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Problems faced by MOVCDNER beneficiaries in sustaining livelihood in Manipur

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Abstract

The present study was an effort to analyze the problems faced by MOVCDNER beneficiaries in sustaining livelihood and suggestions to overcome them in Imphal east district of Manipur. The district comprises of 3 blocks namely Sawombung, Jiribam and Keirao. Out of which Sawombung block was selected purposively having maximum number of MOVCDNER beneficiaries. The selected block comprises of 67 villages, out of which 4 villages were selected. From these villages a list of 100 MOVCDNER beneficiaries was selected as respondents for investigation. Problems faced by beneficiaries in Sustaining Livelihood was assessed and it was found that Majority of the beneficiaries faced poor irrigation problems having weighted mean 2.68 got the first rank and lack of knowledge about the scheme having weighted mean 1.55 got the least rank among the problems were found pertaining to the study.

Keywords: MOVCDNER, livelihood security, beneficiaries, problems

Introduction

Livelihood in rural areas is very erratic and risk hidden. Moreover, 75% of poor people live in rural areas of which 2.1 billion live on less than \$ 2 a day and 880 million on less than \$1 a day, and most depend on agriculture for their livelihoods (Mehta *et al.* 2010) ^[1]. In general social welfare of India, the condition of small farmers is of immense importance but small holding farmers in Indian agriculture are much more prominent today than before. The fragmentation of land holding within each passing generation has reduced the per capita availability of land in India (Pradhan *et al.* 2021) ^[2]. The concept of 'sustainable rural livelihood is a central to the debate about rural development, poverty reduction and environmental management (Roy *et al.* 2012) ^[3]. Rural livelihood has great significance for a country like India where the majority of the population lives in rural areas (Pradhan *et al.*, 2020) ^[4]. Household livelihood security is defined as adequate and sustainable access to income and resources to meet basic needs including adequate access to food, potable water, health facilities, educational opportunities, housing, time for community participation, and social integration (Frankenberger, 1996) ^[5]. The risk of livelihood failure determines the level of vulnerability of a household to income, food, health, and nutritional insecurity.

In recent times, organic farming has increasingly gained attention as a way to manage natural resources in a more sustainable way and to raise incomes especially of smallholder farm (Nazeer, 2014) ^[6]. Organic farming systems have attracted increasing attention world over due to wide adverse effects of conventional agricultural practices on human diet, environment and sustainability of agricultural production. Realizing the potential of organic farming in north east India, the Government of India has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled "Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER)" for implementation in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura from 2015-16 (Reddy, 2017) ^[7].

The government policies and programs should be focused on small/marginal farmers and non-farm labourers and should be made available employment opportunities which will increase their income level, livelihood security and standard of living in rural areas (Jodha *et al.* 2018) ^[8]. Providing sustainable livelihoods to the poor has been a major thrust area for development planners, policymakers and practitioners. Hence, in this study, an attempt was made to adumbrate the problems faced by MOVCDNER beneficiaries in sustaining livelihood and suggestions to overcome them in Imphal east district of Manipur.

Material and Methods

The investigation was conducted in the Imphal East district of Manipur. The district comprises of 3 blocks namely Sawombung, Jiribam and Keirao. Out of which Sawombung block was selected purposively having maximum number of MOVCNDR beneficiaries. The selected block comprises of 67 villages, out of which 4 villages were selected. From these villages a list of 100 MOVCNDR beneficiaries was selected as respondents for investigation. Data were collected through personal interviews using the pretested structured schedule to

elicit both qualitative and quantitative data on the problem faced by small farmers in achieving livelihood security. The household interview was conducted with the principal decision-maker of the family, based on the aspects of economical, ecological, technological social problems, problems regarding to in input supply, policy support and extension support.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Problems faced by the beneficiaries for sustaining their livelihoods.

Sl. No.	Statements	Most Severe	Severe	Least Severe	Weighted Frequency score	Weighted Mean	Rank
1.	Lack of adequate facilities of storage	21	51	28	193	1.93	VII
2.	Poor linkage of extension functionary	12	47	41	171	1.71	VIII
3.	Poor seed quality	36	55	9	227	2.27	V
4.	Low social participation of people	11	43	46	165	1.65	IX
5.	Delay of sanctioning of equipments and funds	56	40	4	252	2.52	IV
6.	Unavailability of technological inputs	27	65	8	219	2.19	VI
7.	Lack of knowledge about the scheme	13	29	58	155	1.55	X
8.	Price fluctuation in market	63	35	2	261	2.61	II
9.	Non availability of effective climate	59	38	3	256	2.56	III
10.	Poor irrigation system	70	28	2	268	2.68	I

The data regarding the problems faced by the respondents for sustaining their livelihoods showed that Majority of the beneficiaries faced poor irrigation problems having weighted mean 2.68, followed by price fluctuation in market (2.61), had non availability of effective climate (2.56), delay of sanctioning of equipments and funds (2.52), had poor quality seeds (2.27), unavailability of technological inputs (2.19), lack of adequate facilities of storage (1.93), poor linkage of extension functionary (1.71), low social participation of people (1.65) and lack of knowledge about the scheme (1.55) were some major important problems in order of their importance. These findings are in conformity with the results of previously research work conducted by Roy *et al.* (2013)^[9], Rai (2015)^[10] and Pradhan *et al.* (2020)^[11].

Suggestions to overcome the problems faced in sustaining their livelihood

The suggestion refers to an opinion about problems that can be used as a solution to overcome or to minimize them. To

develop a foolproof extension strategy, it is essential to seek the opinions of the respondents. The purse of a person decides the activities one has to take up or one can take up. The problems faced by them may be sometimes imaginary and sometimes due to lack of coordination at different levels. Hence in this study, all the beneficiaries were requested to offer their valued suggestions for eliminating the problems. The respondents were requested to express their suggestions to overcome the problems.

The frequency for each suggestion was calculated and then converted into a percentage. Later on, the rank was assigned. The suggestion receiving high percentage was considered as an important suggestion and the suggestion receiving low percentage considered as less important suggestion. In this study numbers of problems were found out and following suggestions if implemented by the farmers may lead to their progress. The data of Table 2 shows the suggestions given by respondents for achieving livelihood security.

Table 2: Suggestions given by respondents for achieving livelihood security

Sl. No.	Statements	Frequency (n=100)	percentage	Rank
1.	Supply of standard quality materials	65	65.00	V
2.	subsidy amount should be raised	39	39.00	X
3.	improve of road conditions	56	56.00	VIII
4.	Regular visits of officers	75	75.00	IV
5.	increase of irrigation	90	90.00	I
6.	provide equipments and funds by agency at proper time	62	62.00	VI
7.	Training of local leader for proper motivation to people	40	40.00	IX
8.	Availability of water supply	88	88.00	II
9.	Availability of credit to people in time	60	60.00	VII
10.	Timely supply of benefits of the scheme	80	80.00	III

The data of the table 2 shows the suggestions to overcome the livelihood of beneficiaries. Majority of the beneficiaries (90.00%) suggested increase of the irrigation system, timely availability of water supply (88.00%), timely supply of the benefits of the scheme (80.00%), suggested regular visits of officers (75.00%), suggested supply of standard quality materials (65.00%), suggested to provide equipments and

funds by agency in proper time (62.00%), suggested availability of credit to people (60.00%), suggested improved of road functions (56.00%), suggested training of local leader for proper motivation to people (40.00%), suggested subsidy amount should be raised (39,00%). These findings are in line with the results of previously research work done by Tala (2012)^[12].

Conclusion

The problems in achieving livelihood security are many and diversified. The problems differ from individual to individual based on the family requirement, socio-cultural variation, economic condition, etc. This study has unveiled the some aspects of social, ecological, economical, input supply and support services, etc. This requires quick redressal at appropriate levels for creating awareness among them for achieving livelihood security system. Keeping the problems of livelihood in mind, it can conclude that livelihood security is a need of time for increase of the irrigation system, timely availability of water supply and also timely supply of the benefits of the scheme.

There should be regular visits of officers suggested by the respondents. Secondly, there is a problem of inputs supply, thus, supply of standard quality materials, provides equipments and funds by agency in proper time need to be emphasized, availability of credit to people is given more importance by the farmers. There is a need for attention by policymakers towards the improvement of road functions, training of local leader for proper motivation to people and subsidy amount should be raised.

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