A critical study of issues faced by farmers

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ABSTRACT

The critical issues that plague Indian agriculture at present are the knowledge deficit and infrastructure deficit, especially in the rural areas. Problems related to irrigation infrastructure, market infrastructure and transport infrastructure 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. An exploratory research was conducted and data sample of 41 persons were taken who are from the farming background or profession. A chi-square test was conducted to see whether suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalization and usefulness of new farmers are associated. After conducting the chi-square test it is concluded that the null hypothesis is accepted viz. Suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalization and usefulness of new farmers are associated. Corporate farming could be a solution to Indian agrarian sector, but it needs a deep thinking and innovating better policies so that neither the corporate nor the farmers be at loss. Also the role of central government and state governments needs to be defined clearly as because of being a joint subject, it creates lot of confusion. Eminent experts should do research in this aspect and governments must take a proactive action. Indian agrarian sector in fact requires very innovative ideas for uplifting of this sector. Also, without mechanization, farming is hard and back-breaking work. 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.

Keywords: Farming, Issues, Transportation, Insufficient, Crops

1. INTRODUCTION

In olden days, agricultural technique was eco-friendly but didn't yield high crop comparing now. Anyway, that is enough for those people as there was less population. Those farmers were seen as GOD but now it is in contrast. Only governments are respecting farmers and that too only for those belong to their state or country. Even, farmer's families In olden days, agricultural technique was eco-friendly but didn't yield high crop. Anyway, that was good enough for those people as there was less population.
Those farmers were considered as GOD as they were food providers but now it is in contrast. Only governments are respecting farmers and that too only for those belong to their state or country. Even, farmer's families do not respect if they have low income or if their crop failed. Some parents are refraining their children in choosing agriculture as their career due to their disrespectful towards farmers but they do not understand that without farmer, it is impossible to survive in this world. It is a sad state to see that even farmer do not prefer to see his son as farmer due to issues of this society.

Now days, many farmers have left farming and joined Industries for their survival. Also, some committed suicide and the reason is that their crops have not yielded well due to scarcity of water. While on the other hand some farmers who have few acres do some research on their own and find new techniques so that they can achieve maximum crop yield. These farmers arrange private water sources and also earn more.

Therefore, we lost the uniqueness of olden day's agriculture as these modern techniques reduce the strength of the crops and also reduce land's fertility. Anyway, these farming techniques are necessary as day by day farming lands are converting into apartments and factories.

Some of the farming techniques found by farmers on their own researches is spreading in newspaper and in internet for encouraging other farmers to continue it and earn more but we forget that many villages have no internet facilities and many farmers don’t know to read. So, the awareness is lacking.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT
The present study attempts to investigate issues and problems faced by farmers in India. It tries to explore how various factors of modernization and development affect both life and agricultural economy of the farmers in India. So that is can provide some glimpses regarding how farmers face problems because of government policies and regulations, documentation and security norms, credit related issues, transaction problems, high interest rates, less use of modern farming equipment, climate change etc. Hence the research is aimed to investigating how to solve farmer’s issues? And why the farmer’s facing such issues?

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY
- To know the actual reason behind the farmers issues.
- Impact of natural hazard on farmer’s productivity.
- To assess the climatic patterns in India that makes it possible / impossible for constant farming in the region.
- To investigate how and why brokers exploit farmers during their transaction process.
- To determine the association between the selected demographic variables of the farmers and problems faced by them.
- The main objective of the study is a clear analysis of the factors that affect the lives of farmers and problems faced by them.

4. LITERATURE REVIEW
About farming in India:
Agriculture accounts for 22% of India’s total gross domestic product (GDP) and provides livelihoods for 58% of its population. Agriculture is a way of life, a tradition, which for centuries has shaped the thinking, outlook, culture and economic life of the people of India. It is characterized by the predominance of small and marginal farmers. India is one of the world’s largest producers of farm commodities. Its different agro climatic regions make it well suited to producing different varieties of fruits and vegetables almost all year round. In spite of the huge potential, Indian agriculture is constrained by several issues. In particular, the current investment in agriculture is only 1.3% of total GDP. Reports of farming crises are widespread.

Farming dependent on India:
Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 58% of India's population. Gross Value Added (GVA) by agriculture, forestry and fishing was estimated at Rs. 19.48 lakh core (US$ 276.37 billion) in FY20. Growth in GVA in agriculture and allied sectors stood at 4% in FY20.

Roles of agriculture in India:
- Share in National Income.
- Largest Employment Providing Sector:
- Contribution to Capital formation:
- Providing Raw Material to industries
- Export spices, rice and Pulses.

Issues faced by farmers:
- Farmers do not get the support of society and government to face bad economy situations.
- One does not know how long it would take for formal finance but the ultimate sufferer is the farmer, evidence of which is visible in Mandi prices and restive hinterlands.
- India is facing not just a farmers’ crisis today, but also a crisis of farming families, whose children want non-farm jobs.
- They were less aware of minimum support prices (MSPs) and tended not to be members of farmers’ groups.
- They had less access to irrigation, credit and crop insurance.
- Location also matters. A larger proportion of farmers were dissatisfied in states with low rainfall, less urbanisation, low per capita incomes.
- As most farmers themselves want their children to leave farming and educate them for exit options.
5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY
This research is an exploratory research that was conducted and data sample of 41 people who were taken from the farming background or profession. Source of Data is Primary data which was collected through online structured questionnaire. Secondary data included Websites, books, articles, reports, newspaper. Sampling was convenient method. There were 16 questions in the questions which formed the base of the study. A chi-square test was conducted to see whether suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalization and usefulness of new farmers are associated. After conducting the chi-square test it is concluded that the null hypothesis is accepted viz. Suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalization and usefulness of new farmers are associated. The study was administered mostly in Maharashtra region and a few parts other than Maharashtra.

6. HYPOTHESIS
H0: Suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalization and usefulness of new farmers are associated
H1: Suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalization and usefulness of new farmers are not associated

7. DATA ANALYSIS
Data was collected by the questionnaire method from the google forms and coding was done in excel sheet, there were 41 respondents from the farmers fraternity. The collected responses were analyzed by various charts like pie charts, bar charts. Descriptive statistics is used to explore the collected data to summarize and describe that data. The primary data were collected through questionnaire survey.

- Total questions were 16 and sample size was 41 feedbacks.
- By data 56% of people strongly agree that most part of population depends on agriculture.
- 99% people think that decreasing level of ground water is a serious problem.
- 65% think that commission agent system of marketing process is not beneficial for farmer.
- 90% people agree that direct payment of crops value should be made to former.
- 98% agree that insurance for farmer and his family is necessary.
- 82% agree that interest rates should be low.
- 70% think that electricity supply is not enough for agriculture sector.
- 98% of people agree that farmers need special package in case of natural disasters.
- 95% agree that lack of rains affects the productivity badly.

Whole questionnaires survey shows below.

![Pie chart for Most part of population depends on agriculture](image1)

- 2: Strongly Disagree
- 1: Disagree
- 0: Neutral
- 3: Agree
- 23: Strongly Agree

![Pie chart for Direct payment of crops value should be made to farmers](image2)

- 23: Strongly Agree
- 14: Agree
- 3: Neutral
- 0: Disagree
- 1: Strongly Disagree
Decreasing level of Ground water is a serious problem

40: True
1: False

Commission agent system of marketing process is best for farmers

1: Strongly Agree
3: Agree
10: Neutral
13: Disagree
14: Strongly Disagree

Insurance of farmer and his family necessary

32: Strongly Agree
7: Agree
0: Neutral
0: Disagree
2: Strongly Disagree
Contingency Table:

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**χ² Tests:**

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DF = 2
alpha = 0.05
p-value = 0.929
Since 0.929>0.05 , H0 is accepted

Chi-square test was conducted to assess the significance level at 0.05%. Pearson Chi Square Significance value is 0.929 (p>0.05 )therefore we accept the Null Hypothesis. So, we can conclude that Suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalization and usefulness of new farmers are associated.
8. LIMITATIONS
There are some limitations in Indian agriculture Field.

Insufficient Water Supply
Water availability in India is more than sufficient to irrigate all cultivation areas; the problem is that we still have to find cheap and suitable solutions to utilise such enormous water supplies. Due to several reasons, farmers either don’t receive the appropriate amount of water or don’t get the supply on time; many farmers rely on rainwater for irrigation

Less Use of Modern Farming Equipment
In most areas, to date, farmers follow primitive cultivation methods; traditionally-used plough and relevant native accessories continue to be farmers’ preference. Despite no shortage of efficient equipment and machinery, there’s very little use of modern equipment, majorly because most farmers don’t have lands huge enough to use advanced instruments, heavy machinery.

Transportation Problems
Lack of cheap, efficient means of transportation is a big problem widely seen in the Indian agriculture sector; small farmers still rely on bullock-carts for transporting their produce. Moreover, lakhs of villages are connected with highways and market centres with temporary (kutcha) roads that become muddy and useless in rains. Consequently, farmers cannot deliver their produce to the central market and helplessly sell it in the local market at low costs.

High Interest Rates
Thousands of farmers take their lives each year due to debt burden (having other indirect causes interlinked). Unreasonably-high interest rates should be declared illegal, and the government must take quick, strict, and appropriate action against greedy money lenders. Another problem is small and marginal farmers have to go through cumbersome procedures (that they are unaware of) to get institutional credit.

Government Schemes are yet to reach Small Farmers
In 2008, the government brought agricultural debt-waiver and debt-relief scheme in effect to benefit over 36 million farmers. The scheme also covered direct agricultural loan to stressed farmers. However, most of such welfare programs and subsidies announced by both the central and state governments are yet to reach poor farmers, while big/wealthy landlords are hugely benefited.

9. CONCLUSION
Concerns about farmer issues are not new, and studies on the subject have suggested different explanations for the act, India is an agrarian country with around 70% of its people depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture. Farmer suicides account for 11.2% of all suicides in India. Activists and scholars have offered a number of conflicting reasons for farmer suicides, such as high debt burdens, poor government policies, corruption in subsidies, monsoon failure, public mental health personal issues and family problems.

The present study says that economic planning would be a failure unless agricultural production is raised rapidly. The agriculture and allied sector continues to be crucial to the sustainable development and development of the Indian economy, not only does it meets the food and nutritional requirement of 1.3 billion Indians, but also contributes significantly to secondary and tertiary sectors. Hence, the study suggests that farmers need to be protected from falling into the trap of the spiralling debt, which is the primary risk factor for suicide. For this, farming must be protected from failure and made profitable. In this way certain issues challenges and remedies has been discussed briefly.

Indian agriculture predominated with small and marginal farmers and may face varied challenges in the next millennium. The challenges to be faced in the agricultural sector of the country are more daunting to the National Agricultural Research (NAR’S), which has to be revitalized and integrated for the solution of location-specific problems of increasing and sustaining the productivity of the natural resource base. This would demand re-outlook of the present strategy followed by the NAR’S of the country

It is quite difficult for many farmers to purchase the improved varieties of pulses due to the lack of concerned seed stores. Infestation of pest and diseases and lack of plant protection measures are other important constraints. One of the most important constraints to pulses production is lack of proper markets. It has been observed that, government’s procurement policy for pulses has not been as effective as in case of cereals and other crops. To encourage pulses production, similar mechanisms as for rice and wheat procurement needed to be evolved. Price and yield risks for pulses have been much higher than those of rice and wheat, because pulses are more prone to risk due to crop failure in comparison to rice and wheat.

When we do the chi-square test to understand the association between suitability of agriculture for farmers due to globalisation and new farmers’ rule, it can be seen that the null hypothesis is accepted viz. there is an association of the above mentioned hypothesis.

In addition to this, the eastern region lags behind the western region in respect of all the indicators of agricultural development. Frequent occurrence of floods is a common feature of the eastern region. It is a fact that, due to increased pressure of population on land, area and number of marginal land holdings increased during the periods of study. It further shows that, there is a dominance of marginal holdings in eastern part of the state. Marginal holdings make farm mechanization rather uneconomical; hence, the farmers of the eastern districts are unable to realize the full benefits of modern farm technology in spite of having fertile agricultural lands and adequate potentials of underground water resource.

10. SUGGESTIONS
✓ Soil erosion:
Large tracts of fertile land suffer from soil erosion by wind and water. This area must be properly treated and restored to its original fertility
❖ Better Irrigation Facilities:
Indian agriculture is mainly dependent on monsoon. So permanent means of irrigation should be developed. There should be large number of tube wells and canals for irrigation.

❖ Supply of Quality Seeds:
Quality seeds should be sold through co-operative societies or village Panchayats. Farmers should be given awareness regarding various varieties of seeds. Marginal farmers should be given seeds on loan.

❖ Manures, Fertilizers and Biocides:
Production of chemical fertilizers should be increased and it should be made available to farmers at sub-sidised rates. Farmers should be educated for firing green manure. Oil cakes may be used as fertilizers.

❖ Credit Facilities:
Farmers should be advanced loans at reasonable rates of interest. Regional Rural Banks should be opened. Commercial banks should be directed to provide loans to small farmers on easy terms. Local moneylenders should be scrutinized to stop their malpractices.

❖ Agricultural Marketing:
Agricultural marketing should be improved so that the farmer gets proper price for their produce warehousing facilities should be improved. Means of Transport should be strengthened. Regulated markets and Co-operative marketing societies should be established.

❖ Help is Small Farmers:
Small and marginal farmers should be helped with high yielding variety seeds, fertilizers and new agricultural techniques. Loans should be given to farmers at concessional rates of interest.

❖ Price Stability:
Due to mechanised farming and Green Revolution, production of crops will increase. So price of crops will fall. Govt. should ensure that prices should not fall and proper price should be made available to farmer.

❖ Lack of mechanisation:
Farmers should be educated for adopting mechanised farming. Kisan Melas (Farmers’ Fair) should be organized. In these Means Agricultural tools and implements and new variety of seeds should be displayed. Farmer should be given knowledge about these inputs.

❖ Scientific Cultivation:
Various scientific methods of cultivation should be employed to increase production. Farmers should adopt techniques like rotation of crops, use of fertilizers, pesticides. Farmers using new techniques must be encouraged. More research on the crops, seeds and fertilizers will be useful.

❖ Tenancy Reforms:
For the development of agriculture, tenancy reforms are much needed. Land rent should be fixed. Work without remuneration Begar should not be taken from tenants. Cultivators should not be evicted till they pay rent.

❖ Inadequate storage facilities:
Storage facilities in the rural areas are either totally absent or grossly inadequate. Under such conditions the farmers are compelled to sell their produce immediately after the harvest at the prevailing market prices which are bound to be low. Such distress sale deprives the farmers of their legitimate income.

❖ Small and fragmented land-holdings:
The seemingly abundance of net sown area of 141.2 million hectares and total cropped area of 189.7 million hectares (1999-2000) pales into insignificance when we see that it is divided into economically unviable small and scattered holdings.

11. REFERENCES