



FAMILY FARMS OF EAST SINGHBHUM, JHARKHAND: A 'PRA' BASED ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Across the nation, traditional farm based livelihood system varied from the society to society, which curved the history of food self-sufficiency. In recent past, paradigm of farming system research has been shifted towards family based farming. Present study intends to ventilate the fabrication of the traditional family based farms. It also investigated the role of institution in family farming. . Multistage sampling has been adopted. The study draws attention on major factors of family based farming systems. The study is based on Ex- post facto research design. The methods of data collection were qualitative as well as participatory in nature. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Observation and Focused Group Discussion (FGD) were the predominant methods of data collection. Social Network Analysis (SNA) is also an integral part of the study. The study reveals some outstanding relationship between the farms and their components. The study draws attention on increasing importance of role of institutions in sustainability of small farms and also intends to show the role of NGOs on family wellbeing and social development of the farmers.

KEYWORDS : Family Farming, PRA, SNA, FGD, Jharkhand

INTRODUCTION

For centuries, agriculture is not merely an occupation, but it is the fabrication of a civilization. It shaped the life and out looks of the nation. It symbolizes peoples' struggle against economic deprivation. However, the paradigm of modern farming system research has been shifted now. Farm based research are much more participatory in nature. Family based Farming System approach is now a major concern.

Whilst the term 'family farm' is commonly used both in the scientific and popular literature, there is no common definition to characterise family farms across the globe (Hill, 1993). From different literatures, it can be interpreted that 'Family Farms' often defined in the light of two dimensions- 1) Labour utilization pattern in farm and 2) Family ownership of land over generations. It is often told that a family farm uses its family members as the major work force in field. These farms are mostly dependent upon the involvement of family members (Deb and Sengupta, 2015).

The study intended to ventilate some findings on the basis of some specific objectives-

- 1) To document the Family Farms of the study area
- 2) To analyze the role of institution in Family based Farming System

AREA AND METHODS OF STUDY

The study was conducted taking samples from the East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand State. Multi Stage Sampling was adopted and sample size was 270.

State	District	Blocks	Villages
Jharkhand	East Singhbhum	Ghatshila	Darisai, Bodhpur, Bhamradih
		Patamda	Dongagarh, Dhatkidih, Loraidoongri
		Bahragora	Jarabani, Pochakhuli, Satpati

TABLE-1 LOCALE OF THE RESEARCH

For collection of data, qualitative methods had been adopted. Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Observation and FGD were the predominant methods of data collection.

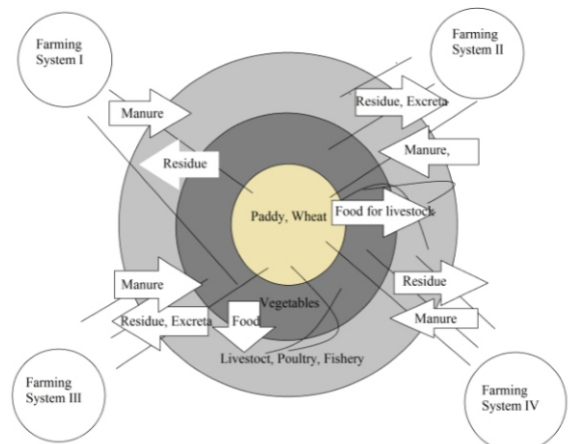
FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The details of the types of farming systems followed by the respondents were also investigated. Four types of farming systems

were identified in the study area. They were- Paddy + Vegetable, Paddy + Vegetable + Wheat + Dairy, Paddy+ Dairy + Horticulture + Fishery, Paddy + Vegetable + Dairy + Poultry type of farming systems. Legume based mixed and inter cropping system is quite popular (Cowpea + Rice, Pigeonpea + Rice, Pigeonpea + Finger Millet, Pigeonpea + Black gram).

The details of livestock available among different categories of farming system were analyzed through 'By-product Consumption requirement Diagram'. This diagram would help to understand the characteristics of Family Farms; in the light of 'Consumption requirement of livestock products'. By-products from farm enterprises are one of the major components that serve as fodder to the livestock and also provide farmyard manure (FYM). By-products were obtained from paddy, wheat and livestock. The details of the by-products are also summarized here. In the case of Farming System II, 63.15 per cent of the total value of by-products was used from paddy, while 31.57 per cent and 5.26 per cent were obtained from vegetable waste and wheat respectively. Among the farmers who have Farming System III, 56.25 per cent of the by-products were generated from paddy, 37.50 per cent from vegetable waste. Farm dwellers of Farming System IV obtained 57.14 per cent of the total crop residue from paddy and the remaining 42.85 per cent from the vegetable waste.

FIGURE-1 BY-PRODUCT CONSUMPTION



REQUIREMENT DIAGRAM

One of the major applications of 'Farm Situation: Seasonal Flash Diagram' is to understand the Farm Situation in the light of different season.

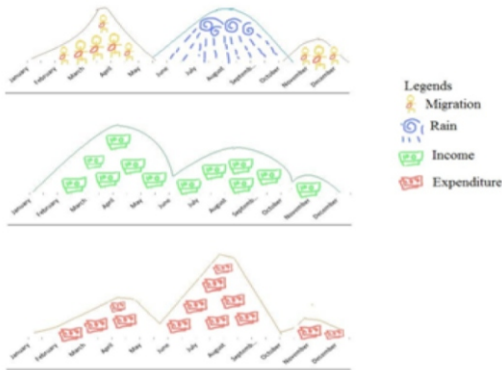


FIGURE-2 SEASONAL ACTIVITY OF FARM

Figure-2 shows the seasonal activity schedule of farm dwellers and their relationship with different season. The discussion on how seasons are responsible for what activities in migration and why is then facilitated. It helps to create a Pictorial Schedule which shows the major rainy and agricultural lean seasons and their relation with farm income.

The first step in building capacity for networking in rural communities will start from helping the rural people to understand their service understand and visualize their existing networks (Douthwaite et al., 2006). An agricultural knowledge and information system (AKIS) is a network made up of organisations and people who are linked by commercial, professional or social relationships (Röling 1988). Here it is clear from the Figure 3 that farm related information is mostly spread by NGOs, KVK (KrishiVigyan Kendra)s, BTM (Block Technology Manager)s and agricultural input dealers. Here, NGOs and agricultural input dealers are playing most vital roles. It is because of their ability to penetrate in grassroots level. The data, obtained from sociometry, has been quantified and analyzed through UC NET. The size of the blue boxes is directly proportional to the impact of the institutions.

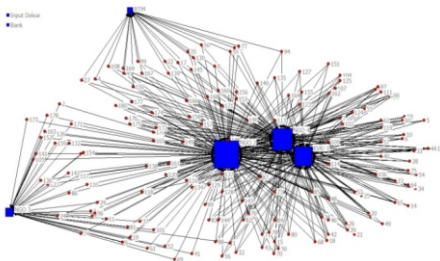


FIGURE-3SNA: ROLE OF INSTITUTION IN MAINTAINING FAMILY FARMING

NGOs are sensitizing primary stake holders (farmers) and they could play a significant role in initiating a SHG and farmers' group and also

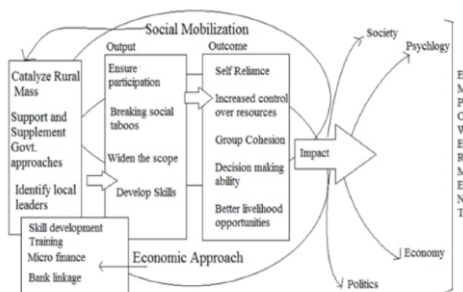


FIGURE-4SNA: ROLE OF NGOs IN FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT

arranging technical skill development programmes for the SHG members. Farmers are often able to impart technical knowledge and skill. Some NGOs are also trying to develop marketing chains in the process of establishing on an enterprise by them for more sustainability. If these inputs are not supported powerfully then farmers are least possible to achieve taking on any financial gain generating activity on a property basis even once having a need and wish for such activity.

Based on Focused Group Discussion (FGD) role of NGOs in farmers' empowerment has been highlighted here.

CONCLUSION

Keeping in view, the relevance of Family based Farms in rural development and economic growth, the present study had been tried to trace out the fabrication pattern of family based farming system as perceived by the researchers.

The study draws attention on increasing importance of role of institutions in sustainability of small farms and also intends to show the role of NGOs on family wellbeing and social development of the farmers. In recent past; NGO initiatives which have been proved to be an important tool in such developmental approaches, should be explored by the scholars and researchers.

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