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## Over all opinion and constraints of beneficiaries towards agricultural services of tribal area development programme

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**Abstract**

The present study was undertaken with the objectives to study the opinion of beneficiaries towards agricultural services promoted under Tribal Area Development Programme and to explore the constraints faced by the beneficiaries of the TADP. The study was carried out in randomly selected 24 villages from three tribal blocks. The sample consisted of 180 beneficiaries of Agricultural services of TADP selected on the basis of random sampling method. For statistical analysis, Mean weight and Mean Percent score were used. About the opinion of beneficiaries towards Agricultural services results found that majority of the beneficiaries (63.33 to 100%) had favourable opinion. Constraints were faced to great extent by the beneficiaries of all the services, as revealed by the MPS of the service Agriculture Implements and tools Distribution (MPS 74.77), Vegetable development (MPS 71.69), Horticulture development (MPS 66.76), Barren land Development through Jatropha Plantation (MPS 74.00), Livestock Development (77.47 MPS) and Development of whole (Agriculture) tribal villages (81.06 MPS).

**Keywords:** Opinion, constraints, agricultural services, TADP

**Introduction**

Since India opted for planned development, special attention has been paid to the amelioration and uplift of tribal areas, by providing enhanced allotment of funds and evolving special development programmes to integrate the tribals with the larger society within the shortest possible time. Many constitutional safeguard have been provided and protective legislations enacted by various states to protect the tribal's interest in land and forest and to afford opportunities of employment and education.

From time immemorial, agriculture has been a way of life for tribals and it is the principal source of livelihood for more than 55 per cent of the population of this country. Regarding tribals and agriculture several steps were taken out, several programmes were made and thus economic upliftment was the main objective.

With the view to bring the tribal areas or people of the country in the mainstream of economic development and accelerating the pace of socio-economic development, the State Government has made significant efforts to uplift the tribal people and started various activities for their social and economic development. A special programme, known as Tribal Area Developmental Programme (TADP) was taken up, on a pilot basis under a central sector plan scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture in 1964. Specific provisions have been made for funding the scheme targeting the well-being of the tribal people. In the programme, services were added and removed with the passage of time. Opinion and constraints regarding the programme is important aspect and assess programme in right way. Hence this paper present over all opinion and constraints of the agriculture services of Tribal Area Developmental Programme (TADP).

**Methodology**

This study involved interview method for 180 beneficiaries of six Agricultural services of TADP in 12 villages of 3 blocks selected randomly. Opinion of the respondents about six Agricultural services promoted under Tribal Area Development Programme were taken. For each service equal number of positive and negative statements were framed and 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. Information about the constraints faced by the respondents in obtaining and adopting the benefits of agricultural services as technical, economic, personal and general for each service

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and assessed on three point continuum as Great extent, some extent and least extent with scores 3, 2 and 1 respectively. extent, some extent and least extent were made on the basis of equal interval, as given in below Table.

**Measurement of Opinion**

Over all scores of each respondent was calculated by summing up the scores of all the statements (Positive and Negative) in the service and then Mean Weighted scores were calculated. The respondents were then categorized in to three opinion categories as favourable, neutral and unfavourable opinion as given in the below Table

Opinion categories of respondents

S. No.	Categories	Score Range
1	Favourable	2.51 - 3.0
2	Neutral	1.51 - 2.50
3	Unfavourable	1.0 - 1.50

**Measurement of Constraints**

Respondent’s scores in various aspects of the service were summed up and according to the severity of constraints in each Agricultural service, the three categories namely great

Constraints categories of respondents

S. No.	Categories	Score Range
1	Great Extent	66.67 – 100
2	Some Extent	33.34 - 66.66
3	Least Extent	0 – 33.33

For statistical analysis, MWS and MPS were calculated to find out opinion and constraints of Agricultural services respectively.

**Results and Discussion**

An effort was made to see the overall opinion of the beneficiaries towards the service which has been presented in the Table 1 along with MWSs.

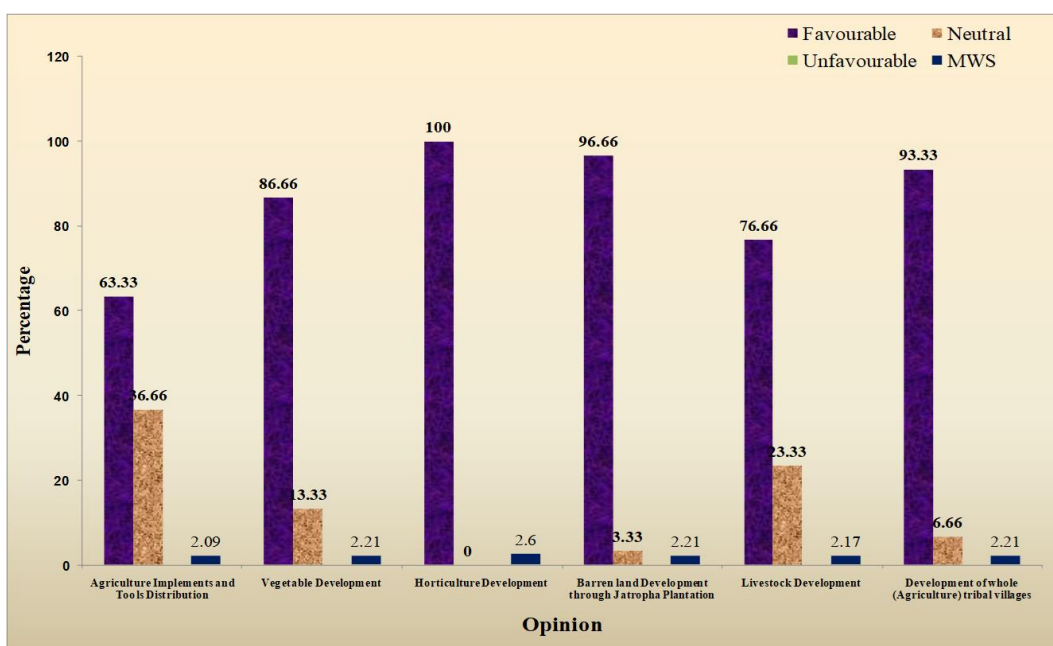
**Table 1:** Over all Opinion of beneficiaries towards Agricultural services

S. No	Services	Favourable f (%)	Neutral f (%)	Unfavourable f (%)	MWS
1	Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution	19 (63.33)	11 (36.66)	-	2.09
2	Vegetable Development	26 (86.66)	4 (13.33)	-	2.21
3	Horticulture Development	30 (100)	-	-	2.60
4	Barren Land Development through Jatropha Plantation	29 (96.66)	1 (3.33)	-	2.21
5	Livestock Development	23 (76.66)	7 (23.33)	-	2.17
6	Development of whole (Agriculture) tribal villages	28 (93.33)	2 (6.66)	-	2.21

n= 180

A glance over the table clearly indicates that majority of the beneficiaries (76.66 to 100 %) had favourable opinion towards all the Agricultural services except the service of Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution where 63.33 per cent of the beneficiaries were having favourable opinion while 36.66 per cent of the beneficiaries were having neutral opinion.

Service wise review of data in the table depicts that towards Horticulture Development; all the beneficiaries (100%) had favourable opinion also reflected by MWS i.e. 2.60 out of 3 score. The favourable opinion of beneficiaries was found towards Vegetable Development as the MWS for the service was 2.21 and majority beneficiaries (86.66%) were also in favourable opinion category and only 13.33 per cent beneficiaries were in neutral opinion category.



**Fig 1:** Beneficiaries opinion towards Agricultural services

The table further presents the data regarding Barren Land Development through Jatropa Plantation service that 96.66 per cent beneficiaries had favourable opinion with MWS 2.21 and only 3.33 beneficiaries had showed neutral opinion. In the service of Livestock Development, 76.66 percent of the beneficiaries had favourable opinion and 23.33 per cent beneficiaries had neutral opinion as depicted by MWS 2.17 (Table 1). In the service Development of Whole (Agriculture) Tribal Villages, 93.33 per cent of the beneficiaries had favourable opinion with MWS 2.21.

**Overall Constraints in Agricultural services**

To see the extent of constraints faced by the beneficiaries in each service, based on the over all score of the beneficiaries they were categorized in three constraints categories as great extent, some extent and least extent and the MPS were also calculated for each service and presented in Table 2.

A look at the table reveals that in all the six services viz Agriculture Implements and tools Distribution, Vegetable Development programme, Horticulture Development programme, Barren land Development through Jatropa Planation, Livestock Development Centre and Development of Whole (Agriculture) Tribal Villages, the constraints were experienced to great extent as revealed by the MPSs i.e. 74.77, 71.69, 66.76, 74, 77.47, and 81.06 respectively.

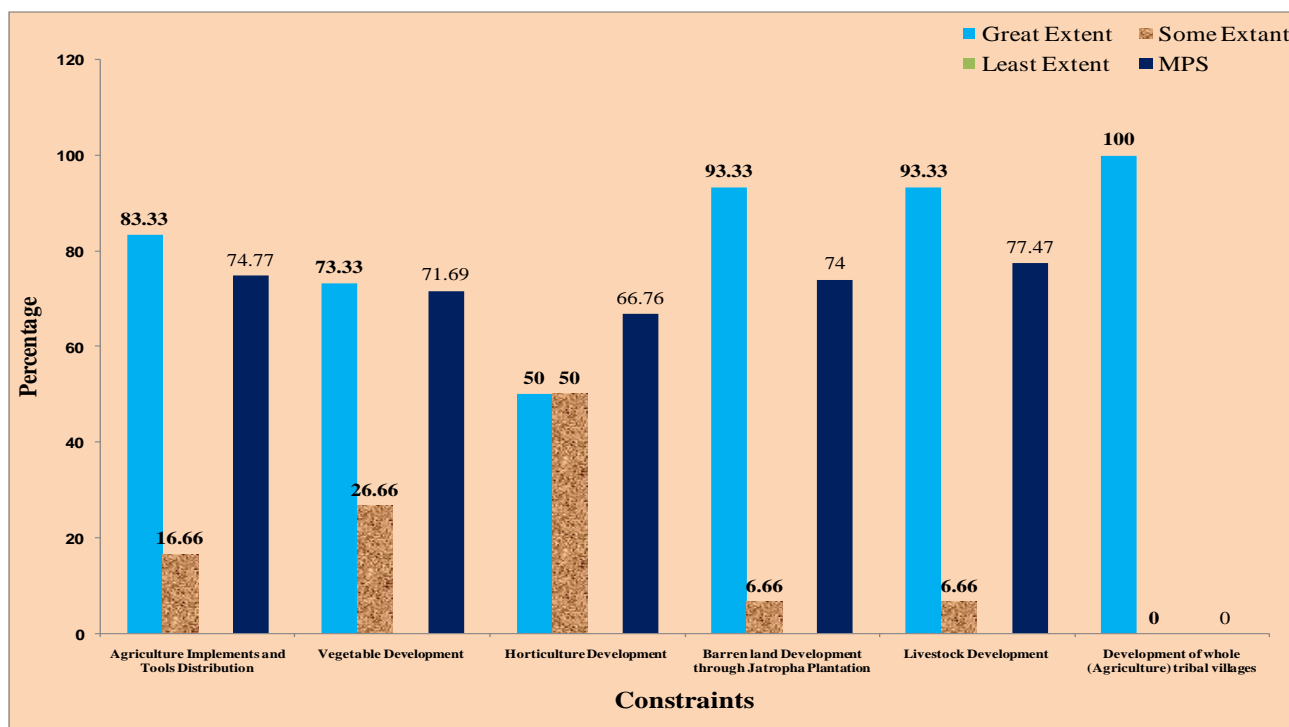
**Table 2:** Distribution of beneficiaries by constraints faced in Agricultural service

S. No	Services	Great Extent f (%)	Some Extent f (%)	Least Extent f (%)	MPS
1	Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution	25 (83.33)	5 (16.66)	0	74.77
2	Vegetable Development	22 (73.33)	8 (26.66)	0	71.69
3	Horticulture Development	15 (50)	15 (50)	0	66.76
4	Barren land Development through Jatropa	28 (93.33)	2 (6.66)	0	74
5	Livestock Development Programme	28 (93.33)	2 (6.66)	0	77.47
6	Development of whole (Agriculture) tribal village	30 (100)	0	0	81.06

n=180

Indepth review of constraints according to each service also reveal that in Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution service, 83.33 per cent beneficiaries experienced the

constraints to great extent and only 16.66 per cent of the beneficiaries experienced constraints to some extent.



**Fig 2:** Constraints Faced by beneficiaries of Agricultural services

Table 2 further reveals that in Vegetable Development programme, 73.33 per cent and 26.66 per cent of the beneficiaries were in the constraints categories of great extent and some extent respectively

Sharma and Ladher (2010) in a study reported the constraints in the farm practices of major vegetable crops were high cost of fertilizer, lack of knowledge about dose and application of fertilizer and non availability of fertilizer mentioned by found

that out of total respondents 27.50, 20.63, 18.75 percent of respondents respectively.

In Horticulture Development, Table 2 reveals that half of the beneficiaries (50%) were falling in great as well as some extent constraints category.

Similar results were reported by Meena (2005) in a study on Adoption of improved technology of Aonla (*emblica officinalis gaertn.*) plantation in Udaipur District of Rajasthan as economic constraints (MPS 65.51%) were most important

constraints and ranked I followed by storage and marketing constraints (MPS 64.13%), general constraints (MPS 55.77%) and technical constraints (MPS 52.89%) which were accorded II, III and IV ranks in rank order by the respondents.

In Barren Land Development through Jatropha Plantation, 93.33 per cent beneficiaries experiencing constraints to great extent and only 6.66 per cent of the beneficiaries were experiencing constraints to some extent.

The study conducted by Meena (2006) also reported alike findings that 67 per cent of total respondents faced medium level of constraints in adoption of jatropha cultivation technology. Whereas, 22.50 per cent jatropha growers were observed to be in high constraint group and only 10.50 per cent respondents perceived low level of constraints in jatropha cultivation.

Table 2 further depicts that in Livestock Development beneficiaries experienced constraints to great extent were experienced by 93.33 per cent beneficiaries and only 6.66 per cent of the beneficiaries faced constraints to some extent.

In Development of Whole (Agriculture) Tribal Villages service, (Table 2) all the beneficiaries (100%) were facing constraints to great extent.

The constraints were experienced by the beneficiaries to great and some extent in all the Agricultural services, because less resources were available with the tribals. They were not much aware about various improved practices and not having much exposure. These findings may be due to the reasons that in order to receive further benefits of the programme, the tribals might be reporting constraints to great extent. Moreover there is always possibility of some lacuna as well as improvement therefore finding constraints helps to overcome them and achieve a better situation in future.

### Conclusion

Opinion towards Agricultural services reveals favourable opinion of beneficiaries towards all Agricultural service except in Agriculture Implements and Tools Distribution. All the beneficiaries reported for personal, technical, economic and general constraints for each of the Agricultural service to great extent.

Based on these findings it can be said that there is need to reduce the constraints as far as possible and increase the knowledge with adoption of various components of agricultural services for sustainable development with support of favourable opinion. This will further increase the income and thereby quality of life of the beneficiaries of the programme.

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