



Problems Of Agricultural Development In Tribal Areas Of The Telangana Region

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Abstract:

Agriculture plays a pivotal role in the economy of Telangana, India, and the state is home to a significant tribal population, primarily residing in hilly and forested regions. While the state has witnessed remarkable progress in agricultural development in recent years, tribal areas continue to face a plethora of challenges that hinder their participation in the agricultural growth trajectory. This abstract provides an overview of the key problems impeding agricultural development in tribal regions of Telangana. A multifaceted approach that includes land reforms, improved access to credit, technology dissemination, infrastructure development, water management strategies, crop diversification, healthcare, and market linkages. Recognizing the distinct needs of tribal communities and engaging them in the decision-making process will be crucial in fostering sustainable agricultural development in the tribal areas of Telangana.

Keywords: Access to credit, technology dissemination, infrastructure development, land reforms, water management strategies

Introduction:

Agriculture development plays a vital role in the economic development of the country. Our country is predominantly an agricultural country. Even now large section of rural population depends upon either agriculture and its allied activities. Agriculture is the largest sector of economic activity and plays a crucial role in the country's economical development by providing food and employment to large proportion of the population. The development is conceived as an aspect of change that is desirable, broadly predicted or planned and administered, or at least influenced, by governmental action. Thus, the concept of development consists of (a) an aspect of change. (b) A plan or prediction and (c) involvement of the government for the achievement of that planned or predicted goal. The term development is also used for the process of allowing and encouraging people to meet their own aspirations.

The tribal community is very old and tribal people are indigenous. The tribals were the aboriginal inhabitants of thick inaccessible forest areas of their abode for a long time. The tribal's live mostly in isolated hamlets, hills and forests. The tribal's are i) the people isolated ethnic groups. Low density of population, primitive economy, primitive technology, primitive political organization, primitive religion and lack of script of their language, ii) The tribals in Indian comprise of the groups which are declared tribals as

per an order of the president. There are 428 tribes as per notified scheduled under article 342 of the constitution of India in different states and union territories. They continue to live in isolated areas.

In India, tribes have different names such as vanyajati, vanavasi, adimajati, janajati, and scheduled tribes all of which mean the 'aboriginal'. India stands second in terms of tribal population after Africa in the world. According to the 2011 Census, the total population of the tribals is 97.2 million, and accounts for 10.52% of the country's population. There are about 689 scheduled tribes speaking about 105 languages and 225 subsidiary languages. They have traditionally lived in about 15% of the nation's geographical area, mainly forests, hills and the undulating inaccessible terrain in plateau areas that are rich in natural resources. They have lived mostly as isolated entities for centuries together and this explains their politico-socio-economic backwardness.

Although certain constitutional safeguards are provided, there has been no economic, social and political mobility across these communities. Contrary to Scheduled Castes and other Backward Castes who witnessed certain degrees of progress because of protective discrimination policies of the government, the Scheduled Tribes remain abysmally backward and socially excluded, still living in harsh environs.

Andhra Pradesh State Profile:

Andhra Pradesh was formed on 1st November 1956, with Hyderabad as its capital. It lies between 12638' and 19655' N and 76645' and 85645' E and is bounded by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa in the north, Karnataka in the west, the Bay of Bengal in the east and Tamil Nadu in the south. Andhra Pradesh is the fifth largest state, spreading over an area of 275,045 sq km and accounting for 8.4% of India's territory. It has a 974 km coastline.

Andhra Pradesh is divided into three distinctive characteristics regions - Rayalaseema areas, Coastal Andhra and Telangana. Rayalaseema covers 24.47%, Telangana 41.5%, and Coastal Andhra 33.78% of the total geographical area of the state. Administratively, the state is divided into 23 districts. Andhra Pradesh has a total population of 8.45 crore population as per the 2011 census, of which 73% live in rural areas. The density of population in 275 per sq km is below the national average of 324 sq km. The literacy rate for male population is 71.06, while for the female population, it is 52.43%. About 45% of the state's domestic product comes from primary sector, i.e., agriculture, forestry, etc. About 76% of the workforce includes cultivators and agriculture labourers in the state.

The hilly areas cutting across the Coastal Andhra and Telangana regions are dominated by tribal communities and can be considered as another region of the state, owing to its unique set of problems and underdevelopment. Coastal Andhra and Rayalaseema regions were part of the Madras Presidency until 1953, when they were formed as a separate state of Andhra. Telangana was part of the erstwhile Hyderabad State ruled by the Nizams, and merged with Andhra state to form the second state along linguistic lines in the country.

Andhra Pradesh is home to 35 communities officially designated as Scheduled Tribes (STs). They numbered 59,18,073 in the 2011 Census. Out of the 35 STs, recently two communities, namely, Nakkala/Kurvikaran, Dhulia/Paiko/Putiya (in the districts of Vishakhapatnam and Vizianagaram) have been denotified in the state. Twelve tribes, namely, Bodo Gadaba, Gutob Gadaba, Bondo Porja, Khond Porja, Parangiporja, Chenchu, Dongaria Khond, Kuttia Khond, Kolam, Kondareddi, Konda Savara and Thoti have been recognized as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). Except Kondareddis and Thoti, the population statistics of other PTGs are not available separately as these are notified as sub-groups/sections of main communities.

Population Size and Distribution of Tribes:

The STs of Andhra Pradesh constitute 5.67 percent of India's tribal population. Although the state's STs comprise only 6.99, percent of the state's population, they account for the largest tribal concentration in Southern India. The Scheduled Areas of Andhra Pradesh, covered by the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) approach, are spread over 31,485 sq km in 5936 villages (11,855 habitation) in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Warangal. Khammam, Adilabad and Kurnool. The 35 reported ST communities are mainly concentrated in nine districts declared as Scheduled Areas by special government order in 1950. Sixty percent of the STs live in forest areas in the Eastern Ghats, on the banks of the river Godavari.

In the districts, the tribal population is spread thinly and they live along with nontribal communities. The indigenous tribes are mostly concentrated in contiguous tracts of the above districts that have been designated as Scheduled Areas administered by the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs). There are around one million ST households in the state and about half of them live in 5,936 villages in the nine ITDA areas. The Scheduled Areas are inhabited by an estimated 2.8 million tribals who are entitled to the benefits of TSP projects and protective legislations. In conformity with the national TSP strategy, Andhra Pradesh tribal population is divided into four categories:(i) those living in tribal concentration areas in the scheduled villages and adjoining areas, i.e., the TSP areas administered by ITDAs. Each of the above nine districts has one ITDA named after the tribal concentration block where it is headquartered; (ii) PTGs, i.e., communities who live in near isolation in inaccessible habitats in and outside the Scheduled Areas who are at the pre-agricultural stage of the economy; iii) those living in small pockets outside the scheduled areas, i.e., Modified Area Development Agency (MADA) areas and tribal clusters; and (iv), Dispersed Tribal Groups, i.e., those dispersed throughout the state.

Most of these communities are found inhabiting the border districts of the state in the north and the northeast. The tribals live in forests and use forest land for cultivation. They collect forest produce which varies from forest to forest to supplement what they grow on land. Land is used for living and livelihood. The lives of the tribals are influenced by their habitat, level of traditional and ancient knowledge, and the skills they possess in using the resources that are available. Land is the main stay of the tribal people. Any discussion on the lives of tribals, irrespective of what aspect is being discussed is incomplete when the issue of land is left out. Not only their economies and livelihoods, but also their social relations, respective role of men and women, nature of struggles, their relationship with the state, with non-tribals, their religious rituals, are all closely related to land issues - particularly the land in and around forests.

The present economy of the tribals in AP is a consumption-subsistence economy with its main occupations being settled agriculture, podu (shifting) cultivation and collection of major Forest Produce (MFP), which totally comprise 88% of their occupation status. A vast variety of food grains, millets, pulses like, ragi, maize, jowar, legumes, vegetables and fruits are cultivated in the valleys and uplands/hills most of which are consumed domestically. Pulses and spices like chilly are the main source of cash flow from agriculture. In some of the areas closer to plains, the tribals have learnt to cultivate cash crops such as cotton, cashew, dampa (tubers), brinjal, tomato ginger, turmeric and chilies.

In the fifty five year plan 1974-79 an amount of Rs 450 Crores was provided for tribal for proper working of the I.T.D.P's formulated in tribal areas, priority was given to regional schemes of agriculture, power and communications etc. in this connection the I.T.D.A's established in year of 1975 in Telangana region of Badrachalam (Khammam) Eturunagaram (Warangal) Utnoor and Srisailam (Mahabubnagar). The above four I.T.D.A's are working in the 1504 scheduled villages and 247 non-scheduled villages with coverage area of 17,952.78 Sq Kms and 21,86,294 tribal population has been spread over in the sub-plan area of Telangana districts.

The tribal area tribal people and tribal formers are facing lot of problems in the agricultural cultivation for sufficient harvesting of the crops in their fields Previously, alternative specialities are managed by tribal formers, to their satisfaction i.e.

- At the Beginning time cultivation is sufficient with good soil, green manure, natural fader sufficient rainfall and rainfed is available for agriculture.
- Agriculture germination seeds, plough bullocks, bullock carts, plough instruments, cows, goats etc are helpful to the harvesting of the crops.
- At that time they were happy with the sufficient crop production for the need to the family members for the entire period of the year.
- The tribal cultivators are depending on the natural atmosphere, they believed and honestly pray's to forest gods (Pancha Buthas).
- Actually the tribal born resided and in resources areas and this community is very old and origin of that place.

Presently tribal formers are not completely satisfied with officials of the I.T.D.A's in agency area. They are facing problems, they are:

- 1) The tribal conventional farmers are facing water supply problems to their agriculture fields.
- 2) The tribals are suffering with electricity facility to escape from their inconvenient with electricity, they are using oil engines on rental basis.
- 3) The tribal farmers are depending in the tenant bullocks for ploughing their lands for cultivation.
- 4) The tribal cultivators are facing shortages of the fertilizers and other problems and its insufficient supply during the right time.
- 5) The tribal cultivators have no capacity for the investment to their agriculture fields, alternately they depend on the middlemen or merchants or money lenders or on banks.
- 6) The middlemen, merchants, money lenders have been adopting total village, farmers and families for investment to their land plough, fertilizer supply, seed supply and crop cutting on the loan basis.
- 7) The tribal farmers are not getting the minimum prices to the crops at market rates. Because of the middlemen interventional and involvement at fields level.
- 8) The tribal formers are sufferers with indebtedness, and they are land owners, but do not have cultivation facility, alternately, they become as an agricultural labour in their own land.

In spite of the efforts made by the government of India and states, through planning exercises and spending crores of rupees on tribal programmes, the real benefits of development have not reached the poorer sections of the aboriginal tribal communities. The real benefits have been availed mostly by some better off members of the tribal society. A majority of the tribal people continued to varie in degrees of poverty. The percolation effect on tribals in marginal and insignificant. Still poverty exists in the midst of plenty. As on today not less than forty percent of the tribal families are below poverty line. The various reasons for the slow progress of tribal development are attributed to half hearted treatment of the government, social, economical, political, cultural and environmental factors. These factors are also responsible for the backwardness of the agency tribal communities.

In the agency area the government efforts in such fields where the administrative machinery has no reachable to fight against policies and actions which encourage exploitation of the helpless groups, and render help to such social groups including the tribal groups, to stand on their own feet to protect their ways of living and lifestyles. These are the problems arised here.

Actually the government have been played a key role in the upliftment there weaker sections of the tribal society. The main objectives of Government are i.e.

- To create an awareness regarding participation in socio-economic development
- To create an able and efficient total leadership.
- To assist in the planned efforts to create socio, economic infrastructural facilities.
- To facilitate the process persons to set up small scale productions, and other earning sections.
- To make the tribals give up the pre-agricultural technology credit and marketing facilities and better education.
- To create awareness rights of the land, forest, and water utilization for the protection of their livelihood.

Conclusion:

The government has initiated several five year plans, programmes, policies and laws and has efforts for socio-economic development for weakest sections of the schedule tribes, but most of the tribals were not able to draw benefits from the facilities provided by government, because of large-scale corruption among officials and in proper implementation of tribal development programmes. Therefore the majority of the agency tribes in new Telengana state suffering from the absence of proper infrastructure and communication facilities improper management of schemes and inefficient implementation of suitable programmes by tribal opinion in the tribal region, that creates a major problems in agricultural development prospectives.

The Govt are implementing number of programmes and schemes for the development of ST's. But he implementation is not effective. Besides this, lack of awareness about the programmes are also strong factor due to illiteracy among the tribes. Therefore there is need for extension of contribution for Government side, and other voluntary organisations and likeminded NGO's for effective implementation of programmes and bringing awareness among the tribes. Then only the future of the schedule tribes will be in good prosperity for their society.

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