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Opinion and constraints regarding agriculture implements and tools distribution service of tribal area development programme on tribals of Udaipur district

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Abstract

Rajasthan has 7.10 lakh scheduled tribe (ST) population (12%) as per the 2001 census, of which nearly 95 percent reside in rural areas. Though the tribal population is scattered throughout the state, a major portion is concentrated in southern part of the state. The economy of tribal had continued to predominately rest on agriculture. As the size of land holding in scheduled area is small, the percentage of irrigated area to cultivated area is low and traditional farm technique is being used by this area, the productivity of agriculture produced is low. Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution service is an effective service was agreed by 53.33 per cent beneficiaries and 26.66 per cent and 20 per cent beneficiaries were undecided and disagreed respectively. Service is a boon for economic development was agreed by 50 per cent beneficiaries while 53.33 per cent beneficiaries also agreed that supplies of tools not available in time whereas 33.33 per cent beneficiaries disagreed with these. Constraints, faced by the beneficiaries were lack of awareness (91.11 MPS), lack of knowledge and skills (83.33 MPS), lack of technical guidance (74.44 MPS) and lack of proper training about tools and implements (70 MPS).

Keywords: Opinion, constraints, TADP, tools, agriculture etc.

Introduction

A tribe is defined as “a social group with a definite area, dialects, cultural homogeneity, and unifying social organization. Tribals have specific characteristics which make them a society based upon kinship, where social stratification is absent (Beteille, 1977). In spite of favourable resource conditions, tribal regions perform poorly in terms of infrastructure, returns from agriculture and almost all human development indicators. As compared to other sections of the Indian society, the tribal population has the lowest Human Development Index (HDI). Among the social groups, scheduled tribes (STs) have the highest proportion of the poor (54 percent), followed by scheduled castes (SCs, 50 percent). While the tribal population accounts for only about 8 percent of the total population, it constitutes 40 percent of the displaced population. Rajasthan has 7.10 lakh scheduled tribe (ST) population (12%) as per the 2001 census, of which nearly 95 percent reside in rural areas. Though the tribal population is scattered throughout the state, a major portion is concentrated in southern part of the state viz., entire districts of Banswara and Dungarpur, the tehsils of Kherwara, Jhadol, Kotra, Salumber, Sarada, Dhariyawad and 81 villages of Girwa panchayat samiti of Udaipur district, Partapgarh and Arnod tehsils of Chittorgarh district and Abu Road block of Sirohi district. Five districts viz., Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaipur and Chittorgarh account for more than half (54.50%) of the total ST population in Rajasthan. The major tribes residing in these areas are Bhil, Meena, Damor, Patelias, Saharaiyas, and Gharasia. Sahariya, a primitive tribal group, residing in part of Baran, Kota, Dungarpur and Sawai Madhopur districts, is among the most backward tribal groups. The economy of tribals continues to be predominately agriculture with small landholding and irrigated area. These communities have higher incidence of illiteracy, malnourishment and poverty, and face social and geographic isolation. The region lacks productive land, irrigation facilities, industrialization and skill building opportunities. The social assessment commissioned by the SPMU has highlighted the fact that the tribals in the project districts are amongst the poorest and marginalized communities. Thus, deliberate and proactive measures, combined with relevant government programs on tribal development are required, to ensure that benefits actually accrue to them. This sizable presence of tribal community requires a specific strategy to ensure their inclusion in the project interventions and processes. The economy of tribal had continued to predominately rest on agriculture. As the size of land holding in scheduled area is small, the percentage of irrigated area to cultivated

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area is low and traditional farm technique is being used by this area, the productivity of agriculture produced is low. Thus priority will be given to irrigation sector and electrification of wells.

Objectives of the Study

- I. To study the structure and functioning of Tribal Area Development Programme (TADP) in Udaipur District.
- II. To find out the opinion and constraints of agriculture implements and tools distribution service under agricultural services of TADP among the beneficiaries.

Opinion: Opinion in the present study is conceptualized as the personal view of tribal beneficiaries - positive or negative about agricultural services promoted under Tribal Area Development Programme.

Constraints: It refers to the obstacles in adoption of improved practices of agricultural services by the beneficiaries of TADP.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in tribal area of Udaipur district where Tribal Area Development Programme is in operation under Tribal Area Development Department. The department implements the programme services through line departments or related organization in the area. The Agricultural services are intensively implemented in three tribal blocks namely Jadol, Sarada and Lasadiya as informed by the department personnel hence these three blocks were purposively selected for the study. There were six Agricultural services and for each service, two villages were selected for beneficiaries. Thus 12 villages were selected for beneficiaries For each service, thirty beneficiaries (15 from each village) were selected randomly, making a total sample of 180 beneficiaries for the six Agricultural services. The interview schedule was developed by the researcher after extensive review of literature and in consultation with the subject matter specialists from the concerned department/organization. The personal interview method was used by the researcher for the purpose of data collection. Informal observations were also made to check the information regarding adoption of practices. For statistical analysis frequency, percentage, Mean Percent Scores (MPS), Mean Weighted Scores (MWS) and Student 't' test were used.

Scoring Procedure: The scoring of the schedule was finalized in consultation with the expert. The scoring in part of the interview schedule was as follows:

- Opinion - It consists of positive and negative statements in each service therefore assessed on three point continuum as agree, undecided and disagree with the scores of 3, 2 and 1 respectively for positive statements and 1, 2 and 3 respectively for negative statements.
- Constraints tool - Constraints were assessed on three point continuum as Great extent, some extent and least extent with scores 3, 2 and 1 respectively.

Measurement of Opinion: The respondent's opinion towards positive and negative statements in Horticulture Development was measured.

Measurement of Constraints

There were varied number of constraints in each Agriculture service grouped under Personal, technical, economic and general constraints.

After collecting data it was necessary to analyze with the help of statistics to derive proper and adequate conclusion. Therefore, obtained data were coded, tabulated and analyzed with the help of statistical tools and techniques

Results

Opinion of Beneficiaries towards Agricultural Services

Opinion of the beneficiaries was studied towards Agricultural services promoted under TADP. The statement wise results are presented in Table 1 to 2.

Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution

Table 1 depicts the opinion of the beneficiaries about Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution service. In the service, TADP personnel provide adequate knowledge about tools was agreed by 70 per cent beneficiaries, while 16.66 per cent and 13.33 per cent of the beneficiaries were neutral and disagreed respectively. Further 63.33 per cent, 20 per cent and 16.66 per cent of the beneficiaries were agreed, disagreed and undecided respectively towards improvement in knowledge through training and demonstration. With regard to costly equipment even after subsidies as well as complicated process to avail benefits were agreed by 60 per cent of the beneficiaries and remaining were undecided or disagreed. Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution service is an effective service was agreed by 53.33 per cent beneficiaries and 26.66 per cent and 20 per cent beneficiaries were undecided and disagreed respectively. Service is a boon for economic development was agreed by 50 per cent beneficiaries while 53.33 per cent beneficiaries also agreed that supplies of tools not available in time whereas 33.33 per cent beneficiaries disagreed with these.

Table 1: Distribution of beneficiaries by their opinion towards Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution n= 30

S. No	Statements	Agree F (%)	Undecided F (%)	Disagree F (%)
1.	Boon for economic development	15 (50)	7 (23.33)	8 (26.66)
2.	Equipments very costly even with subsidy	18 (60)	4 (16.66)	8 (26.66)
3.	Inadequate physical arrangements in training sessions	8 (26.66)	10 (33.33)	12 (60)
4.	Training and demonstration improved knowledge	19 (63.33)	5 (16.66)	6 (20)
5.	Provide poor quality equipments	9 (30)	7 (23.33)	14 (46.66)
6.	TADP personnel provide adequate knowledge about tools	21 (70)	5 (16.66)	4 (16.66)
7.	An effective programme	16 (53.33)	8 (26.66)	6 (20)

8.	Reduces physical activity	12 (40)	10 (33.33)	8 (26.66)
9.	Emphasis on target achievement only	3 (6.66)	20 (66.66)	7 (23.33)
10.	Complicated process to avail benefits	18 (60)	6 (20)	6 (20)
11.	Supplies not available in time	16 (53.33)	3 (10)	11 (33.33)
12.	Timely and adequate subsidy provided	13 (43.33)	8 (26.66)	9 (30)

The table further shows that 43.33 per cent and 40 per cent of the beneficiaries agreed towards timely and adequate subsidy provided and tools reduces physical activity, respectively while, 26.66 – 36.66 per cent of the beneficiaries were undecided and 26.66 - 33.33 of the beneficiaries were neutral towards these aspects. About poor quality equipment and inadequate training session 30 per cent and 26.66 per cent of the beneficiaries respectively in were agreement. However, 66.66 per cent beneficiaries were undecided about emphasis on target achievement only and few beneficiaries i.e. 23.33 per cent were in disagreement.

It can be seen that beneficiaries were in agreement with positive aspects of the service and for negative aspects also they were in disagreement that the things were not such negative with the service.

Constraints faced by the beneficiaries of Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution

The constraints faced by the beneficiaries of Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution presented in Table 2 clearly reveals that the major constraints faced by the beneficiaries of the service were technical, economic and personal as revealed by MPS 79.72 (I Rank), 78.89 (II Rank)

and 75.56 (III Rank) respectively followed by general constraints 67.55 MPS with IV rank. A critical look of the table reveals that the major personal constraints perceived by the beneficiaries of Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution service were lack of risk bearing capacity (92.22 MPS), lack of scientific orientation (81.11 MPS), lack of decision making capabilities (77.78 MPS) and lack of initiative (71.11 MPS) followed by lack of enthusiasm to adopt new government programme (55.56 MPS). These findings may be due to the reason that tribal people are living isolated, having limited exposure to outside world, not aware about all the government programmes and resist change or don't want to take risks. So whatever comes to them, if find suitable they accept.

Technical constraints, faced by the beneficiaries were lack of awareness (91.11 MPS), lack of knowledge and skills (83.33 MPS), lack of technical guidance (74.44 MPS) and lack of proper training about tools and implements (70 MPS). These constraints may be due to the reason that many a time focus of the service might have remained on the distribution of implements and tools to fulfill the target and adequate training about the tools and implements was not provided. Sometimes due to limited staff also the service is not implemented fully.

Table 2: Constraints faced by the beneficiaries of Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution n=30

S. No	Constraints	MPS	Rank
1	Personal constraints		III
i.	Lack of risk bearing capacity	92.22	
ii.	Lack of scientific orientation	81.11	
iii.	Lack of decision making capabilities	77.78	
iv.	Lack of initiative	71.11	
v.	Lack of enthusiasm to adopt new government programme	55.56	
	Over all	75.56	
2	Technical constraints		I
i.	Lack of awareness	91.11	
ii.	Lack of knowledge and skill	83.33	
iii.	Lack of technical guidance	74.44	
iv.	Lack of proper training about tools and implements	70	
	Overall	79.72	
3	Economic constraints		II

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