



Ruralwomen Entrepreneurship: Some Issues" (A Case Study of Two Villages in Kalaburagi District)

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is a science and practice of cultivating crops and rearing livestock from the natural resources of the earth supplemented by other forms of artificial nutrients, medicines and materials. Agriculture is the most important sector of the Indian economy in terms of contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and generation of employment.

Speedy development of agriculture, therefore, is vital to the progress of India. Agriculture occupies a key position in the Indian economy because of its contribution to overall economic growth through supplies of food, raw materials and direct exports. It is source of livelihood for a majority of the population and provides a large market for non-agricultural goods and services. The reforms policy and measures have been gradually directing the economy from the arena of planned, mixed and socialistic pattern during the last five decades to a free market economy.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION:

It is heartening to note that there has been a marked change in the Indian agriculture thanks to the initiatives taken by the government in respect of introduction of yielding varieties, better farm management practices and provision of irrigation facilities. Hybrid varieties have replaced indigenous varieties. Genetically modified food and commercial crops are being increasingly adopted. Unlike in the yester years Indian farmers are now better informed, positively disposed and more receptive to trying new methods. In the process, the bull-ock-cart and the traditional plough are gradually replaced by tractors and modern equipments. A welcome change indeed! All these measures led to the transformation of Indian agriculture from mere subsistence farming to creating agriculture surplus over the years. From importing food grains to exporting!

Survival and growth is the driving force towards farmers adapting to the latest technology like cultivation of improved varieties use of farm inputs, and better farm management practices etc. towards commercial farming.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Agriculture in the Indian economy enjoys a pride of place. Agriculture and allied activities together are estimated to account for 22% of the GDP. Further, 58% of the population is directly dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. In the export front too, performance of Indian agriculture is noteworthy, contributing 12.8% to the country's export earnings. Today, India is the second largest producer of food next to China.

So far so good! However, with the advent of WTO and India being a signatory to it, Indian agriculture now faces a new set of challenges. Consequent to the liberalization policies pursued by the government since 1990s, similar to manufacturing and service sectors, and agriculture sector is thrown open to the market forces.

Consequently, Indian women farmers, hitherto, immune to external influence in a big way, is forced to adopt himself to the market dynamics. Yet again another challenge is to improve the productivity and to compete globally. Once again, similar to the thrust given to agriculture in the 1960s and 1970s in the name of "Green Revolution" another direction needs to be given. And the Indian farmer has to prepare himself for the next 'big push'.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To assess the relationship between cropping pattern and income of the farmers.

To examine the participation of farmers in the non-farm and allied activities in rural areas.

To ascertain the changes, if any, in the lifestyles and consumption pattern.

To enquire into the entrepreneurial trends in both agriculture and allied activities and to suggest an operational model to promote rural entrepreneurship.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was an exploratory research carries out in a rural setting in the Kalaburagi District. The researcher spent considerable time in the sample villages to gain first hand knowledge of the lifestyles and various agricultural practices of the respondents in the villages. Both participatory and observation methods were adopted to gain insights into the behavioral aspects of the farmers.

SAMPLE SELECTION AND SOURCES OF DATA

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, two villages were selected at random from Kalaburagi district of Karnataka in India. The two villages chosen were Mudhol and Adaki the former a big village with considerable number of large farmers and relatively better facilities while the latter was a small village with more marginal and small farmers. The two villages belong to two different clusters in the district. Mudhol was drawn from a developed region of the district while Adaki was from an underdeveloped region of the same district. These two villages represent the developed and underdeveloped parts of the district.

Again from each of these two villages, 150 farmers were chosen at random. Thus the sample consists of 300 farmers. While selecting the sample respondents, adequate care was taken to ensure they represent the population. Broadly, the two villages represent two distinct homogeneous characteristics. Mudhol village comprising of large farmers and Adaki village consisting of small and marginal farmers.

SOURCES OF DATA

The data for the study were collected from primary and secondary sources.

Primary Data

A detailed schedule was prepared to obtain information on several issues from the farmers. The researcher made several visits to the two villages to acquaint himself with the respondents and opinions women leaders at the villages. After thus establishing the credentials, a pilot study was conducted to ascertain the validity of the schedule.

Secondary Data

In addition to the primary sources mentioned above, the researcher also relied upon a few secondary sources of information to validate and substantiate some of the findings. As such, published reports of the government, books on agriculture and rural development were extensively consulted.

MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

Socio-economic indices:

Out of the total 300 respondents of both villages half (51.67%) of the population is above 45 years of age followed by 31.33% who fell be-

tween 35-45 years of age and 17.00% below 35 years of age.

Total numbers of family members in both the villages are in direct contrast to each other. In Adaki 28% of farmers have more than eight family members who are anyway helpful in agricultural work; whereas only 5.33% of farmers have more than 8 family members in Kamplapur village.

There are almost no illiterates (1.33%) in Mudhol whereas 46.67% percent were illiterates in Adaki village. In Mudhol all the castes are present namely forward, backward, scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and are present according to the following percentages 71.33, 22.00, 5.33 and 1.33 respectively. Whereas in Adaki out of total population scheduled caste constitute 28.67% along with scheduled tribes who form 71.33% of the population.

Dwelling units in both the villages are also a study in contrast with almost all the population (98%) of Mudhol owing pucca houses as against 18.67% of the population owning pucca houses in Adaki. Women folk in both the villages are involved in agriculture are made by the men folk in both the villages.

Water being an important resources almost all farmers (95.34%) in Mudhol own bore wells for irrigation whereas in Adaki 43.33% of farmers own bore well and the rest (56.67) irrigate their fields by paying rent to the bore well owner of their nearby field.

Further in Adaki due to non-availability work during slack season they supplement their income by working as agriculture labour and also in cottage industries, whereas in Mudhol they have work throughout the year because of multiple cropping by almost the entire population compared to 44% of the population growing multiples crops (three crops and above) in Adaki.

Crop Rotation and Income Generation

Selection, sequencing and type of crops grown being the major driver for income generation, to achieve that, the village association keeps on updating on prices, the crops planned in the surrounding villages, periodically gathering information on marketability through newspapers, television and radio which help in deciding and controlling the extent and type of crops to be grown by each farmer to avoid glut and to get maximum return. This leadership at the villages level aids farmers to get maximum return of crops by controlling the timing of sowing, extent of cultivation, thereby avoiding production during forecasted excess supply.

Crops grown vary between two villages. In Mudhol 64% of the farmers grow more than five crops which include food like rice, commercial crops like turmeric grown as an intercrop with maize for fresh cobs, seed crops like maize, jowar, toor and sorghum grown for seed companies under specific contract with them. They also grow vegetables like tomato, Brinjal, cabbage, cauliflower etc.

Mudhol village has its own market yard constructed and operated by village peasants association (Ryty Sangam). Brokers come daily to the villages to pick up the produce. Brokers are extended a credit of 15 days and default is unheard of as the villages association will debar the broker from coming to the village without setting earlier due after the official credit period.

In Adaki no farmer grows more than four crops. Few farmers contract with seed companies. In Mudhol all the farmers have gone for changes cropping pattern whereas only 24.67% of farmers in Adaki gone for crop rotation.

Private seed companies (89.33%) was the dominant influence of crop change in Mudhol whereas only 8% of farmers in Adaki went up for crop change due to advice from seed companies and 16.67% because of advice from extension officer of Karnataka government. Cropping pattern intensively varies between 250-300 percent in Mudhol and it was around 150-200 % in Adaki.

Non-farm and Allied Activities

Among the non-farm and allied activities around 48.67% of farmers in Mudhol earn through Dairy followed by poultry (14.67%) and some farmers have grocery shops, seeds processing plants, trucks, buses,

threshers and host of farm implements. In Adaki village 53.33% also earn through dairy and another 54.67% through poultry lot of families doing multiple non-farm activities.

In Mudhol women association runs their grocery shop on non-profit basis with pooled capital from the population. In Mudhol 17.33% of farmers and in Adaki only 6% of farmers subscribe to newspapers around 42% of Mudhol farmer own Kisan credit cards and tractors, sprayers, two wheelers and TV are owned by the entire population. Around 62.69% own refrigerators, and 3.33% owns washing machines few farmers own cars, trucks and buses. In Adaki only 22% of farmers have television and around 33.33% of the farmers have sprayer and 4.67 have motor cycles.

Life Style

All the homes in Mudhol have got electricity compared to 85.33 in Adaki. Around 62.67% of household in Mudhol have got gas connection compared to 10% in Adaki. Most of the houses have cable connection in Mudhol compared to few houses in Adaki. Telephones and mobile phones with all the households in Mudhol as compared to few houses in Adaki

With the surplus available about 23.33% of farmers in Mudhol spent their income in farmland expansion compared to 15.33% of farmers in Adaki.

In Kamplapur 15.33% of the income was spent on consumers durables 12% on construction of houses, 26% for educating their children and 17.33% got parked in deposits with the local Krishna Grameen Bank and the balances for purchase of real estate. In Adaki 20% of farmers reported no surplus, 27.33% of farmers spent on consumer durables, 1.33% on construction of houses, 18% for educating their wards, 14.67% parked their surplus in deposits and the balance doing money lending.

Entrepreneurship

Success comes out of backward and forward linkages coupled with entrepreneurial spirit and it is a function of several factors. Entrepreneurial activity is influenced by the following favorable factors, utilizable natural resources (land and Water), support system from the government, village community help, finance, marketability of the produce and technology.

Wherever there are community efforts in development and gathering of information and collective focus of their energy towards building up the agriculture there is always diffusion of knowledge from trend-setting farmers to followers. With the regular availability of farm produce vendors are coming to the village and picking up the produce, the major constraints of selling the produce and wastage due to non-availability of cold storage conditions is avoided.

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