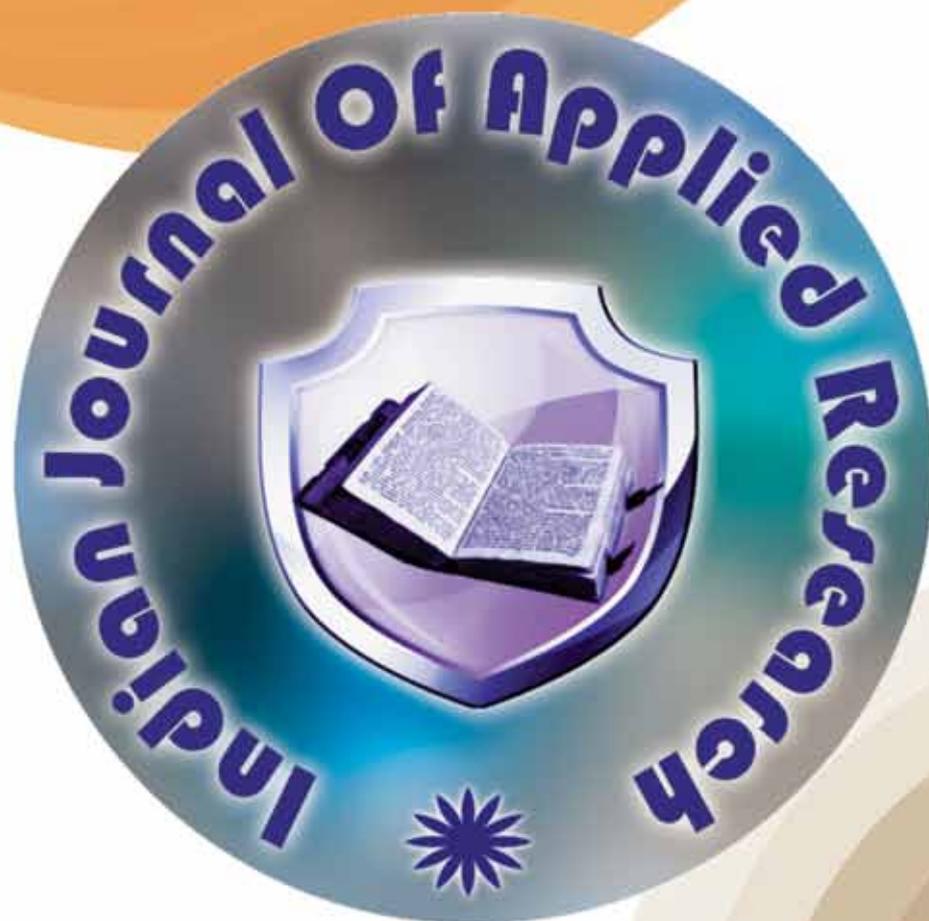


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A Study On Problems and Prospects of Farmers in Cultivation of Paddy in Mahabubnagar District, A.P

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ABSTRACT

Paddy is the main crop and larger production takes place in Mahabubnagar District, most of the farmers show much interest to cultivate paddy. it has 0.48 percent share in the country's total paddy production. though there are 604 Districts in India, paddy is cultivated in 564 Districts, of these 246 Districts, SRI Paddy cultivation Method has been introduced (dated as on Mar 2010) Asia is the main producer of paddy in the world. Among them china and India rank first and second place respectively, with in short time India is going to be first place in cultivation of paddy, in the world. So this research paper focuses towards problems and prospects of farmers in Agricultural sectors, with special reference to paddy crop in Mahabubnagar District.

Keywords : SRI, Paddy, Cultivation of Paddy, Fertilizer

SRI Method!

SRI is a method of paddy cultivation, initially experimented by farmers in Madagascar (island) in 1980s now this method has become popular in many countries, the core principles of this method are using less seed, less water, and no chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as rice is the staple food in Andhra Pradesh, adoption of SRI Method opens up potential water saving and ground water management issues.

Statement of the Problem and Need for the Study

There are number of problems in cultivation of paddy in Mahabubnagar District i.e. Labour, Electricity, Water, Financial, Marketing etc. Even though farmers show much interest to cultivate paddy because the land is suitable for this and rice is the staple food here. Hence there is need for present study to fill the research gap that exists at present. In order to cover this gap, the present research was undertaken.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the present position of cultivation of paddy in Mahabub Nagar District.
2. To understand the problems of farmers in Mahabub Nagar District.
3. To know the opinions of the Farmers regarding various schemes of the central and state government.

Scope of the Study

For the purpose of the study, out of 64 Mandals of Mahabubnagar District were covered and data related to various aspects of the study were collected from the department of agriculture for a period of 4 years from 2005 to 2009. Survey period June 2010 to Oct 2010

Methodology

Primary Sources: Data was collected from the Department of Agriculture, Agro Industries and Discussions with the farmers.

Secondary Sources: Related Books, Journals, and Internet Sources were consulted

Limitations of the Study

1. The study is confined only to Mahabub Nagar District.
2. Only 100 farmers could be contacted.
3. All types of farmers could not be covered and contacted.

Advantages to the Farmers, who cultivate Paddy

1. Paddy producers can get competitive price by bidding.

2. Paddy producers can get cash on the same day or some time with in one week.
3. The producers are free to discuss about the procedures and methods of cultivation.
4. Paddy is weighted in an electronic balance machine.

Marketing Procedure

First of all, the paddy that the farmers bring to the market get entered some times according to the requirement The Food Corporation of India (FCI) Buys paddy Directly with farmers, but mostly farmers directly approach to the rice millers to sell the paddy. The Rice Millers converts paddy in to two type's i.e Raw Rice and Boiled Rice. Boiled Rice is having lot of demand in many states of India and even in other countries.

Agriculture sector – Critical issues and strategic options

Agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development and poverty reduction in India. According to the 2001 census 72.2 percent of the people are in rural areas. Agriculture sector contributes only about 18 percent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) and it is at the core of socio economic development of the country. Overall economy depends on performance of agriculture to a considerable extent not only it is a source of livelihood and food security for a large population of India but also has a special significance for low income, poor vulnerable sections.

Mahabubnagar Agriculture Market Yard

The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Agriculture Marketing Department has established Agriculture market yard in Mahabubnagar Town, it is located at new gunj, and the basic aim of the establishment was to improve the living standards of economically backward people and to eradicate poverty and unemployment.

Analysis and Interpretation

To study the behavior and attitude of the farmers, who cultivate paddy, and to know the problems faced by them, field survey had been conducted. The entire Mahabubnagar District is covered for the purpose. The survey analyses the farmers from the following parameters.

Age Group

The farmers, who were classified on the basis of their age in to four groups is presented below

Table 1: Age wise classifications of paddy farmers

Age Group	No.of farmers	Percentage
17- 26	15	15
26- 30	25	25
30-35	28	28
Above 35	32	32
Total	100	100

From the table 1 it is clear that out of the total farmers, 15% belong to age group of 17 to 26 years, 25% of the farmers are in age group of 26-30 years. In the age group of 30-35, there are 28% and 32% of them belonging to the age group of above 35 years. It indicates that the middle-aged farmers are more interested in cultivation of paddy.

Figure 1: Pie chart showing Age wise classification of paddy-farmers

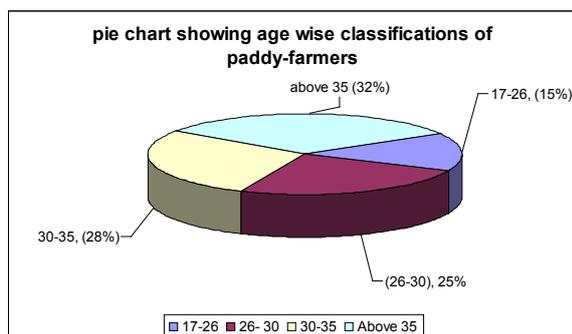


Table 2: Classification on the basis of, times of cultivation of paddy in a year.

Times of cultivation (Year)	No. of Farmers	Percentage
2	65	65
1	35	35
Total	100	100

Source: Field Survey

As shown in the table 2, 65% of the farmers had been carrying cultivation of paddy for 2 times in a year.

There are two seasons i.e Khariff and Rabi so most of the farmers are utilizing both the seasons for the cultivation of paddy. By this we can say that yearly 2 crops are getting by 65 percent of farmers in Mahabubnagar District.

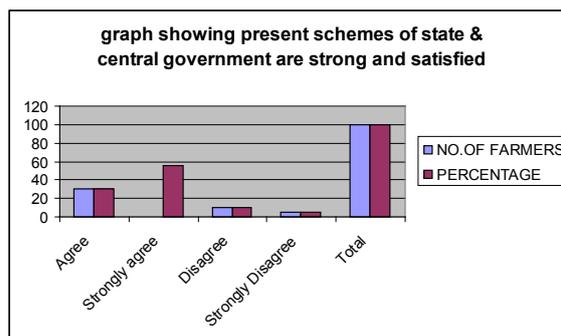
35% of the farmers had been carrying cultivation of paddy for 1 time in a year. So by this we can say that yearly 1 crop is getting by 35 percent of farmers in Mahabubnagar District.

1) The present schemes of state and central government are strong and satisfied.

a) Agree b) strongly agree c) disagree d) strongly disagree.

Table: 3 Classification of farmers through the schemes of state and central government

Options	No.of Farmers	Percentage
Agree	30	30
Strongly agree	55	55
Disagree	10	10
Strongly disagree	5	5
Total	100	100



From the above charts, I can express that most of the farmers are strongly satisfied the schemes of state and central.

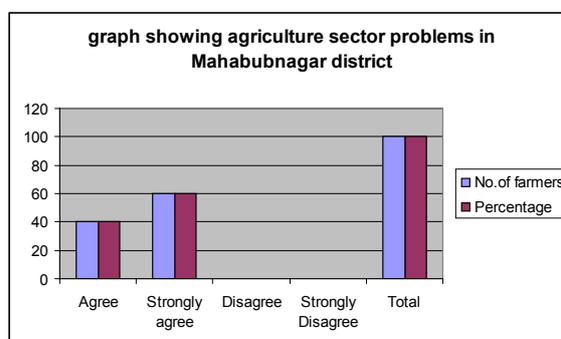
From the above analysis, I can interpret that 55% of the farmers are strongly agree the schemes of state and central, 30 % of the farmers are just agreed and rest of 15 % are Disagree and strongly disagree.

2) In the Present Agriculture sector, in Mahabubnagar District, Problems are very high like Power, labour, Marketing, Finance, Water etc.

a) Agree b) Strongly agree c) Disagree d) Strongly disagree

Table: 4 classifications of farmers regarding problems in agriculture sector, in mahabubnagar district

Options	No. of farmers	Percentage
Agree	40	40
Strongly agree	60	60
Disagree	0	0
Strongly Disagree	0	0
Total	100	100



From the above chart, I can express that most of the farmers are strongly agree the problems in Agriculture sector of Mahabubnagar district.

From the above analysis, I can interpret that 60% of the farmers are strongly agree the problems in agriculture sector of mahabubnagar district and 40 % of the farmers are just agree.

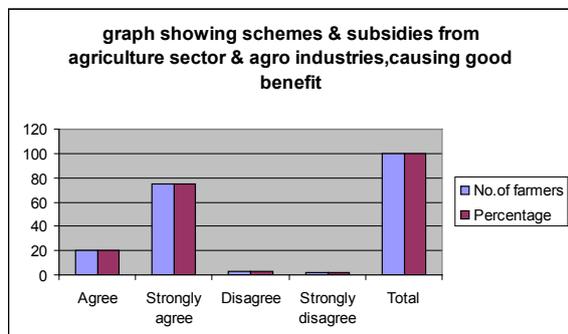
3) The different schemes and subsidies from Agriculture sector and Agro industries are causing good benefit and useful, in all the way to the farmers of Mahabubnagar District.

a) agree b) strongly agree c) disagree d) strongly disagree

Table 5: classification of schemes and subsidies of agriculture sector and agro industries

Options	No.of farmers	Percentage
Agree	20	20

Strongly agree	75	75
Disagree	3	3
Strongly disagree	2	2
Total	100	100



From the above graph, we can clearly understand that the schemes and subsidies from agriculture sector and agro industries are causing good benefit and useful for most of the farmers.

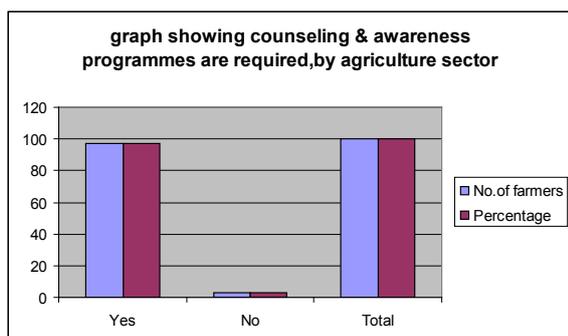
From the above analysis, I can interpret that 75% of the farmers are strongly agree the benefits and useful of schemes and subsidies, that are introduced by agriculture sector and agro industries, 20% of the farmers are just agree to this and remaining 5% are disagree and strongly disagree.

4) Do you accept counseling and awareness programmes are required by agriculture sector, in cultivation of paddy.

a) Yes b) No

Table: 6 Classification of awareness programmes are required by agriculture sector

Options	No. of farmers	Percentage
Yes	97	97
No	3	3
Total	100	100



From the above graph, we can clearly understand that counseling and awareness programmes by agriculture sector are very much useful

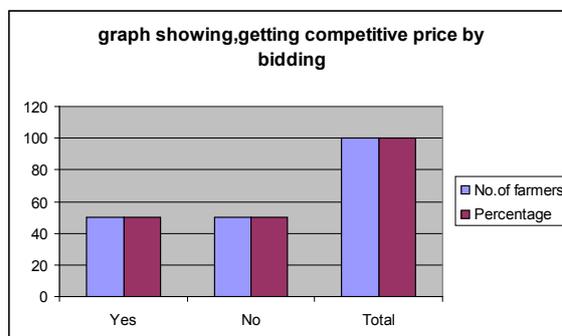
From the above analysis, I can interpret that 97% of the farmers are having positive ness regarding counseling and awareness programmes, by agriculture sector, in cultivation of paddy. Only 3% of the farmers are having negative opinion on counseling and awareness programmes held by agriculture sector.

5) Are you getting competitive price by bidding, in market yard of Mahabubnagar District?

a) Yes b) No

Table: 7 Classification of getting competitive price by bidding in market yard

Options	No. of farmers	Percentage
Yes	50	50
No	50	50
Total	100	100



From the above graph we can clearly understand that half of the farmers from 100 are satisfied by bidding.

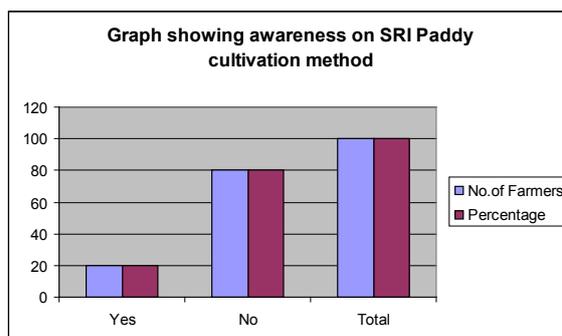
From the above analysis I can interpret that 50 % of the farmers are getting competitive price by bidding and 50% of the farmers are not getting competitive price by bidding.

6) Are you having awareness on SRI Paddy cultivation method?

a)Yes b) No

Table: 8 Classification of awareness on SRI Paddy cultivation method

Options	No. of Farmers	Percentage
Yes	20	20
No	80	80
Total	100	100



From the above graph, we can clearly understand that very few farmers are having awareness on SRI Paddy cultivation method.

From the above analysis, I can interpret that 80% of the farmers are not having awareness on SRI Paddy cultivation method. Only 20% of the farmers are having awareness on SRI Paddy cultivation method in Mahabubnagar District.

Opinion of Farmers towards Agriculture Department in Mahabubnagar District

Farmer's opinion towards Mahabubnagar Agriculture department is in positive way, as they are encouraging the farmers, by conducting many programmes, which are very useful for them. These are organized by Andhra Pradesh State Agriculture Department. Here Agriculture Department conducts

many classes on usage of fertilizers and pesticides to the crops and develops awareness in all the aspects to the farmers.

Suggestions (To Minimize post harvest losses, the following measures should be followed)

- Timely harvest at optimum moisture percentage (20 percent to 22 percent)
- Avoid excessive drying, fast drying and rewetting of grains, which causes more broken rice.
- Avoid the losses in threshing and winnowing by better mechanical methods.
- Follow sanitation during drying, milling, and after milling to avoid contamination of grains and protect from insects, rodents and birds.

→ Use proper technique of processing i.e. cleaning, parboiling and milling.

→ use efficient and good packaging for storage, as well as in transportation.

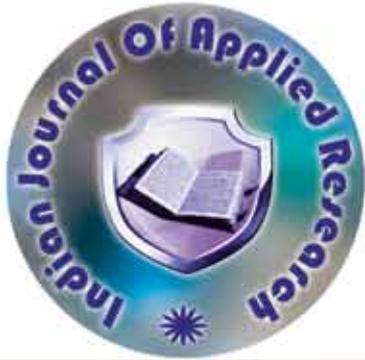
→ use pest control measures (fumigation) before storage.

Findings

1. There are so many inadequate resources towards cultivation of paddy.
2. The Agriculture sector is going to be decline especially in paddy sector, due to unawareness factor of SRI Method.
3. Initiatives are necessary from government of Andhra Pradesh, towards upliftment of Agriculture Sector, towards paddy cultivation.
4. Less awareness of inputs to farmers, who Produces paddy will cause barriers in cultivation.

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