

PROBLEM AFFECTING SMALLSCALE FARMERS IN AGRICULTURE IN AVINASHI TALUK

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DOI : <https://www.doi.org/10.56726/IRJMETS45480>

ABSTRACT

This paper examines the roles and challenges of small scale farmer and agriculture in India. It covers trends in agricultural growth, cultivation patterns, participation of small holding agriculture, productivity performance of small holders, linking small holders with markets including value chains, role of small farmer in enhancing food security and employment generation, differential policies and institutional support for small holders and, challenges and future options for small scale agriculture including information needs. It also provides lessons from the experience of India on small scale farmer agriculture for other countries.

I. INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, these farming techniques are necessary as day-to-day farming lands are becoming apartments and factories. Actually, everything is happening in a contrast as for the increasing population. There should be an increase in agriculture land, but instead it is in a decreasing stage. Some Farming Techniques are been identified through their own research and it is been spreading in Newspaper and also through internet nowadays. But we forget that many villages do not have internet connection and, in another case, they are some peoples who don't know to read. In such a case, the awareness among the farmers is Lacking. The government has to take some initiatives about such issues and appoint some persons to spread awareness about the profitable techniques of farming to uneducated farmers. Some are Non-eco-friendly but we still continue the same. We must have some awareness about those things which may give profit in instant, but not an everlasting one better future.

Agricultural production in developing countries has largely been on subsistence basis. The farmers only produce for themselves and immediate families and the quantity of goods produced are grossly inadequate for the growing population. There is an increased wide-spread in the level of poverty amongst the people especially those living in the rural areas. Small scale farming had become the major way to tackle the problem of lack and poverty in this area. An odd growing situation of unemployment in recent years had led many the rural/urban dwellers into small scale farming and today, the small scale farmers are known for their important and huge contributions to the Gross National product, they are currently the producers of about 98 percent of the food consumed in Avinashi with the only exception of As agricultural land in developed countries shrinks arable land has not been exploited to produce crops and because of urban expansion, food production is gradually livestock to stem the threat of hunger and poverty being a critical resource which Africa can supply to the through efficient production system. It is obvious that world. The cost of producing food in first world countries from growth point of view, opportunities exist in Africa's is extremely high and land is scarce; but on the other agriculture sector. In Avinashi with small-scale farmers no hand, sub-Saharan Africa has enormous natural, physical doubt, having a lot to benefit in a situation where there is and human potential. The focus of the agricultural finance a favourable operating environment. Small-scale farmers. This research work is aimed at revealing the problems faced by small scale farmers in Ughelli-South in order to showcase them for possible solutions by the various arms of government, nongovernmental organizations and interested individuals. Small scale farmers have always played dominant role in agricultural.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

- To study on challenges and opportunities to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Avinashi.
- Identify the marketing problems facing the small-scale agricultural farmers.

- Available opportunities for the improvement of small-scale farmers production and access to market.
- The purpose of this study is to ascertain the major problems that hinders the production of small-scale farmers.
- To know the problems faced by the small farmers.
- To analyse the level of awareness about the government schemes among small farmers.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS:

A redirection of attention to agriculture had long-time been strategized by government and non-governmental agencies as the right antidote to the crises of unemployment in yet majority of the rural dwellers seek migration opportunities hence, compounding the general unemployment situation and food shortages in the country. An investigation to know the problems that have made individual (small scale) farming unattractive becomes imperative.

India is the world's largest producer of milk, Pulse and Juke, and rank as the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnut, vegetables and fruits. Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 58% of India's population. Recently in our country the farmers were protesting against the three new laws introduced by the central government that is loosened rules around sale, pricing and storage of farm products which have protected them from free market for years.

Therefore, the present study is done on the problems faced by the farmers and the chances of being successful in future by using the schemes, subsidy and incentives provided by the government. Also, to know whether the farmers are aware of the government policies, provided to safeguard the farmers.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Agriculture is the backbone of the economy. It has many opportunities, but utilization of those opportunities is not up to the level. This study was mainly focused on problems and prospects of small farming. The intention is to know the socio-economic factors affecting the farmers. Therefore, this study is to understand the problems and prospect faced by farmers.

The investigation is limited to farmers that have farmed for at least three to four years within the study area in Arable Crop farming with cultivated fields of less than five-hectares, domestic animal rearers with less than five thousand fishes in their ponds and also, home-garden vegetable farmers scattered around in the local government area.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

- The study is limited to farmers in Avinashi taluk with cultivated land of less than 2 hectares.
- The data has been collected through structured questionnaire and analysed based on the Information given by the respondent
- The data has been collected from 150 respondent.
- Due to limited time, money and resources it was possible to undertake such type of study at scale, therefore, study was centred at Avinashitaluk is the paddy belt for the Tirupurnot large only.
- To make the study depth with scientific reasoning, size of respondents were restricted to 200 only.
- It was difficult to collect and compare the data of various categories of farmers, therefore only two categories of the farmers that is small and medium farmers in view of variation and amount of constrains with them.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mahesh Singh, Anamika Pandey (2021), Small scale farming referred to the method of farming in which farming has been done on a small piece of land. Apart from various benefits of small scale farming such greater productivity, improved quality and provide more employment, it has some drawbacks such as financial uncertainty, less profit etc., Because of high quality of the food produced by small scale farming, the demand of the respective food is also high that leads to the improved health. By considering the all aspects of the small farming, this review paper discussed about the problems and prospects of small-scale farming.

Martin (2016), reveals that Organic Farming can be viable alternative production method for farmers, but they are many challenges. One key to success is being open to a alternative Organic approaches to solving production problem. Determine the cause of the problem, the assess strategies to avoid or reduce the long term problem rather than short term fix for it.

Jakhade and Mazumdar (2015) identified the small farmers on the basis of physical quality of foodgrain required to maintain an average family . They worked out the food grain requirement for average family of 4 adult units on the basis of 180 2 (15 ounces cereal+ 3 ounces pulses) per adult per day.

Rakesh Mohan (2016) "Agriculture Credit in India: Status, Issues and Future Agenda", the report highlights the role of green revolution that insists the greater use of inputs like fertilizers, seeds and other inputs and increased credit requirements. It is found in the study that antiquated legal framework and outdated tenancy laws have hampered the flow of credit and development of strong and efficient financial institution. The study ascertained the several gaps prevailing in effective credit delivery such as (i) inadequate provision of credits to small and marginal farmers (ii) scarcity of medium and long-term lending (iii) limited deposit mobilization and (iv) heavy dependency on borrowed fund by major agricultural purveyors. Thus, there is need for future research to overcome the loopholes in effective Nat. Volatiles & Essent. Oils, 2021; 8(5):10572-10579 10574 credit delivery. What is now needed in agriculture is new mission mode in correspondent with 1970 green revolution.

Somdeep Chatterjee. (2015), "Effects of Agriculture Credit Reforms on Farming Outcomes: Evidence from the Kisan Credit Card Program in India", the study insisted on Kisan Credit Card usage by the farmers for supporting agricultural credit. It is establish this study emphasis that availability should be known to farmers and need for further study to establish the outcome and effect of using it.

PROFILE OF THE STUDY

Small scale farmers face numerous challenges that affect their livelihoods, including:

Limited access to finance: Small scale farmers often lack access to credit and other forms of finance that can help them invest in their farms, purchase equipment and seeds, and expand their operations.

Limited access to markets: Many small-scale farmers are isolated from markets, making it difficult for them to sell their produce at fair prices. They often lack information on market trends and demand, and may not have the infrastructure to transport their goods to distant markets.

Climate change: Small scale farmers are often more vulnerable to climate change impacts such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events. These events can damage crops and reduce yields, leading to food insecurity and loss of income.

Limited access to technology: Small scale farmers often lack access to modern technology such as irrigation systems, fertilizers, and improved seeds that can improve their productivity and profitability.

Limited access to information: Small scale farmers often lack access to timely and accurate information on best practices for farming, weather forecasts, market prices, and government policies that can affect their operations.

Land tenure insecurity: Small scale farmers may face challenges in securing land rights, which can make it difficult for them to invest in their farms, obtain finance, and plan for the future.

Inadequate infrastructure: Small scale farmers often lack basic infrastructure such as roads, storage facilities, and processing plants, which can make it difficult for them to transport their goods to markets and add value to their products.

Lack of government support: Small scale farmers may not receive adequate support from governments in terms of policies, programs, and resources that can help them overcome these challenges and improve their livelihoods.

Limited access to resources: Small scale farmers often lack access to essential resources such as land, water, seeds, and fertilizers. This can make it difficult for them to produce enough crops to sustain themselves and their families.

Lack of knowledge and skills: Many small scale farmers have limited education and training in modern agricultural techniques. This can make it difficult for them to adopt new technologies or improve their farming practices.

Climate change: Small scale farmers are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, such as droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events. These events can have a significant impact on crop yields and farm productivity.

Market access: Small scale farmers often struggle to access markets to sell their produce. This can be due to poor infrastructure, limited transportation options, or a lack of market information.

Lack of financial support: Small scale farmers often have limited access to credit or other forms of financial support. This can make it difficult for them to invest in their farms or improve their productivity.

Pests and diseases: Small scale farmers may lack the resources to effectively manage pests and diseases that can damage their crops and reduce yields.

Land tenure issues: Small scale farmers often have insecure land tenure, which can make it difficult for them to invest in their farms and access credit. In many cases, small scale farmers do not have formal land titles or legal recognition of their land ownership, which can make them vulnerable to eviction and land grabbing.

Gender inequality: Women farmers often face additional challenges, including limited access to resources, discrimination, and cultural norms that restrict their participation in decision-making and ownership of land.

Limited access to information: Small scale farmers often have limited access to information and extension services, which can help them adopt new technologies and improve their farming practices.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- **Research design** Descriptive design.
- **Sample design**-convenient Sampling
- **Source of data**-Primary data and Secondary data
- **Statistical tools**-simple percentage and CHI – SQUARE is used.
- **Sample size and area of study**-The study was done by collecting 150 respondents. It was confined to Avinashi taluk.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRATION

PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS

Table 4.1: Age

S.NO	Age	No of response	percentage
1	18 - 25 years	56	37.3%
2	26 - 35 years	22	14.7%
3	36 - 45 years	71	47.3%
4	Above 50 years	1	0.7%
	Total	150	100%

4.1.1 Interpretation:

The about table 4.1 shows that out of 150 response table for the study 37.3% of the respondents are 18-25 years 14.7% of responses are in the age group of 25-35 year 47.3% of the responses are in the age group of 35-45 year 0.7% of the responses are in the age group of 50 year or above.

4.1.2 Inference:

Here the majority 47.3% of the response are in the age group in 36-45 years

2.Age
150 responses

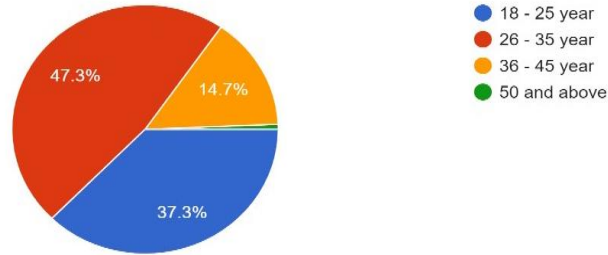


CHART:4.1.3:

CHI – SQUARE ANALYSIS

The statistical test used to determine the probability of obtaining the observed by chance, under a specific hypothesis. It is used to test if the standard deviation of a population is equal to the specific value. Chi - square is a statistical significance test based on frequency of occurrence, it is applicable both to qualitative and quantitative variables. Among its many uses, the most common are tests of hypothesized probabilities or probability distributions, statistical dependence or independence and common population. A Chi-square test is any statistical hypothesis test in which the test statistic has a Chi square distribution if the null - hypothesis is true.

Table 4.2: Relationship Between The Residence Of The Respondents And The Kind Of Crops

RESIDENCE	THE KIND OF CROPS					TOTAL
	fruits	vegetable	Grains	Live stock	other	
Urban	3	90	12	4	1	110
Rural	3	25	8	4	0	40
TOTAL	6	115	20	8	1	150

Table 4.3: Chi – Square Test

FACTORS	CALCULATION	DF	TABLE VALUE	REMARKS
Kind of crops	7.507 ^a	4	9.488	Accepted

INTERPRETATION:

At 4% significance level calculated value is 7.507 and table value is 9.488. The calculated value is less than the table value, therefore the hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant relationship between residence and the kind of crops.

V. FINDINGS

1. SIMPLE PERCENTAGE:

- Here the majority 47.3% of the response are in the age group in 36-45 years.

2. CHI – SQUARE:

- There is no significant relationship between residence and the kind of crops.

VI. SUGGESTION

- Awareness should be created among the farmers to make use of those loans scheme provided by government.
- Farmers should try maximum to go with organic farming it will help our future generations to grow well and also to secure the fertility of the soil.
- Produced goods should have minimum fixed amount and that should be decided by farmers association without mediator.

- Transportation facilities should improve to market the yield of the farmers.
- Government should take necessary steps to increase youngsters' involvement in farming.
- Farmers should be given training about the emerging techniques in farming to adapt themselves to the modern farming.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study is done on problems and prospects in small farming. It is evident from the study that most of the farmers prefer mixed cropping, method of irrigation preferred is drip irrigation. It is inferred from the study that the most common problem faced here is lack of marketing knowledge. Also, they face difficulties in adapting modern farming as they feel it is costly in implementing. The conversion to organic farming is possible within 5years. but, the farmers feel that chemical fertilizer gives more yield. Mostly the farmers are not much aware of the government schemes so it is suggested from the study that involvement of youngsters should be increased in farming and facilities should be improved to market their yield.

VIII. REFERENCES

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