

A Study of Problems Faced by Farmers in Raigad District of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The primary goal of this study is to understand the issues facing farmers in the agriculture industry. The main goal for ensuring life quality is food products and wellness. Farmers are the foundation of the global economy because so many nations rely on the agricultural sector.

Design/Methodology/Approach: The major goal of this study is to identify the difficulties that Raigad District of Maharashtra farmers confront. The current study makes an effort to outline some of the difficulties farmers have in terms of production, marketing, and financial issues. Farmers were surveyed to provide primary data for the investigation of the goal, and a practical sample technique was used to gather responses from the respondents. The present study was conducted in Tala Taluka of Raigad district of Maharashtra. The objectives of study are to know the problems of agriculture, to identify reasons for non-farming despite agriculture, to convince the importance of modern agriculture to farmers and to make aware of the available schemes of the Government to the farmers. For selection of study areas, a random sampling plan was adopted. For collection of data, 315 farmers from 15 villages of Tala Taluka of Raigad District of Maharashtra were selected for this study. Major problems faced by farmers were agricultural losses, lack of marketing facilities, high occurrence of disease and pests in crops.

Keywords: Existing farming systems, problems

INTRODUCTION

New discoveries in the fields of science and technology have changed the face of world agriculture in the 20th century. E.g. Modern implements, new varieties of crops, chemical accounts, pesticides etc. Our country also adopted modern farming techniques and many schemes were planned to spread modern agriculture to the farmers by establishing agricultural research centers in many places in the country. Even though our country is an agricultural country, it used to import food grains during the post-independence period. We removed this disgraceful situation by creating 'Green Revolution'; But today's situation is not enough to be satisfied. Everyone is moving

fast in the field of agricultural production, but still the Konkan region is in this process and not successful yet. Indian agriculture is the backbone and main occupation of the Indian economy. Two thirds of the population in India and almost three fourth population in Tala Taluka are dependent on agriculture. Secondary and Tertiary Sectors of the Economy are based on agriculture as the primary sector. Considering the importance of agriculture, there is a need to focus on studying the agriculture sector and the problems related to agriculture. In Konkan region of Raigad District, farmers mainly harvest crops such as rice, ragi, vegetables etc. also this species like amla, cashewnut, bay leaf, fruits like Mango, Jackfruit, Kokam, and other products like bamboo, Hirda. It is also grown with agricultural crops as a supplementing production. The fundamental goal of the current study was to understand the existing farming system of farmers and the challenges they faced.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

P. J. Kshirsagar, C. P. Kinhole, J. M. Talathi, S. R. Torane and J. S. Dhekale (2020), have studied on "Production and disposal of paddy in Raigad District - An economics analysis". With a sample of 120 paddy growers chosen at random from 4 tehsils in Raigad district, Maharashtra, an attempt has been made to analyze the economics of paddy production and disposal patterns. According to the study, the cost of growing paddy per hectare at cost C was highest in the small group (Rs. 109925), followed by the large group (Rs. 104358) and the medium group (Rs. 103741), with an overall cost of Rs. 106008 per hectare. In the case of medium farmers, it was discovered that the average yield and gross returns per hectare were high. At input costs, the benefit cost ratio for paddy was 0.99 for small groups, 1.15 for medium groups, 1.16 for large groups, and 1.10 for the entire group. However, the benefit cost ratio at cost 'C' was calculated to be 0.51 at the level of small farmers, while it worked out to 0.56 and 0.54 for medium and big farmers, respectively, showing that paddy crop cultivation was economically advantageous at farm business revenue only. According to the disposal pattern, 47.49% of the total paddy production was marketable or surplus for the market at the aggregate level. The percentage of paddy consumed at home was calculated at 39.91%.

A.B.Salunkhe, S.M.Wasave, M.M. Shirdhankar, K.J.Chaudhari, M.S. Sawant, S.S.Wasave, B.M.Yadav, S.V. Patil and D.N.Toraskar (2020) studied on "Adoption of recommended farming practices by shrimp farmers in north Konkan region of Maharashtra, India" The use of scientific farming methods in prawn production is connected to the farmers' psychological, social, economic, physical, and technical factors, which have an impact on the farmers' total development. In order to determine the degree of adoption of better farming practices and the challenges prawn farmers faced while implementing better farming practices, this study was conducted in the North Konkan region of Maharashtra. 53 prawn farms in total were chosen at random for this investigation. A pre-tested interview plan was used to get the data. Adoption of enhanced aquaculture practices was divided into three categories using descriptive score sheets for each of the suggested practices. The findings showed that some practices had quite high adoption rates, including farm design and construction (81.13%), pond preparation for pre- and post-stocking management (77.36%), site selection (69.81%), and others. In contrast, medium adoption (50.94%) was observed in the shrimp farmers' attitude towards health management.

S.D Raut, V. T. Tarange, K.V. Tingare and D. B. Malave (2020) in his research study entitled "Constraints Faced by the Broiler Poultry Owners in Raigad District of Maharashtra State", Due to its huge potential to provide quick economic growth with little investment, poultry farming holds a key position. The poultry industry is regarded as having the highest employability per investment. For this study, the Raigad district of the Konkan region was chosen. High cost of feed (85.00%), high cost of chicks (76.67%), fluctuation in market prices (76.67%), lack of transport and marketing facility (56.67%), lack of availability of feed in time (46.47%), high cost of electricity and labour charges (40.00%), incidence of diseases (28.33%), insufficient credit facility (25.00%), lack of availability of chicks in time (23.33%) were the main issues faced by broiler farmers in Raigad district overall.

H. K. Jagtap (2017), focussed on "Industrial Impact On Agricultur In Raigad – Districts". On the agricultural grounds in Raigad Districts, a sizable number of industrial facilities have sprung in recent years. This change is required to strengthen the state's economy. But it comes at the expense of farmers' means of support. They suffer a severe industrial impact that leaves them jobless and homeless. due to the appropriation of their arable lands for industrial uses. Additionally, this has impacted the producer's growth. The end result is that the field products are now rare and cost a fortune to purchase.

Because of the current situation, the poor farmers are forced to find work somewhere in the cities.

Sandhya Kupekar and Balasaheb Kulkarni (2013), analyzed in their research paper entitled "Climate Change and Fishermen In and Around Uran. Dist Raigad.(Maharashtra)" to ascertain the level of awareness of and attitudes towards potential climate change challenges among fishermen. Between January and May 2010, more than 500 fishermen in and around Uran were polled about their opinions on climate change-related concerns. The majority of fishermen were found to be ignorant of climate change and its effects. They are concerned, though, about the depletion of fishing resources. One of the fishermen voiced concern over the declining fish population, saying that they used to be able to catch fresh Pomfret and prawns in the creek. But many fish have perished as a result of strong chemical emissions from industry. Since the monsoon is when the fish reproduce, the emission is particularly bad during that time. Fishermen were classified into three groups based on their responses: skeptics, acceptors, and uncertain.

Fishermen have highlighted issues with fishing day limits, the quality and amount of fish they collect, and they want the government to conserve fish resources and support them in raising their standard of living. The findings of the current survey demonstrate the significance of climate change education campaigns among the fishing community.

Objective of the Study:

- 1) To understand the existing farming system.
- 2) To know the problems of agriculture.
- 3) To find reasons for non-farming despite agriculture.
- 4) To make aware of the schemes of the Govt.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY

It was decided that a captivating report incorporating important data would be appropriate to study the locations.

By using a meeting schedule that was created specifically for the purpose, the necessary information was obtained from the farmers. Extreme care was taken to provide crucial justifications in colloquial language to enable the respondents to react as accurately and unambiguously as possible. The completed schedule has been thoroughly examined and guaranteed with regard to the consistency and accuracy of the data.

The data was obtained from a variety of optional sources, including statistics, websites, newspapers, journals, and books and reports etc. For the present study, a random sampling plan was adopted for the selection of study areas and Tala Taluka of Raigad district of Maharashtra State was selected for the study. Out of the 62 Villages of Tala Taluka of Raigad District of Maharashtra, 15 villages have been selected for this study.

Structured questionnaires have been used for data collection. 315 farmers were used as the test size and filled the questionnaire and used for the analysis. It included questions of background personal information, questions about income and means of livelihood other than agriculture, questions about challenges faced in farming systems. Data was classified, tabulated and analyzed weighted average, simple average and percentage.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

At the very beginning of the study, certain demographic details were taken and few questions related to farming were asked to the farmers. The analysis depicted from that is mentioned in Table 1. Majority of respondents were Male (53%), while female (47%).

Table 1 Characteristic of Respondents

Demographic Details	Frequency
Gender	
Male	239
Female	75
Age	
20-35	29
36-50	139
More than 50	146
Monthly Income	
Less than 5000	124
5000-15000	127
16,000-25,000	41
26,000-40,000	18
More than 40,000	4

Source: Field Survey

Farmers in Tala Taluka of Raigad District of Maharashtra:

In this section we understand the existing farming system of farmers in Tala Taluka of Raigad District of Maharashtra. According to the 2011 census of India, 40,619 total population were living in this Taluka. In 2022 Population of Tala Taluka is 51,992. Out of the population, nearly 50% of workers depend on multi skills. Total 8,836 Cultivators are dependent on agriculture farming. 3,813 people work in agricultural land as labor in Tala, men are 1,776 and 2,037 are women.

Category of Land holdings: As per data collection, it is found that 77% of farmers had their own farm, 8% of farmers didn't have their own farm and 15% farmers had their own farm but didn't farm. 18% farmers had less than 5 Gunta farms, 24% farmers had 5- 20 Gunta, 32% farmers

had 20-40 Gunta, 17% farmers had 2 Acre, and 8% farmers had more than 2 Acres.

Type of Farming: 72% farmers had arable farms, 12% farmers had horticulture and 16% farmers had arable and horticulture both farms.

Crops Grown: In Tala Taluka near about 80% farmer's preferred to produce rice, 3% farmers produced ragi, 9% farmers preferred vegetables and 8% preferred all of the above Farm

Use of fertilizers: 117 farmers had used 10 to 20% organic fertilizers, 90 farmers had used 20 to 40 % organic fertilizers, 45 farmers had used 41 to 60% organic fertilizers, 2 farmers had used more than 60% organic fertilizers on other hand 209 farmers had used chemical fertilizers but 105 farmers didn't have used.

Table 2: Information Regarding Reasons for Not Owning a Farm

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Total
Low Area	52	27	129	106	314
Not Affordable	86	128	26	74	314
Low Capital	58	47	89	120	314
Migration	118	112	70	14	314
	314	314	314	314	

Source: Field Survey

With regard to reasons for not owning a farm of farmers in Tala Taluka from Table No 2, it is seen that the highest rank to the Migration given by farmers. They have given second, third and fourth ranking to not affordable, low area and low capital. Overall study indicated that a majority of the farmers preferred migration for not owning a farm.

Table 3: Information regarding Means of livelihood other than agriculture

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank 5	Total
Job	160	97	50	5	2	314
Business	33	53	45	140	43	314
Labour	65	110	36	87	16	314
Supplementary business	22	30	150	67	45	314
Others	34	24	33	15	208	314
	314	314	314	314	314	

Source: Field Survey

From the above Table it has been seen that the means of livelihood other than agriculture are ranked by the farmers. Farmers given first rank to Job. Labour, Supplementary business is given to second and third rank. They have given least importance to others. Overall study indicated that most of the farmers preferred jobs as a means of livelihood other than agriculture.

Table 4: Information Regarding Causes of Agricultural Losses

	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Total
Wild Animals	170	49	95	314
Changing Weather	63	101	150	314
Diseases or pests on crops	81	164	69	314
Total	314	314	314	

Source: Field Survey

The Table no 4 indicated that the agricultural losses have been affected by giving first rank to wild animals. Second and third rank has to do with diseases or pests on crops and changing weather. Overall study indicated that farmers have faced agricultural losses affected by wild animals.

Table 5: Information regarding problems faced by farmers

Sr. No	Farmer's Opinion	Agreed	Percentage	Not Agreed	Percentage
1	Lack of marketing facilities	210	67	104	33
2	Get a fair guaranteed price	35	11	279	89
3	Farming in a modern way	65	21	249	79
4	Sufficient financial support through government's agriculture schemes	111	35	203	65

Source: Field Survey

After analyzing Table no. 5, it is seen that the highest of the farmers 67 per cent agreed there is a lack of marketing facilities for their production. Only 35 per cent farmers agreed to sufficient financial support through government agriculture schemes. On the other hand, nearly 80 percent of farmers were not farming in a modern way. Near about 90 per cent farmers were facing problems getting a fair guaranteed price for their production.

CONCLUSION

This research displays that the majority of Tala Taluka of Raigad District of Maharashtra's agriculture is arable. Out of the entire geographical area is 25009 hectares only 2354 hectares of that are used for cultivation in Tala Taluka of Raigad District of Maharashtra. Agriculture uses organic fertilizers relatively infrequently. In agricultural production, organic fertilizers are rarely employed. Apart from agriculture, wages are the main source of income for most farmers. Farmers need to be made aware of the government's agricultural programmes. The majority of farmers practice traditional farming, hence the agriculture department must take the initiative to enlighten them about contemporary farming. There is a need to adopt a more open-minded mindset towards growing crops besides rice.

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