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Suggestions of the tribal farmers to minimize the constraints in livelihood security

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Palghar district of Konkan region of Maharashtra state, with the objectives to understand the suggestions of the tribal farmers to minimize the constraints in livelihood security. In all, 240 farmers were selected from Palghar district. Personal interview technique was used for data collection. Majority of the tribal farmers had offered useful suggestions to overcome the constraints and improve the livelihood security. These included, efficient implementation of need based development and welfare schemes, their effective monitoring and supervision, health cover, year round employment through agricultural and livestock development schemes etc.

Keywords: Tribal farmers, minimize, constraints, livelihood security

Introduction

The tribal population of Maharashtra is concentrated in the hilly districts of Sahyadri region and the eastern forest districts of Gondwana region. This puts responsibility on the government and developmental agencies to reach out to different areas and vulnerable tribal groups with services related to health, education, drinking water, sanitation, livelihoods and basic infrastructure to help this population for all-round development. It is seen from studies that programmes for tribal development have not brought remarkable change in the socio-economic lives of the majority of tribal people in the state. Many of them are not even aware of different tribal welfare programmes. The tribals are economically backward. Agriculture is main source of livelihood. This lower percentage of education of Tribal community has created many problems like unemployment, less standard of living, unawareness of health care, etc. Several development programmes have been undertaken for development of the tribal's to reduce the critical gaps in the field of health, education, agriculture, horticulture, skill upgradation and rural connectivity at par with the developed areas of the State. Government has focused on empowering the tribal's and enabling them to enhance their food security, increase their incomes and improve their livelihood security through more efficient natural resource management, more productive environmentally sound agricultural practices, and through off-farm/non-farm enterprise development. Keeping this in view, it was considered the present study was planned with the following objective

1. To understand the suggestions of the tribal farmers to minimize the constraints in livelihood security.

Methodology

The present study was conducted in Palghar district of Konkan region of Maharashtra state, with the objectives to identify constraints in day to day livelihood of tribal farmers. In all, 240 farmers were selected from Palghar district. Personal interview technique was used for data collection. Suitable statistical tools were used to analyze the data.

Result and Discussion

Suggestions of the tribal farmers to minimize the constraints in livelihood security

Various suggestions made by the respondents for minimizing the constraints in livelihood security is given in Table 1

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestions to minimize the constraints in day to day livelihood.

Sl. No.	Suggestions	Respondents (n=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Priorities of different schemes need to be based on needs of communities.	240	100.00
2.	Training on income generating activities and skill development for subsidiary occupation.	230	95.83
3.	There is need to impose rigid vigilance on accountability of schemes.	228	95.00
4.	Access to health centers and increase number of ASHA workers.	225	93.75
5.	Building constructed under various schemes be properly used and maintained.	220	91.67
6.	Periodic review of progress needs to be taken to know the impact of scheme.	210	87.50
7.	Forest department and MNREGA to provide employment throughout the year.	200	83.33
8.	Urgent need to implement agriculture and livestock development schemes.	194	80.83
9.	Selection of beneficiaries should be done without any bias.	178	74.17
10.	Separate Gramsevak for each tribal village be appointed.	176	73.33
11.	Sufficient flexibility in implementing tribal welfare schemes as per need of hour be provided.	167	69.58
12.	Efforts need to be made to strengthen Ashram schools with poor admissions.	160	66.67
13.	Educated youth of the community be placed in Gram panchayat to help tribal household to submit documents.	158	65.83
14.	Provision of beneficiary card will avoid duplication of beneficiaries.	145	60.42

It is evident from the Table 1 that, cent percent of the tribal farmers suggested, 'priorities of different schemes need to be based on needs of communities' followed by great majority of the respondent suggested 'training on income generating activities and skill development programmes for subsidiary occupation' (95.83 percent), 'there is need to impose rigid vigilance on accountability of schemes' (95.00 percent), 'access to health centers and increase number of ASHA workers' (93.75 percent), and 'building constructed under various schemes be properly used and maintained' (91.67 percent).

Further it is observed that, more than eighty percent (87.50 percent) of the tribal farmers suggested 'periodic review of progress needs to be taken to know the impact of scheme' followed by 'forest department and MNREGA to provide employment throughout the year' (83.33 percent), and 'urgent need to implement agriculture and livestock development schemes' (80.83 percent).

Other important suggestions were 'selection of beneficiaries should be done without any bias' (74.17 percent), followed by 'separate Gramsevak for each tribal village be appointed' (73.33 percent), 'sufficient flexibility in implementing tribal welfare schemes as per need of hour be provided' (69.58 percent), 'efforts need to be made to strengthen Ashram schools with poor admissions' (66.67 percent), 'educated youth of the community be placed in Grampanchayat to help tribal household to submit documents' (65.83 percent), and 'provision of beneficiary card will avoid duplication of beneficiaries' (60.42 percent) reported by the respondents for their day to day livelihood.

Conclusions

The sample tribal farmers have expressed number of suggestions for reducing their constraints in day to day livelihood. These suggestions are applicable to Tribal Development Department which is responsible for planning for tribal welfare. There is urgent need of developing co-ordination network with functionaries of Tribal Development Department, line departments at district and tahsil level and tribal community leaders, in order to satisfy demands of the community.

So also interactive bottom-up planning process is today's need for developing appropriate and sustainable livelihood.

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