



ISSN (E): 2277- 7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2021; SP-10(12): 1446-1448
© 2021 TPI
www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 10-10-2021
Accepted: 12-11-2021

M Asokhan

Professor (Agricultural Extension), Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Katiki Srikar

PG Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

Institutional support for enhancing the livelihood of tribal farmers through farmer producer groups

M Asokhan and Katiki Srikar

Abstract

A collective approach can be a curative for enhancing agriculture productivity and marketing in the present agriculture scenario. In this endeavour, the current study focuses on the institutional support received by the members of tribal FPGs for their livelihood enhancement. Seethampeta block of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh was purposively selected for the study. 145 respondents were selected through multistage proportionate random sampling method. Data was collected with the help of well-structured interview schedule through personal interview method. Collected data was analysed using mean and standard deviation. The results of the study showed that members of tribal FPGs receive information on various schemes of department of agriculture and allied departments had highest mean score of 2.759 and lowest mean score was gained by being informed of quality testing of inputs had low mean score of 1.552. Institutional support was found to be of medium level by nearly three-fourths (74.48%) of the respondents. The study can be concluded saying that there is a need to supply need based and location specific support for the tribal farmers and making them aware of weather related information and testing of inputs for quality.

Keywords: development, farmer producer groups (FPGs), institutional support, tribal farmers

Introduction

The current farming situation of small and marginal farmers especially tribals is not up to the mark due to lack of proper infrastructure, marketing facilities and technical support. According to Maponya and Mpandeli (2012) [6], institutional support, both technical and financial (e.g., inputs, technology transfer and capacity building, drought mitigation, historical rainfall distribution information and market trends) are important factors which influence farmers' productivity. Different collectivization approaches are brought into light by government of India to deal with the constraints of small and marginal farmers. Farmer Organizations, Co-operatives, Self Help Groups, marketing associations and others had aided in maximizing the benefit-cost ratio and as a result increased producer's share in consumer's rupee (Nain *et al.*, 2015) [9]. The establishment of farmers groups improved the confidence levels of the farmers (Singh and Srinivasan, 1998) [13].

It has been proven all around the world that farming may be profitable in groups rather than individually. This is especially true when farmers cooperate in response to loan and input shortages, marketing concerns, and so on, as there are clear economic benefits to working in groups. Such groups are especially important in locations where farmers are geographically dispersed and communication is difficult. Such an organisation allows farmers to participate by allowing them to recognise their own challenges and solve the problems for their concerns through community action. As a result, it would lead to increased team spirit and unity, which would foster mutual assistance. Many organizations both government and non-government were making attempts to collectivize farmers and integrate them into improvement process by engaging them actively in production, technology transfer, planning and monitoring of different rural development projects (Thamminaina, 2018) [14].

Tribal people live in a different setting than other agrarian groups and their agriculture practices are also different. Currently, plurality of tribal territories coincides with major forest areas which have highest levels of poverty in the country. Despite the availability of favourable resources, tribals lack in infrastructure, yield and basically all developmental metrics. Tribes are provided with a plethora of opportunities, such as forest resources, to improve their standard of living. Due to their geographical location, tribes are facing difficulty in obtaining quality inputs and a fair price for their produce (Mathuabirami *et al.*, 2020b) [7]. Most of the farmers in the country are with very minor marketable surpluses, forcing them to

Corresponding Author

M Asokhan

Professor (Agricultural Extension), Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Sociology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

sell their harvest at lower prices in markets immediately after harvest. For small and marginal farmers, the prices of procuring/purchasing inputs and obtaining technical services are too expensive. As a result, a strategy to strengthen their negotiating power in input procurement and the sale of produce was required. This was the underlying concept behind the formation of cooperative marketing groups in the country, although their effectiveness has been confined to a few instances (Acharya and Agarwal, 2004)^[1].

Cultivation costs can be reduced through input sharing and also leads to additional profit gain. Empowerment of farmers would be possible through group approaches (Patil *et al.*, 2014)^[10]. Institutional support is vital to improve the agricultural production in order to meet the growing demand for agricultural products (Engku *et al.*, 2019)^[3]. Ineffective linkage with financial institutions was found to be one of the organizational constraint in functioning of tribal FPGs (Katiki *et al.*, 2021)^[5]. The functional links between producers and the various systems involved in the transfer of cultivation technology have a direct impact on the quality and quantity of the yield. It highlights the nature and intent of collaborations with various organisations and other facilities for production and marketing (Rakesh *et al.* 2005, Das *et al.* 2015)^[12, 2]. The present study was conducted with the objective to study the institutional support for the tribal Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs).

Materials and Methods

The district with highest percentage rural population to

scheduled tribe population (96.58%) in Andhra Pradesh *i.e.*, Srikakulam was purposively selected for the study. Seethampeta block of Srikakulam district with 243 FPGs in 61 villages and 2875 members which is highest in number was chosen for the study. An *ex post facto* research design was adopted to study the institutional support for the tribal farmers. 145 members from the three villages of Seethampeta block namely Kusimi, Keesarajodu and Somagandi were selected as respondents through multistage proportionate random sampling. Data collection was done through personal interview method with the help of pre-tested well-structured interview schedule. The indicators for institutional support were measured on a three point scale of always, sometimes and never. Mean and standard deviation were used for analysing the collected data on institutional support for tribal farmers through FPGs.

Results and Discussions

Tribal farmers require institutional support to increase agricultural output in order to satisfy the rising demand for agricultural products, as well as to enable them market their products with a high profit margin. The institutional support provided by the FPGs can be considered as an important factor for the upliftment of its members by assisting in input availability, technical and financial guidance, information on schemes, marketing of produce etc. The results of the study are furnished in Table 01.

Table 1: Level of institutional support received by members of tribal FPGs

(n=145)

S. No.	Statement	Mean score	Rank
1.	I receive information regarding source of input availability.	1.683	VIII
2.	I receive technical guidance regarding crop production technology.	2.324	VII
3.	I receive guidance and support for subsidiary activities (sericulture, apiculture, mushroom cultivation, others.)	2.676	IV
4.	I receive technical guidance and financial assistance regarding farm equipment's	2.731	II
5.	I receive technical guidance regarding post-harvest aspects of crop production.	2.552	V
6.	I am being informed about marketing of the produce.	2.690	III
7.	I receive information on various schemes of department of agriculture and allied departments.	2.759	I
8.	I am assisted by my organization to be organized into group and maintenance of records.	2.414	VI
9.	I receive information on weather related updates.	1.621	IX
10.	I am being informed of quality testing of inputs.	1.552	X

From Table 01, members of tribal FPGs receive information on various schemes of department of agriculture and allied departments had attained highest mean score of 2.759 followed by technical guidance and financial assistance regarding farm equipment's (2.731), being informed about marketing of the produce (2.690) and receive guidance and support for subsidiary activities (2.676). Members receive technical guidance regarding post-harvest aspects of crop production had attained a mean score of 2.552 followed by members were assisted by their organization to be organized into group and maintenance of records (2.414), receive technical guidance regarding crop production technology (2.324), receive information regarding source of input availability (1.683) and receive information on weather related updates (1.621). Being informed of quality testing of inputs had low mean score of 1.552. The institutions were providing adequate knowledge on technologies regarding seed to seed, marketing, value addition and also on schemes related to the welfare of the tribal community. The tribal farmers were also receiving timely credit support. Information regarding weather should be timely provided to the tribal FPG

members. They should be made aware of the quality testing of inputs for maximizing their returns.

Further analysis of data using mean and standard deviation helped in categorizing the members of tribal FPGs based on their institutional support into low, medium and high as shown in Table 02.

Table 2: Distribution of the members of tribal FPGs based on their institutional support

(n=145)

S. No.	Category	Number	Per cent
1.	Low	20	13.79
2.	Medium	108	74.48
3.	High	17	11.73
Total		145	100.00
Mean - 23			
Standard deviation - 2.12			

From Table 02 it could be observed that nearly three-fourths (74.48%) of the members opined that the institutional support was of medium level followed by 13.79 and 11.73 per cent of

low and high levels of institutional support respectively. The possible reason for medium level of institutional support received by the members of tribal FPGs might be due to remoteness. Mobilizing and organizing the available resources in a productive way might be possible through proper support and guidance by institution. The farmers were pleased with the ground level extension functionaries and had a positive relationship with them. The farmers could cope up to speed on the latest technologies, which might explain the medium level of institutional support.

The results are in accordance with Mathuabirami *et al.*, (2020b) ^[7] who stated that majority (83.00%) of the members of farmer groups had medium level of institutional support followed by low and high levels of 10.00 per cent and 7.00 per cent respectively. The findings face contradiction from those of Karthick (2014) ^[4], who indicated a high institutional support by nearly one-third (30.00%) of the members of Cotton farmer groups followed by medium, very high, very low and low levels with 27.50, 17.50, 15.00 and 10.00 per cent respectively.

According to Misra (2009) ^[8], the private sector in India has entered organised retailing with specific plans for at least some form of connectivity, but none are actually reaching the farm gate. Pritchard *et al.*, (2010) ^[11] stated that farmers do not usually have substantial ties among dealers or between traders and super market purchasers.

Conclusion

Institutions like State Department of Agriculture and NGOs play a vital role in betterment of the tribal people. Institutional support remains highly imperative in tribal people's development. The main aim of the institutions is to increase the farmer's share in consumer's rupee through collectivization. Group approach like FPGs, FIGs, CIGs, SHGs etc., help the farmers especially tribals to benefit from the economies of scale, improve their production practices, bargaining power and thus their returns and standard of living. The findings of the study revealed that the institutional support received by the members of tribal FPGs was of medium level. The results implicated the need of still more efforts that can be taken to provide buyback support for agricultural produce, value addition and educating them through providing timely weather related information and insisting on quality testing of inputs.

References

1. Acharya SS, Agarwal NL. *Agricultural Marketing in India*. Oxford & IBH Publishing Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, 2004.
2. Das L, Nain MS, Singh R, Burman RR. Effectiveness of backward and forward linkage in fruit cultivation: A study of NERAMAC. *Indian Journal of Extension Education*. 2015;51(1&2):70-4.
3. Engku Elini Engku Ariff, Hairazi Rahim, Rosnani Harun, Asruldin Ahmad Sobri. Fragrant rice overview: Benefits and implications of local production. *Economic and Technology Management Review*. 2019;14:01-11.
4. Karthick D. "A Study on the Effectiveness of Cotton Farmer Groups in Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh". Unpub. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis. Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University. Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, 2014.
5. Katiki, Srikar, Asokhan M, Karthikeyan C, Patil SG. "Constraints Perceived and Suggestions Offered by the

- members of Tribal Farmer Producer Groups (FPGs)." *Madras Agricultural Journal* 2021;108:1.
6. Maponya P, Mpandeli S. Climate change and agricultural production in South Africa: impacts and adaptation options. *J Agric. Sci.* 2012;4(10):48-60. [http://refhub.elsevier.com/S2405-8440\(20\)31832-6/sref39](http://refhub.elsevier.com/S2405-8440(20)31832-6/sref39)
7. Mathuabirami V, Kalaivani S, Premavathi R, Radha M. Analysis on effectiveness of tribal farmer interest groups (FIGs) in Tamil Nadu. *International Journal of Agricultural Science and Research*. 2020b;10(4):169-174.
8. Misra R. ITC choupal fresh: A case in pro poor value chains. Occasional Paper Series No. 8, Coady International Institute, 2009.
9. Nain MS, Rashmi Singh, Shiv Kumar, Chahal VP. Farmers producer organization in reducing transactional costs: A study of Tamil Nadu mango growers federation (TAMAFED). *Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences*. 2015;85(10):1303-7
10. Patil Suresh, Hiremath GM, Lokesh GB. Economic sustainability through farmers interest groups and their linkage with institutional agencies-An evidence from Karnataka. *Agricultural Economics Research Review*. 2014;27:141-146.
11. Pritchard Bill, Gracy CP, Godwin Michelle. The Impacts of Supermarket procurement on Farming Communities in India: Evidence from Rural Karnataka. *Development Policy Review*, 2010.
12. Rakesh K, Arya BS, Narwal RS. Extent and correlates of functional linkage as perceived by farmers. *Haryana Agricultural University Journal of Research*. 2005;35:71-6.
13. Singh K, Srinivasan R. Role of farmers' organization in the context of new economic policy with particular reference to agriculture marketing and agro-processing. *Indian J Agril. Mktg.* 1998, 161-164. Retrieved from http://ap.fftc.agnet.org/ap_db.php?id=737&print=1
14. Thamminaina A. Catalysts but not magicians: Role of NGOs in the tribal development. *SAGE Open*, 2018;8(2):2158244018785714. Doi: 10.1177/2158244018785714