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## A STUDY ON PROBLEMS FACED BY FARMERS OF YADGIR DISTRICT OF KARNATAKA STATE

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### ABSTRACT:

*The present study was conducted in Yadgir district of Karnataka state, purposively in the year 2019-20. Two taluka of viz. Shorapur and Shahapur from Yadgir district were selected purposively. From each taluka one village was selected randomly and fifty farm families from each village were selected, thus making 200 families and total 400 respondents (husband and wife from each family). Interview schedule was used and data were collected personally, frequency and percentage were used to interpretation and analysis. Data regarding problems faced by respondents in cotton cultivation were climatic, seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, plant protection, shortage of labour and marketing.*

*Key words: Problems, Plant protection, cultivation*

### 1. Introduction:

India is the agriculture country & it is the base of Indian economy. Indian culture joint family, primary relationship, total dependency on agriculture are main factors of Indian rural society. Today India is well known in the world due to agriculture practice, rural society & rural problems in the villages. Most exploited poor strata like marginal farmers who has the land holding around 2 to 4 acre. It is difficult to survive of family on limited land. The farmer gets suffer & cannot cope up with the problems. Quality of life goes down & his economical, social, political status is an average level. They have to do other supplementary occupation to overcome the situation. Our country that has the capacity to produce three crops in a year, the ceaseless cases of

farmer suicides are an ignominious fact. The statistics of the deaths are so high that there is nothing personal. Death count of a disaster raises more sympathy than the suicides of the Indian farmers. It has become more of a factor to lash the ruling party by the opposition than a warning sign to actually do something. Indian agriculture is largely an unorganized sector. No systematic institutional & organizational planning is involved in cultivation, irrigation harvesting etc.

## **2. Problems of farmers:**

As stated at the outset, Indian economy hinges on agriculture. The socioeconomic status of the people, the national polity and the gamut of life of the people is directly controlled by agriculture. The Indian agriculture, however, has its own problems. Some of the important problems of Indian agriculture have been described briefly in the following section:

### **1) Inadequate water supply:**

Farmers also suffer due to lack of irrigation facilities. Moreover, ordinary varieties of seed can be replaced by better varieties if there is an assured supply of water. The need for the construction of minor irrigation works of a local nature is both urgent and pressing. In fact, the total water potential in the country is more than adequate to irrigate the whole areas under cultivation. However, the present problem is one of discovering cheap and easy methods of utilising these vast supplies of water.

### **2) Agricultural Marketing:**

One of the major causes of low income of the Indian farmers is the difficulty in marketing their crops. Due to the small size and scattered nature of agricultural holdings, the productivity per acre is low. Consequently, the collection of these surpluses for the purpose of marketing presents a serious problem.

### **3) Conditions of Agricultural Labourers:**

The conditions of most agricultural labourers in India are far from satisfactory. There is also the problem of surplus labour or disguised unemployment. This pushes the wage rates below the subsistence levels.

### **4) Unavailability of good Quality of Seeds:**

Seeds are the basic input or raw material for the farmers to grow crops. But there is a lack of availability of the good quality of seeds in the market. And if the good quality seeds are available, they are so expensive that the poor and marginal farmers are not able to afford. Due to this, farmers are bound to use the traditional seeds which are less productive and yield fewer crops. Most of the certified seeds manufacturers in India are private companies.

### **5) Mixed Cropping:**

In the rain-fed areas of the country, mixed cropping is a common practice. The farmers mix millets, maize and pulses in the kharif season and wheat, gram and barley in the rabi season. In the areas of Jhuming (shifting cultivation), ten to sixteen crops are mixed and sown in the same field. The rationale behind mixing of crops is to get good agricultural return. In case the

monsoon is good, the rice crop will give better production and in case of failure of monsoon, the less water requiring crops like maize, millets, bajra and pulses will give good harvest. Mixed cropping is a characteristic of subsistent agriculture

#### 6) Manures, Fertilizers and Biocides:

- It has been estimated that about 70 per cent of growth in agricultural production can be attributed to increased fertilizer application.
- Pests, germs and weeds cause heavy loss to crops which amounted to about one third of the total field produce at the time of Independence.
- Biocides (pesticides, herbicides and weedicides) are used to save the crops and to avoid losses. The indiscriminate use of biocides has resulted in wide spread environmental pollution. Manures and fertilizers play the same role in relation to soils as good food in relation to body. Just as a well-nourished body is capable of doing any good job, a well-nourished soil is capable of giving good yields.
- Cow dung provides the best manure to the soils. Chemical fertilizers are costly and are often beyond the reach of the poor farmers.
- The government has given high incentive especially in the form of heavy subsidy for using chemical fertilizers, to maintain the quality of the fertilizers, 52 fertilizer quality control laboratories have been set up in different parts of the country. In addition, there is one Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute at Faridabad with its three regional centres at Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

#### 3. Materials and Methods:

The present study was conducted in Yadgir district of Karnataka state, purposively in the year 2019-20. Two talukas viz. Shorapur and Shahapur from Yadgir district were selected purposively. From each taluka one village was selected randomly and fifty farm families from each village were selected, thus making 200 families and total 400 respondents (husband and wife from each family). Interview schedule was used and data were collected personally, frequency and percentage were used to interpretation and analysis.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

Problems of farmers were studied in terms of climatic, seeds, fertilizer, irrigation, plant protection, shortage of labour and marketing in cotton cultivation and presented in Table-1 as follows;

**Table-1**  
**Problems of Samples in cultivation of different crops ( n=400)**

Sl. No.	Topic	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1	Climatic	Unexpected rain	394	98.50
		Outbreak of pests /diseases	378	94.50
2	Seeds	High cost of seed	336	84.00
		Non-availability of seeds	122	30.50
		Adulterated seeds	374	93.50
3	Fertilizer	Non-availability of fertilizer	36	9.00
		High cost of fertilizer	398	99.50
		Lack of knowledge about correct dose	126	31.50
4	Irrigation	Water shortages in canal	252	63.00
5	Plant protection	High cost of pesticide/chemicals	398	99.50
		Lack of knowledge about correct dose	220	55.00
		Adulteration	330	82.50
		Non availability	154	38.50
6	Labourer	Shortage of labour	224	56.00
		High cost /wages	312	78.00
7	Marketing	Heavy price fluctuation	132	33.00
		Very less Minimum Support Price (MSP)	394	98.50
		Low rate of return	386	96.50

Climatic problems as perceived by respondents, majority had reported unexpected rain (98.50%) followed by outbreak of pests/diseases (94.50%).

Regarding problem of seed majority of respondents had faced the problem of adulterated seed (93.50%) and high cost of seed (84.00%), while non-availability of seeds reported by 30.50 per cent of the respondents.

Table 2 further elucidated information regarding fertilizer majority of the respondents had reported, high cost of fertilizer as their major problem (99.50%) followed by lack of knowledge about correct dose (31.50%), while 9.00 per cent had reported non-availability of fertilizer as their problem.

Regarding problem of irrigation, water shortage in canal was reported by 63.00per cent of the respondents.

Data presented in Table 2 pinpointed that high cost of pesticides and chemicals (99.50%), adulteration (82.50%), lack of knowledge about correct dose (55.00%) and non-availability of pesticides (38.50%) were the problems of plant protection as perceived by respondents.

Further it was evident from the Table 2 that high cost of labour wages (78.00%) and shortage of labour (56.00%) were also the problem in cotton cultivation.

Problems faced by respondents regarding marketing of cotton majority had reported very less MSP (98.50%) followed by low rate of return (96.50%) and heavy price fluctuation (33.00%) respectively.

Findings of the study were in line with those of Mondal and Sinha (2015) that the problems faced by the farmers were endemic to pest and diseases, soil problems, effect of insecticides, drought and late heavy rainfall, labour problems, black marketing and private traders. Maraddi et al., (2004), Reddy et al., (2010), Kumar et al., (2012) and Singh et al., (2013), reported similar findings.

## 5. Conclusions:

In conclusion, our farmers are facing various constraints with regard to climatic conditions such as unexpected rain, outbreak of pest/diseases, seed related problems including adulterated seeds, high cost of seeds and non-availability of seeds. The farmers also reported high cost of fertilizers, pesticides, and high cost of labour wages and less MSP and low rate of returns. In order to sustain the optimum production and the productivity of soil, scientific and indigenous methods should be synergies together and policy intervention is utmost important for the farmers well being.

The critical issues that plague Indian agriculture at present are the knowledge deficit and infrastructure deficit, especially in the rural areas. Problems related to Climatic, Seeds, Fertilizer, Irrigation, Plant protection, Labourer and Marketing add significant cost to farmers' operations. Another issue is lack of delivery mechanisms. There are a number of schemes aimed to bring development in agriculture. We do not have effective delivery mechanisms that can translate into effective facilitation in terms of increasing productivity or decreasing cost or increasing price realization at the ground level. Moreover, inadequate government support exacerbates these issues. This has resulted in most farmers' children quitting farming and going for other vocations. Farmers get more money in selling their land to builders, malls and factories. This has put more pressure on farmland, thereby requiring technologies to increase the productivity so that shrinking farmland can feed billion plus people of India in the future. India, though one of the biggest producers of agricultural products, has very low farm productivity, with the average only 33 percent of the best farms world over. This needs to be increased so that farmers can get more remuneration from the same piece of land with less labour

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