



STATUS OF AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN MELGHAT REGION

Dr. R.N.Thakre

Gulam Navi Azad College of social work,Pusad,Yeotmal.

Abstract

Agriculture is a very important sector for sustained growth of the Indian economy. more so since about 70% of the rural as well as 8% of the urban households are dependent on agriculture for employment and livelihood. This paper is based on to identify the critical role agriculture play in the livelihood of poorest households in the integrated development of korku tribal community based on agri-based sustainable livelihood and alternative means of resources like livestock and entitle with various Govt schemes for their socio-economic development.

Keyword: - Agriculture, Integrated development, tribal economy Govt. schemes.

Introduction

Melghat region is considered as the most backward area of Amravati district. Melghat is a forest area and the people of this area are mostly tribal or the forest dwellers. Their economic activities are very limited and they are fully depended on the agricultural land, domestic animals, hunting and labour work. They have no big dream and they have limited needs and desire because of the limited financial conditions. Through Govt. spends corers of rupees for their development still there is not much development.

The main economy of the region is based on agriculture and majority of land owned by the tribal communities. Due to Average land holding in 2-4 acres with one time crop during the monsoon season. The low productivity of the land , the frequent occurring drought, absence of alternative livelihood options etc. prevent these communities from making economic gains to support their families. So these communities to take seasonal migration to distant places.

Objectives

1. To assess the socio-economic status of agri-based livelihood of the Korku tribal community.
2. To assess the number of korku tribal farmers practicing chemical farming
3. To assess the entitlement and Govt. schemes availed by the korku tribal community.

Hypothesis

1. Insufficient agricultural products hamper the socio-economic status of korku tribal community.
2. Absence of watershed activities and lack of irrigation facility causes low agricultural production of the korku tribal farmers.
3. An unscientific and traditional method of land cultivation leads to poor agricultural production.
4. Ignorant of Govt. schemes and entitlement caused problems for the development of korku tribal community.

Method of Data Collection

For the present study researcher found that the most appropriate way of collection data was by personal interview, which is the primary method of data collection. This was verbal method of securing data and it was a structured type of interview schedule. In addition to these the researcher also collected data from the secondary sources like, published book, magazine, annual report etc.

Sampling

In this study the researcher has used the purposive sampling method in which the villages were divided and selected more than one for study. This is in fact a special form of stratified sampling. Once the groups were divided into various units, then it was decided the number to be selected from each units. This decided number is known as quota. In this study the researcher used the convenience sampling under non-probability sampling method and the sample size was 60 chosen farmers.

Tables-

LandHolder

Sr. No	Land Holder	Frequency	%
01	Self	22	36.66
02	Father	38	63.34
	Total	60	100.00

Acres of Land owned

Sr. No	Acres of Land owned	Frequency	%
01	1-2	09	15.00
02	3-4	19	31.66
03	5-6	26	43.33
04	7-above	06	10.00
	Total	60	100.00



Annual Income from the field

Sr. No	Annual Income from the field (Rs.)	Frequency	%
01	15000-20000	43	71.66
02	20000-30000	11	18.34
03	30000-40000	06	10.00
	Total	60	100.00

Use of chemical fertilizer

Sr. No	Use of fertilizer	Frequency	%
01	Yes	52	86.66
02	No	08	13.34
	Total	60	100.00

Land treatment activities

Sr. No	Land treatment activities	Frequency	%
01	WAT	14	23.24
02	CCT	11	18.34
03	Farm Bund	18	30.00
04	Stone Bund	17	28.32
	Total	60	100.00

Sources of Irrigation

Sr. No	Sources of Irrigation	Frequency	%
01	Open well	35	58.34
02	Tube well	10	16.66
03	River	15	25.00
	Total	60	100.00

Result of Hypothesis

- Insufficient agricultural products hamper the socio-economic status of korku tribal Community**

The annual income from the field 43 respondents (71.66%) have the annual income between 15-20 thousand. 11 respondents (18.34%) have the annual income between 20-30 thousand and only 06 respondents(10%) have the annual income between 30-40 thousand . The most of the farmers belonging to BPL category and whose income is very less. The income that they get from the field with that they have to manage everything such as education of children, medical expense, social celebration and their clothing. Because of the less annual income most of them suffer from poverty and they have to depend on the other sources of income which is not available in Melghat region.
- Absence of watershed activities and lack of irrigation facility causes low agricultural production of the korku tribal farmers.**

Watershed activities in the land indicate that 26 respondents (43.33%) have done the watershed activities in their land with the help of NGO's whereas 34 respondents (56.67%) have not done the watershed activities in their land. The purposes of watershed or land treatment activities are for the soil and water conservation. These activities will recharge the underground water and increase the soil moisture by which crops can get water for longer period and enhance the productivity of agriculture crops. Since the tribal farmers lands are on the undulating and hilly areas. They most do the land treatment activities and only through watershed management tribal farmers can think of taking better crops.
- Ignorant of Govt. schemes and entitlement caused problems for the development of korku tribal community**

Income generation program indicates that, out of 60 respondents only 03 respondents (5%) have the income generation program and 57(95%) respondent have no income generation program. There is no alternative livelihood source among the tribal communities. They are fully dependent on agriculture or on manual work for their livelihood. Income generation programe ca is the good source of income for family and to create sustainability impact.

Recommendations

- The tribal farmers were practicing the organic farming but as the period passed they adopted the chemical farming which has the negative impact on them. Now most of the tribal farmers are depended on the money lenders for the cultivation and they charge the high interest rate as a result most of them suffer from heavy debts which further leads them to mental distress. Therefore organic farming and modern technologies must be promoted to enhance their farm produce.
- Tribal farmers lands are situated in the hilly area and the land pattern is undulated therefore watershed activities must be promoted and check dams must be constructed for the agricultural purpose and multipurpose by which the whole of Melghat people can benefit.



3. There must be Govt. officer or private players to supervise the smooth functioning and implementation of all the Govt. schemes available for the tribal people and families and social audit must be conducted publically so that the people become aware there can be more transparency in the system.
4. Better marketing facilities should be made available for the agricultural products of the tribal communities of the target area which will help to save the hard earned money and reduce the time wasted unnecessarily while depending on the in-frequent private transportation.

Conclusion

- Majority of the korku tribal communities depend on agriculture for their livelihood and whatever they produce they get from the field with which they have to manage practically everything. Melghat is famous for access rain fall but during the summer time there is scarcity of water and people have to fetch water from miles and miles. There is no water management system in melghat, watershed activities is very poor, no check dams or water storage facilities. If Govt. can provide good irrigation facilities then they can have better Agri-based sustainable livelihood and their socio-eco status also improved.
- Scientific and modern technologies must be promoted on the basis of sustainable agriculture practice and natural resource management. Area like Melghat where there are korku tribal's and other people who totally depend on agriculture should be supported with alternatives of cultivation.
- Systemic and time bounded action programmes needs to chalk out by various development partners' to bring the rural farmers to the mainstream of the society. Farmers in general and tribal farmers in particular stand in dire need of social, economic and agriculture empowerment. That needs to be understood by the policy makers and development partners.

References

1. Bhandarkar and Wilkinson: - Methodology and Techniques of social Research, Bombay .
2. Dr. Bipin Jojo "Midterm Evaluation Report on korku Adivasis, CFCDP Project,"
3. Jeevan Vikas Sanstha, "Facilitating Agriculture Regeneration measure Project", Paratwad.
4. www.tribalindia.com.
5. www.agriculturepracticeinida.org.
6. www.sustainableagriculturepractice.org.