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Constraints faced by the members of board of directors of farmers producers organization's

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Abstract

Present study was purposively conducted in *Junnar, Ambegaon and Khed* tehsil of Pune district based on maximum number of actively functioning FPO's. From selected tehsils, 15 FPO's and total 120 respondents were selected randomly. Data was collected by personally interviewing 120 respondents with the help of specially designed interview schedule. The statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation, rank and correlation were used for analysing the data.

The important constraints reported by the respondents while working as BOD members in different FPO's was high fees from CA for accounting related issues (96.67%) whereas important suggestion given by BOD members was maximum involvement of members should be there in all activities of FPO (90.00%).

Keywords: constraints, farmer producer organization's, board of directors, suggestions

1. Introduction

FPO's are agricultural cooperatives that are emerging as a practical approach towards empowering a great number of smallholder farmers and ensuring their prosperity. In countries where agriculture is the primary source of income for millions of farmers, they play a significant role in improving marginalized farmers' access to resources, which further helps boost their agri-productivity and their incomes.

The concept behind FPO's is that farmers, who are the producers of agricultural products, can form groups and register themselves under the Indian Companies Act. To facilitate this process, the Small Farmer's Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) was mandated by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, to support the State Governments in the formation of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO's). The aim is to enhance farmers' competitiveness and increase their advantage in emerging market opportunities. The FPO's major operations will include the supply of seed, fertilizer and machinery, market linkages, training and networking and financial and technical advice.

2. Methodology

- i. **Selected Locale:** Pune District (Purposively selected due to maximum number of registered and actively functioning FPO's are present in this district)
- ii. **Selected Tehsils:** 3 Tehsils i.e Junnar, Khed and Ambegaon (Purposively selected on the basis of actively functioning of FPO's in these Tehsils)
- iii. **Selected FPO's:** 15 active FPO's were selected from the 3 tehsils randomly.
- iv. **Sample size:** 120 respondents were selected randomly from 15 FPO's.

3. Result

3.1 Constraints faced by the members of the Board of Directors of Farmers Producer's organizations

During interview respondents expressed many constraints regarding role perception and role performance of the BOD members of FPO. The data in Table 1 provides information about the constraints expressed by the respondents.

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Table 1: Constraints faced by respondents while working as a BOD members in FPO

Sr. no	Constraints	Respondents (N= 120)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1	Poor participation of the BOD members in activities of FPO.	93	77.50	5
2	Deficit of capital.	102	85.00	3
3	Improper infrastructure availability for organizing meeting and training to member farmers.	86	71.67	6
4	A tedious system of banks for getting loan.	108	90.00	2
5	High fees from Charant Accountant (CA) for accounting related issues.	116	96.67	1
6	Lack of storage facility for perishables goods.	98	81.67	4

The data presented in Table 1 reveals that 96.67 per cent of the respondents faced high fees from CA a major constraint. This constraint was ranked one among all the constraints. 90.00 per cent of the respondents faced tedious system of banks for getting loans. This constraint was ranked second. 85.00 per cent of the respondents faced deficit of capital as a constraints. This constraint was ranked third. 81.67 per cent of the respondents faced lack of storage facility. This constraint

was ranked fourth. 77.50 per cent of the respondents faced poor participation of members. This constraint was ranked fifth. 71.67 per cent of the respondents faced improper infrastructure availability as a constraint. This constraint was ranked sixth.

3.2 The suggestions given by the respondents to overcome constraints were collected and depicted in Table 2

Table 2: Suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints faced while working as a BOD member in FPO

Sr. No	Suggestions	Respondents (N=120)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1	Cent percent involvement of members should be there in all activities of FPO.	108	90.00	2
2	More liberal policies with respect to banks should be made.	112	93.33	1
3	Availability of funds for storage facility infrastructure.	88	73.33	5
4	Certainty in market prices should be there.	94	78.33	4
5	Proper infrastructure for grading, packing and value-addition purpose should be there.	82	68.33	6
6	Post harvest plants should be set up.	102	85.00	3

The data presented in Table 2 reveals that the majority of the respondents (93.33%) suggested that more liberal policies with respect to banks should be made. This suggestion was ranked one. 90.00 per cent of the respondents suggested that 100% of the involvement of the members should be there. This suggestion was ranked second. 85.00 per cent of the respondents suggested that post harvest plants should be set up. This suggestion was ranked third. 78.33 per cent of the respondents suggested certainty in market prices must be there. This suggestion was ranked fourth. 73.33 per cent of the respondents suggested that there should be availability of funds for storage facility infrastructure. This suggestion was ranked fifth. 68.33 per cent of the respondents suggested that proper infrastructure for grading, packing and value addition purpose must be developed. This suggestion was ranked sixth.

4. Conclusion

The conclusion of study is as follows-

1. Great majority (96.67%) of the respondents reported that high fees from CA for accounting related issues as major constraints.
2. Great majority (90.00%) of the respondents suggested that maximum involvement of members should be there in all activities of FPO.

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