maharashtra is governed by Monsoon, any fluctuation disturb causes adverse affects on overall economy. Principle crops is Maharashtra are Rice, Jawari, Bajra, Wheat, Pulses, vegetables, Onions, Cotton, Sugarcane, Turmeric, Groundnut, Sunflower, Soya bin etc. Fruits like Mangoes, Bananas, Grapes, Oranges & Pomegranates. The geographical & climatic situation of Maharashtra is 80% to 84% of the agriculture is rainfed, means depends on rainfall but there is a huge variability in rainfall in different regions of the state. Marathwada, Vidharbh, even North Maharashtra region have been experiencing several droughts over the last three four years due to less rainfall & will drastic drop in groundwater levels, severe loss of crops during the Kharif & rabbi seasons. Irrigation in the state is very low at 16% as compared to the national average of 42% & over dependence on ground water. [6]. Maharashtra reported more than 40% of the total number of farmer suicide in the country in 2015 i.e. 3,228 farmers suicide which is highest in 14 years (PTI, Fri 4, Mar 2016 9.30 pm). As we all know that majority of the people of Maharashtra live in villages as a farmers. Therefore, it is necessary to find out the problem of rural farmers & to solve their problems, like poverty, lack of knowledge about modern technology, illiteracy, lack of knowledge about market demandable agricultural commodities, irrigation system, flood, drought etc. So present study attempt is to investigate the problems of rural farmers & solutions to solve these problems.

II. METHODOLOGY

The present study is an empirical one where both primary & secondary data have been used. For primary data, Fifty (50) farmers were randomly selected from the study area i.e. from Satana (Nashik) & Sakri (Dhule) tehsil of Maharashtra. For collecting data, a self prepared questionnaire & interview was used. For secondary data various topic related books, internet, research publication, news papers etc. are used.

Rationale of the study-Rural farmers is the greater part of the population in India & in Maharashtra. When the rural farmers, lack access to knowledge & information that would not help them to achieve maximum agricultural yield. Therefore study about the problem of rural farmers is very important nowadays. Besides, In India agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity. It provide not only food & raw material but also employment to a very large population. Agriculture gives 14% national income & 70% employment of the working population. In the study area, around 80% population depends on agriculture activities. In this area marginal farmers, landless labour population go on increasing.

III. RESULTS

On the basis of above study farmers says there problems & solutions.

a) **Social Problems** :- Indian farmers get birth in debt, live in debt & died in debt. This is the important social problem in our country.

General causes of social problems :

- 1) Drought & Natural calamities.
- 2) Totally depend on agriculture.
- 3) Lack of supplementary side business.
- 4) Bad habits & Laziness.
- 5) Traditional method of agriculture & lack of updates knowledge.
- 6) Conflict, dispute among family members.
- 7) Unwanted activities & expenditure on modern life style.

Marginal farmers & their problems :

The farmers who has the land of 2 to 4 acres, comes under marginal farmers. Marginal farmers are between the rich & medium farmers. They have limited land & expected agriculture production is less & this is the reason to cause social problems. Less land holding & high expenditure leads disorganization, depression & physical problems. It is also

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difficult to them to work somewhere as a labour to earn extra income. In that way marginal farmers are in crucial situation.

Problems – 1) Unorganized agriculture – No systematic institutional & organizational planning in cultivation, irrigation harvesting & marketing. Minimum purchase price fixed by the government do not reach to the poorest farmers.

2) Small farm land – Due to more number of family members after post independence land divided into smaller pieces. Cultivation on such a small area is not economically feasible. Such small farmers have become vulnerable. In some cases, the farmers are not the owners of the land, which makes profitable cultivation impossible because significant portion of the earnings go towards the payment of lease for the land owner.

3) Literacy & opposition to developments– Most of the marginal farmers are illiterate. New situation cannot get to him. Therefore he is totally empty about new techniques. Similarly, farmers are superstitious, traditional & not easily accept challenges & inventions. This culture called as a poverty of culture.

4) Lack of irrigation facilities – Only limited part is under irrigation or seasonal irrigation. Therefore most of land is in drought situation. There is no plan about crop rotation among these marginal farmers.

5) Government program – these farmers does not reach upto marginal farmers. Government has implemented agricultural debt, waiver & debt, relief scheme. Most of the subsidies & welfare schemes announced by the central & state government do not reach upto poor farmers. On the contrary, only big land holders are benefited by these schemes.

6) Unemployment in villages : There is a seasonal employment joint family depending on agriculture, lack of supporting occupation etc are responsible for unemployments.

7) Conflict due to generation gap : There is a generation gap & conflict in the family of small farmers on different issues.

• Solutions to the problem:

- 1) Pension facility** : 100% farmer wants pension facility because due to climate change agriculture business is in danger & uncertain. At least for food security all small farmers want 4 to 5 thousand rupees pension facility per month per family. If government agree to give pension facility, farmers don't want any subsidies on fertilizers, seeds any package for natural calamities etc.
- 2) Processing industries and cold storage facility** : The 90% farmers want processing unit and cold storage facility in the villages. especially for vegetables, fruits. So that farmers will get proper marketing & rates.
- 3) Irrigation facilities** : 100% farmers want irrigation facilities due to small land individuals farmers unable to arrange irrigation systems. So government should have to take initiative for providing irrigation to the small land owners.
- 4) Need to modernize agriculture** : 60 % farmers want to implement modern agriculture practice to reduce the expenses.
- 5) Provide loan facility** : Around all farmers expect 0 % loan facility from government & nationalize banks.
- 6) Special agriculture zone** :- 30 % farmers demanding special agricultural zone just like industrial zone where irrigation & agricultural related activities should be allowed.
- 7) Education to farmers** : Many farmers are not aware about crop rotation. Though education in urban areas has improved a lot, the government has ignored the same in rural areas in general & in agriculture sector. So Government agencies should start efficient mechanism in this regard.
- 8) Clubbing of small field** : 40 % farmer want clubbing of marginal farmers for particular crop production, several farmers who own small piece of land can join together & continue all small fields into one large chunk. This may help to improve economical studies of the small marginal farmers.
- 9) Need for better water management** : (100 %) Currently available irrigation facility do not cover the entire cultivable land. In most cases, it is not the lack of water but lack of proper water management that causes water shortage. Improved modern methods of rain water harvesting should be developed. Surplus water from perennial rivers can be diverted to the needy areas. Connecting the rivers throughout the country will solve this problem. Construction of national waterways will improve the irrigation facility, which in turn can save the farmers, if the monsoon would fail.

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- 10) **Alternate source of income for farmers :-** Around 100% farmers agree that the Government should take up the responsibility for providing training to the farmers to acquire new skills to reduce the dependence on agriculture.
- 11) **Need for National** weather risk management system & disease alert system can reduce losses of agriculture.

IV. DISCUSSION

Water watch co-operative a Netherland based organization has developed a disease alert system that sends an alarm to farmers , if probability of a pest / disease would be detected. Similarly, system also detect the amount of water to be provided to a field based on the field water content , bio mass & rainfall probability , would aid in optimization of water provision to the crop & ensure efficient crop management (News Gram July 5, 2015).

In Ireland small size of holding farmers get pension who participate in the scheme & are aged between 55 & 66 years. Trial pension scheme were launched in 1980's in the context of a huge rural population just getting by on little money [7].

Govt. & farmers adapting new technology in agriculture & benefitted by implementing Drip irrigation , Gram Cocoons, Biological pest control, Dairy farming, Agricultural knowledge on –line (AKOL). Technologies developed reusable plastic trays to collect dew from the air, reducing the water needed by crops by up to 50% , Zero discharge system eliminates the environmental problem etc[8].

V. CONCLUSION

Small farmers is an important component in society. Now it is time to focus on social economical problem of these farmers & try to find the solution to the problem. In above study farmers strongly demanding pension scheme only for food security not for luxurious life. At the same time they do not want subsidies on seed , fertilizers package on drought or any natural calamities expectry possible efforts from government agencies regarding water harvesting, irrigation system loan facility, processing industries etc.

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