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Constraints of paddy grower farmers - A study with special reference to Chhattisgarh state

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Plain zone of Chhattisgarh State, to study the production constraints faced by paddy grower farmers and various suggestions given by them to overcome the constraints. The study relied mainly on primary data obtained by questionnaire and interview administered on a total of 240 farmers across three districts that constitute the plain zone of Chhattisgarh state. The major agro ecological, technical, socio-economical and marketing constraints perceived by farmers were high cost of insecticide, high cost of labor during peak periods, less quantity purchased Paddy from MSP. Important suggestions as given by the farmers were effective credit facility, effective implementation of crop insurance scheme as well as minimum support prices, along with arrangement for supply of quality seed, fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides etc.

Keywords: constraints, Paddy, farm size, MSP, weighted means

Introduction

Agriculture is the backbone of India in India, majority of the places are occupied by agricultural land. There are lots of people working in this sector. Paddy is one of the most important cereal crops in the country. Paddy is cultivated in almost all the States of India. The state of West Bengal ranks first in production (15.31 million tons) and second rank in area (5.50 million hectare) of rice. Punjab has been the highest productivity (3998 kg/ha) in the country.

Chhattisgarh is recognized as rice bowl in India. The state's share to national paddy area and production is 8.61 percent and 6.30 percent respectively and more than 80 percent kharif cultivable area under paddy. (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation 2013-14).

The farming is gradually becoming more and more commercialized with the time and advancement in crop production technology. Now it aims at increasing per unit productivity of land, labour, and other scare means of farm resources. In this process, the problems faced by farming community have greater significance. This paper tries to examine the reason for the reduction in paddy farming in Chhattisgarh state.

Methodology

Sampling Design

A multistage stratified random sampling technique was adopted. The present study was conducted in Rajnandgoan, Dhamtari and Mahasamund districts of plain zone of Chhattisgarh state. These districts have first, second and third place respectively in the area under rice crop. Multistage Stratified random sampling technique was adopted for selection of blocks, villages and sample farmers. At the second and third stage of sampling, two blocks and two villages were selected from each district and each block, respectively to constitute a total of 6 blocks and 12 villages. Primary data were collected from a sample of 240 paddy farmers (20 from each village) through personal interview on well structured and pre tested schedule for the Agricultural year 2016 – 17.

Methods and Techniques of Analysis

The data collected from the sample cultivators were analyzed and estimated with certain statistical techniques.

Weighted Average: The simplest and important measures of average which have been used into statistical analysis were the weighted average. The formula used to estimate the average is:

$$W.A. = \frac{\sum W_i X_i}{\sum W_i}$$

Where,

W.A. = Weighted Average

X= Variable

W = Weights of X

Result and Discussion

Constraints/Problems

Problems faced by producers on different size group of farms are given in Table. It is evident from the table that Irrespective of farm size, about 73 percent of the farmers reported that the entire crop production of paddy that is actual per hectare total production was not purchased by government in MSP it was purchased limited which was 36.55 quintal per hectare only in the study area. Another important aspect perceived by farmers about 70 percent overall faced the

problems of insect-pests and diseases. About 61 percent farmers faced Ineffective weed control method farmers felt that effect of herbicide has decreasing for weed control. High cost of insecticide reported by 65.22 percent, 49.23 percent, 56.45 percent and 63.64 percent at marginal small medium and large farm respectively with 61.25 percent at an overall level. High wage rate as a constraint responsible for increased cost of cultivation was expressed by 52.08 percent at an overall level. Non - dedication to the farming activities is another important factor responsible for yield gap in paddy production about 48.33 percent felt this type of problems at overall level. Lack of adoption of technology such as SRI, line sowing and transplanting as one of the constraints in attaining higher yields was 48.33 percent sample farmers at an overall level highest in marginal farmers (65.22 percent). Irrigation is one of the important economic indicators of the farmers in the farming economy lack of irrigation was main constraint as faced by 45.83 percent of an overall level farmers in study area.

Table 1: Constraints on different size group of farms

Sr. No.	Constraints	Farm size				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
1	Government does not purchase entire Paddy production from MSP	28 (40.57)	49 (75.38)	56 (90.32)	42 (95.45)	175 (72.91)
2	Insects diseases problem	56 (81.16)	47 (72.31)	38 (61.29)	27 (61.36)	168 (70.00)
3	High cost of insecticide	45 (65.22)	32 (49.23)	35 (56.45)	28 (63.64)	140 (58.33)
4	Ineffective weed control	40 (57.97)	45 (69.23)	37 (59.68)	25 (56.82)	147 (61.25)
5	High cost of labor	20 (28.99)	30 (46.15)	40 (64.52)	35 (79.55)	125 (52.08)
6	Non-dedication of the farmers to the farming activities	14 (20.29)	27 (41.54)	45 (72.58)	30 (68.18)	116 (48.33)
7	Lack of adoption of technology such as SRI, line sowing and transplanting	45 (65.22)	35 (53.85)	22 (35.48)	14 (31.82)	112 (48.33)
8	Lack of irrigation facilities	37 (53.62)	35 (53.85)	25 (40.32)	13 (29.55)	110 (45.83)
9	High price of electricity bill for tube well	0 (00.00)	0 (00.00)	10 (16.12)	27 (61.36)	37 (15.41)
10	Problem of label down of ground water	0 (00.00)	0 (0.00)	18 (29.03)	27 (61.36)	45 (18.75)
11	Total Sample	69 (100)	65 (100)	62 (100)	44 (100)	240 (100)

Note: Figures in parenthesis indicate the percentage of farmers responding the problems

Suggestion

Suggestions given by sample farms with regards of constraints in paddy cultivation are –

1. A good number of high yielding varieties of this crop should be introduced in the state to increase the productivity and hence the production of crop in the state.
2. Effort must be made to update/ enrich farmers knowledge and skill on the causes of yield gaps and the strategies to minimize the gaps through training, demonstration, field visits, and monitoring by extension agencies.
3. The government should expansion of surface irrigation method like canal as low cost irrigation method.
4. The government needs effective implementation of crop insurance as well as minimum support prices.
5. SRI method of cultivation produces higher yields with less seed and water requirement, so increase the area of cultivation of SRI method.
6. Value addition also enhance the profitability of Paddy production, government should take measures for farmers.
7. Organic farming should be promoted by the Department of Agriculture to improve soil fertility.

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