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Nikita
Ph.D. Research Scholar,
Department of Agricultural
Economics, SKRAU, Bikaner,
Rajasthan, India

Constraints faced by farmers in adoption of government agricultural schemes in Udaipur district of Rajasthan

Nikita

Abstract

The present investigation has been carried out in the year 2020-21 in the Udaipur district of Rajasthan. The study was completely based on primary data. To identify the various constraints faced by farmers in adoption of various government schemes to multiply their income will be collected through personal interview method. The data will be analyzed with Garrett ranking method, respondents will be asked to assign the rank for all constraints and the outcome of such ranking will be converted into score value. The foremost and important constraints faced by farmers in adopting government schemes is lack of awareness about the scheme to the farmers, lack of adequate disbursement of claim by govt under any scheme, existence of too many middlemen, poor risk taking ability of farmers and unavailability of agricultural supervisors for the spread of complete knowledge about the schemes to the farmers.

Keywords: agriculture, schemes, farmers

Introduction

During 2019-20 crop years, food grain production was estimated to reach a record 295.67 million tonnes (MT). Production of horticulture crops in India was estimated at a record 320.48 million metric tonnes (MMT) in Financial Year 20 as per second advance estimates. India has the largest livestock population of around 535.78 million, which translates to around 31 per cent of the world population. Milk production in the country is expected to increase to 208 million tonnes in Financial Year 21 from 198 million tonnes in Financial Year 20, registering a growth of 10 per cent. Sugar production in India reached 26.46 million tonnes between October 2019 and May 2020 sugar season according to Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA). India is among the 15 leading exporters of agricultural products in the world. Agricultural export from India reached US\$ 38.54 billion in Financial Year 19 and US\$ 28.93 billion in Financial Year 20 (till January 2020). The organic food segment in India is expected to grow at a CAGR of 10 per cent during 2015-25 and is estimated to reach `75,000 crore (US\$ 10.73 billion) by 2025 from `2,700 crore (US\$ 386.32 million) in 2015. According to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Indian food processing industry has cumulatively attracted Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflow of about US\$ 9.98 billion between April 2000 and March 2020.

It is apparent that income earned by a farmer from agriculture is crucial to address agrarian distress (Chand 2016) and promote farmers welfare. In this background, the goal set to double farmers' income by 2022-23 is central to promote farmers welfare, reduce agrarian distress and bring parity between income of farmers and those working in non-agricultural professions.

The Government constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee in April, 2016 to examine issues relating to "Doubling of Farmers Income" (DFI) and recommend strategies to achieve the same. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in September, 2018 containing the strategy for doubling of farmers' income by the year 2022. The DFI strategy as recommended by the Committee include seven sources of income growth viz., (i) improvement in crop productivity; (ii) improvement in livestock productivity; (iii) resource use efficiency or savings in the cost of production; (iv) increase in the cropping intensity; (v) diversification towards high value crops; (vi) improvement in real prices received by farmers; and (vii) shift from farm to non-farm occupations. Further, the Government has adopted several developmental programmes, schemes, reforms and policies that focus on higher incomes for the farmers. All these policies & programmes are being supported by higher budgetary allocations, non-budgetary financial resources by way of creating Corpus Funds,

Corresponding Author
Nikita
Ph.D. Research Scholar,
Department of Agricultural
Economics, SKRAU, Bikaner,
Rajasthan, India

and supplementary income transfers under PM-KISAN. The latest major intervention includes the ‘Atma Nirbhar Bharat – Agriculture’ which includes comprehensive market reforms and creation of ‘Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF)’ worth Rs. 1 lakh crore and allocation of Rs 500 crore for Bee Keeping initiative.

Research Methodology

For the present study primary data were collected from two *tehsils*; Vallabhnagar and Bhinder, of Udaipur district of Rajasthan. To identify the various constraints faced by farmers in adoption of various government schemes to multiply their income will be collected through personal interview method. The data will be analyzed with Garrett ranking method, respondents will be asked to assign the rank for all constraints and the outcome of such ranking will be converted into score value with the help of the following formula:

$$\text{Per cent position} = 100 (R_{ij} - 0.5) / N_j$$

Where, R_{ji} = Rank given for the i th variable by the j th respondent ($i=1,2,3,\dots$) factor by the j th ($j=1,2,3,\dots$)

N_j = number of variables ranked by the j th respondent

Once the per cent positions were found, the per cent position of each rank will be converted to scores by referring to table given in garret and woods worth (1969). Then the scores for each factor will be summed over the number of sample farmers who ranked that factor.

Results and Discussion

From the investigation there are number of constraints were found in adoption of government schemes by farmers in the study area. These are classified under various categories i.e., technical, economical, marketing, socio-personal and administrative constraints.

The major and foremost technical constraint was found as lack of awareness about government schemes which are might be due to passive behavior of agriculture supervisors and extension workers followed by communication gap between farmers and extension workers, inadequate knowledge about schemes, lack of technical guidance/motivation and poor government sources of timely information etc.

Technical constraints

	Constraints	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Lack of awareness about government schemes	71.37	1
2.	Inadequate knowledge about schemes	68.90	3
3.	Communication gap between farmers and extension workers	69.92	2
4.	Poor government sources of timely information	49.65	5
5.	Lack of technical guidance/motivation	56.33	4
6.	Most of the farmers not using android mobile phones	24.95	9
7.	More time required to get desired results	34.80	7
8.	Difficulty in finding the guarantor	43.06	6
9.	Difficulty in obtaining suitable security	32.02	8

The important economic constraint was analyzed as lack of adequate disbursement of claim by government under any scheme, government supplies small amount of agricultural inputs for a particular area and large farmers got more benefits over small and marginal farmers from that scheme. The other economic constraints were high initial investment because under government scheme the time between application and getting claim is large so farmers have to invest their own money until they get fund from scheme, lack of knowledge about proper amount of financial assistance under the scheme and not getting timely claim from government scheme ranks second, third and fourth, respectively.

Economic constraints

	Constraints	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	High initial investment	66.00	2
2.	Lack of adequate disbursement of claim by govt under any scheme	73.15	1
3.	Not getting timely claim from govt schemes	57.85	4
4.	Complexity of enrolment procedure	42.43	6
5.	Lack of knowledge about proper amount of financial assistance under the scheme	62.90	3
6.	Absence of crop insurance scheme for horticultural crops	28.33	7
7.	Low initial yield from organic farming and off-farm activities	24.00	8
8.	Official bias in loss assessment	44.33	5

The major marketing constraint faced by farmers in adopting govt schemes was existence of too many middlemen in the chain of getting claim under any scheme which represents lack of transparency in schemes, followed by non-availability of market for organic products, lack of awareness about the government schemes related to marketing of agricultural products and non-availability of required agricultural inputs in market.

Marketing constraints

	Constraints	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Existence of too many middlemen	63.18	1
2.	Non-availability of required agricultural inputs in market	37.38	4
3.	Lack of awareness about the government schemes related to marketing of agricultural products	37.42	3
4.	Non-availability of market for organic products	63.02	2

The important and mostly faced socio-personal and psychological constraint was found as poor risk taking ability of farmers it might be due to low land holding with farmers or existence of large number of small and marginal farmers in that particular area. Lack of trust among farmers regarding government schemes because of lack of complete knowledge about the schemes, lack of literacy among farmers, they are not adopting the schemes because others are also not adopting ranks second, third and fourth, respectively.

Socio-personal and psychological constraints

	Constraints	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Lack of literacy among farmers	64.65	3
2.	Poor risk taking ability of farmers	74.08	1
3.	Lack of trust among farmers regarding govt schemes	66.12	2
4.	They are not adopting the schemes because other farmers are also not adopting	61.85	4
5.	Over reliability on the external chemical inputs as compared to indigenous inputs	51.30	5
6.	Negative attitude of old-aged farmers towards govt schemes	37.30	7
7.	Selfish motives of agricultural supervisors	33.88	8
8.	Lack of interest in govt schemes	40.22	6
9.	Lack of support from family members	21.60	9

The most important administrative constraint was analysed as unavailability of agricultural supervisors as per the need of farmers for disbursement of information about the new schemes, new technology and new inputs to the farmers. Other constraints were large difference in cost assessment of crop production under MSP scheme, connive of agricultural department, and no soil testing labs are available in nearby areas etc.

Administrative constraints

	Constraints	Garrett Score	Rank
1.	Unavailability of agricultural supervisors	72.10	1
2.	Connive of agricultural department	59.85	3
3.	No soil testing labs facilities are available in nearby areas	40.15	4
4.	Unavailability of soil health card report at the time of crop sowing	27.90	6
5.	Failure in forecasting of proper weather and rainfall hinders actual assessment of crop loss by government	37.95	5
6.	Large difference in cost assessment of crop production under MSP scheme	62.05	2

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