



# PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS IN COTTON CULTIVATION: A STUDY

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## Abstract

Cotton is the one of the most important commercial crops grown globally. Cotton cultivation contributes significantly to the economy by generating income for farmers, creating employment opportunity, export earnings, global trade, contribution to GDP, rural development etc. At the same time farmers are facing so many problems in cotton cultivation like lack of financial facility, labour shortage, high wage rate, inadequate water supply, severity of diseases, high cost of inputs, climate condition etc. By keeping in view the above realities, this paper focuses on the problems faced by farmers in the cotton cultivation in Erode District of Tamil Nadu. For the purpose of analysis, the required primary data have been collected from 468 sample farmers in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. It is found that the main problem felt by the sample farmers in cotton cultivation is the low yield.

**Key words:** Problems, Farmers, Cotton and Cultivation

## INTRODUCTION

The Cotton crop is one of the principal crops in India and enjoys pride of place and unique position in our country. Cotton cultivation occupies significant importance in India's agricultural sector and economy for number of reasons such as income to famers, employment generation, raw material for textile industry, cotton exports contributes to India's foreign exchange earnings etc. In spite of all these, farmers in India face several challenges when comes to cotton cultivation, including dependence on monsoon, pests and diseases, high input cost, non-availability of quality seeds, insufficient finance, insufficient water facilities, low yield, high cost cultivation, non-availabilities of efficient labour, inadequate storage, inadequate transport cost, lack of

grading and price fixation. Against this background, this paper is a modest attempt to identify the problems faced by the farmers in cotton cultivation.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In any study, the review of previous studies are considered as important for getting a better understanding of the problem, the methodology followed and to identify the unexplored part of the field of study under consideration. In this regard, some of the relevant studies have been reviewed in the present study.

Jianlong Dai and Hezhong Dong (2014) made a study on achievements, challenges and countermeasures of intensive cotton farming technologies in China. This study was purely based on secondary data. Data were analysed with the help of percentage, average and ratio analysis. It is found that intensive farming technologies have played crucial roles in supporting China to become the largest cotton producer in the world.

Reeta Devi Yadav and Rita Goel (2019) conducted a study on problems of cotton farmers in Haryana. This study was based on primary data. The required primary data have been collected from 400 sample respondents by using interview schedule. Such collected data have been analysed with the help of percentage. It is found that unexpected rain, high cost of seeds, High cost of fertilizer, High cost of pesticide/chemicals, High cost/wages and Very less Minimum Support Price (MSP) were the problems faced by the farmers.

Arun Sahay (2019) made a study on the environmental and social challenges in cotton plantations. This study was based on secondary data. It is found that in the financial year of 2016 to 2017, the cotton production increased from 33.80 million bales to 35.10 million bales. Further, it is found that Cost of Production, decreasing yield, Poor irrigation facilities, Genetic purity erosion, Unpredictable market prices, Non-mechanisation and Non-procurement were the major problems in cotton cultivation.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Cultivation of agricultural goods is more complicated than the production of non-agricultural goods. Cultivation of cotton poses more problems when compared to other agricultural commodities. The cultivation of cotton is generally depending on fertility of soil, climatic situations, high yielding varieties of seeds and rainfall. The farmers are facing many problems in cultivation of cotton. The cotton growers are affected by the problems in cultivation of cotton due to non-availability of labour, high wage rate, high transportation cost, storage cost, poor quality of fertilizers, non-availability of fertile seeds, loss due to pest and inadequate technical know-how. By keeping in view the above realities, this paper focuses on the problems faced by the farmers in the cotton cultivation.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To examine the problems faced by the sample farmers in cotton cultivation.
2. To offer suggestions to reduce the problems faced by the farmers in cotton cultivation.

## **SAMPLING DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

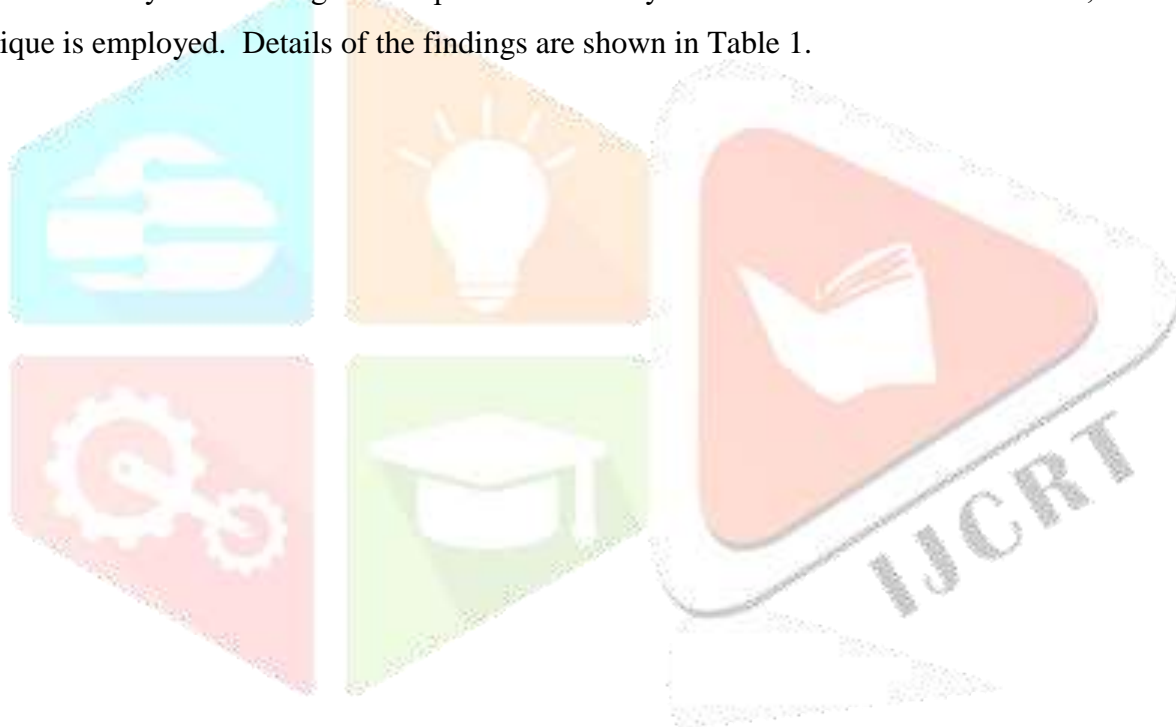
This is an empirical study based on survey method. The required primary data have been collected from 468 sample farmers by using Convenient sampling technique. Such collected data have been analysed with the help of various statistical tools like Garrett's Ranking Technique and Kendall's Co-efficient of Concordance ('W').

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Originally, 11 problems have been included in the Interview Schedule to examine the problems faced by the farmers in cotton cultivation. The sample farmers are called to assess by each problem by giving rank 1 to the most important problem, rank 2 to the next important problem and so on.

## **PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS IN COTTON CULTIVATION: GARRETT'S RANKING TECHNIQUE**

To identify the most significant problem faced by the farmers in cotton cultivation, Garrett's Ranking Technique is employed. Details of the findings are shown in Table 1.



**TABLE 1**  
**PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS IN COTTON CULTIVATION:**

Cases	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Total	Mean Score	Rank
Percentile Score	4.55	13.64	22.73	31.82	40.91	50.00	59.09	68.18	77.27	86.36	95.45			
Garret's Score	82	72	64	59	54	50	45	40	35	28	17			
Non-availability of quality seeds	50	25	15	62	110	33	29	24	27	15	78	468	49.28	7
	4100	1800	960	3658	5940	1650	1305	960	945	420	1326	23064		
Unfavourable climate condition	65	49	40	10	34	55	25	59	39	62	30	468	50.62	4
	5330	3528	2560	590	1836	2750	1125	2360	1365	1736	510	23690		
Insufficient finance	90	15	20	41	25	56	50	31	62	25	53	468	50.36	5
	7380	1080	1280	2419	1350	2800	2250	1240	2170	700	901	23570		
Insufficient water facilities	55	35	74	49	25	20	50	72	22	10	56	468	51.58	2
	4510	2520	4736	2891	1350	1000	2250	2880	770	280	952	24139		
Low yield	68	45	55	34	20	38	91	63	15	19	20	468	54.13	1
	5576	3240	3520	2006	1080	1900	4095	2520	525	532	340	25334		
High cost cultivation	5	38	50	50	60	63	45	40	39	44	34	468	48.05	9
	410	2736	3200	2950	3240	3150	2025	1600	1365	1232	578	22486		
Non-availabilities of efficient labour	10	94	39	20	47	20	60	54	50	59	15	468	49.83	6
	820	6768	2496	1180	2538	1000	2700	2160	1750	1652	255	23319		
Inadequate storage	30	45	23	63	25	54	38	30	56	61	43	468	47.54	10
	2460	3240	1472	3717	1350	2700	1710	1200	1960	1708	731	22248		
Inadequate transport cost	33	40	92	30	44	40	45	25	25	69	25	468	51.02	3
	2706	2880	5888	1770	2376	2000	2025	1000	875	1932	425	23877		
Lack of grading	5	43	35	54	54	39	25	15	60	71	67	468	44.34	11
	410	3096	2240	3186	2916	1950	1125	600	2100	1988	1139	20750		
Price Fixation	57	39	25	55	24	50	10	55	73	33	47	468	49.25	8
	4674	2808	1600	3245	1296	2500	450	2200	2555	924	799	23051		

**GARRETT'S RANKING TECHNIQUE**

Table 1 clearly reveals that main problems felt by the farmers in cotton cultivation is Low yield (Highest Mean Score 54.13) proves to be most significant problem. This is followed by the insufficient water, inadequate transport cost, unfavourable climate condition, insufficient finance, non availabilities of efficient labour, non availabilities of qualities seeds, price fixation, high cost efficient, inadequate shortage and Lack of grading.

### KENDALL'S CO-EFFICIENT OF CONCORDANCE ('W')

Further, to identify the problems faced by the farmers in cotton cultivation, it is decided to use another tool viz., Kendall's Co-efficient of Concordance. It is applied to find whether there is any similarity among the sample farmers in assigning the ranks to the given problems. Details of the findings are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2**

### PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS IN COTTON CULTIVATION: KENDALL'S CO-EFFICIENT OF CONCORDANCE ('W')

Particulars	Total Score	Mean Score	Rank	Kendall's 'W'
Non availability of quality seeds	2274	4.86	7	<b>0.035</b>
Unfavourable climate condition	3042	6.50	4	
Insufficient finance	2925	6.25	5	
Insufficient water facilities	2939	6.28	2	
Low yield	2541	5.43	1	
High cost of cultivation	2724	5.82	9	
Non availabilities of efficient labour	2649	5.66	6	
Inadequate storage	2583	5.52	10	
Inadequate transport cost	3196	6.83	3	
Lack of grading	3182	6.80	11	
Price fixation	2574	5.50	8	

Table 2 reveals that the calculated value of Kendall's  $W$  is 0.035. It shows that there is less similarity among the cotton formers in assigning the ranks to the problems faced by the farmers in cotton cultivation. Looking at the mean score, it is understand that highest preference has been given to low yield (lower the mean score, higher the priority) the mean score 5.43 and the lowest preference is given the lack of grading. The moderate preference have been given to insufficient water, inadequate transport cost, unfavourable climate condition, insufficient finance, non availabilities of efficient labour, non availabilities of qualities seeds, price fixation, high cost efficient and inadequate shortage.

## SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

In the present study, it is found that low yield as an important problem faced by the farmers in cotton cultivation. Hence, it is suggested that Income Tax Department of the Government of India should take all possible steps to simplify the steps involved in assessment of tax and tax payment.

Hence, it is suggested that farmers should take steps to maintain the fertility of the soil and enhance the production of the cotton crop. Regarding this, Government should arrange for certain awareness programmes for the farmers particularly regarding the management of the soil and improve the yield.

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