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The benefits availed by the members from FPOs and suggestions to overcome constraints faced by them

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Abstract

The present investigation “Benefits availed by the members of Farmer Producers Organizations.” was conducted in Niphad, Dindori, and Sinnar tahsils of Nashik district. 50 respondents from each FPO were selected based on actively functioning FPOs. Data were collected by personally interviewing 150 member farmers of FPOs with the help of specially designed interview schedule. The statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, rank and range were used for grouping the data. 82.00 percent of the respondents received medium to low extent of benefits through the FPO. Members are more satisfied with the economic benefits which they availed from the FPO then psychological benefits followed by social and technical benefits. Major constraint faced by the respondents was limited infrastructure facility i.e., 77.00 percent followed by high fluctuation in market prices i.e., 67.00 percent. And to overcome this majority (82.00%) of the respondents suggested that storage warehouse facility should be strengthened, 80.66 percent facilitation for developing functional linkages with other institutions. The study implies that membership of women farmers should be increased. Need to strengthen infrastructural facilities at village level and better co-ordination between FPO members and other stakeholders.

Keywords: Farmer producer organisation, respondents farmers

Introduction

FPO helps the farmers in production, harvesting, grading, handling, processing, procurement, pooling, marketing, selling of primary produce of the members, export or import of goods and services for economic benefits. FPO renders training education, technical benefits, consultancy benefits, research and development for the promotion of the interests of its members. The FPO is providing almost all benefits to its members, covering almost every aspect of cultivation from inputs, technical benefits to processing and marketing. (Source: Trebbin and Hassler, 2012) [8].

The rising paradigm of agriculture focuses on adding more value to the produce from farm to exploit more opportunities arising due to increase per capita income, change in pattern of food consumption, changes in life styles and others. The FPOs as a grassroot entrepreneurship and developing organizations, are in major transition phase from securing maximum farmers welfare to venturing into commercial activities. Though Government promoted FPOs they faced challenges in creating new businesses and providing required benefits to the member farmers so, it is essential to strengthen the individual member farmer and FPOs.

Therefore, present study entitled, “Benefits availed by the members of Farmer Producers Organizations.” will be undertaken with the following objectives:

Objective

1. To study the benefits availed by the members from selected Farmer Producers organizations
2. To study the constraints faced by the members for availing benefits from Farmer Producers organizations
3. To obtain the suggestion to overcome constraints faced by the members in Farmer Producers organizations

Methodology

The present study was purposively carried out in Nashik district of Maharashtra state. Based on number of actively working FPOs Nashik district from western Maharashtra was purposively selected for the study. A district wise list of FPOs registered in Maharashtra state

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was obtained from site <http://krishi.maharashtra.gov.in>. Based on the list obtained it was noticed that Nashik district was leading district with 96 number of FPOs working in agri. and agri. allied activities. From the list it was noticed that Niphad, Dindori, and Sinnar tahsils of Nashik district were the three tahsils having maximum number of actively functioning FPOs. Thus, these three tahsils were selected purposively for the study.

Considering the functioning of FPOs in selected area one FPO From each tahsil was selected purposively. Based on the number of members, organizational setup business activity, shared capital etc. Thus total 3 FPOs was considered for present study.

Appropriate statistical tools were used to interpret the data.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their technical benefits availed by the respondents

Sr. no.	Benefits	Respondents (N= 150)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
I	Technical Benefits			
1	Facilitated for input supply and assistance in quality control	112	75.00	III
2	Increased agricultural productivity	97	65.00	VI
3	Facilitated for improved post-harvest technology or management	110	73.00	IV
4	Facilitated for improved processing and value addition	88	56.00	VIII
5	Encouraged for grading, packaging and standardisation	142	95.00	I
6	Facilitated for marketing under brand name	121	81.00	II
7	Provided policy advocacy services	107	71.00	V
8	Developed organisational skills	73	48.00	IX
9	Increased contact with agricultural universities and KVK which helped to get updated technical knowledge	94	63.00	VII

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their economic benefits availed by the respondents

Sr. no.	Benefits	Respondents (N= 150)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
II	Economic / Financial benefits			
1	Price negotiations get easier	136	90.00	III
2	Increased in price to farm produce	145	97.00	I
3	Helped to saved time and manpower because of increase in bargaining power for the input	129	86.00	IV
4	Increased in farmers income	117	78.00	V
5	Helped to availed credit / loan	115	76.00	VI
6	Increased farmers share in consumer's price	141	94.00	II

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their social benefits availed by the respondents

Sr. no.	Benefits	Respondents (N= 150)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
III	Social benefits			
1	Extension and advisory service provided	117	84.00	V
2	Enabled for better utilisation of resources	138	92.00	II
3	Developed capacity for risk management	127	83.00	VII
4	Enabled for joint use of equipment and other facilities	105	70.00	VIII
5	Developed social cohesion	142	95.00	I
6	Due to linkages and coordination among various factors helped to get work done easily	129	86.00	IV
7	Improved communication skills	124	82.00	VI
8	Improved social status	132	88.00	III

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their psychological benefits availed by the respondents

Sr. no.	Benefits	Respondents (N= 150)		Rank		
		Frequency	Percentage			
IV	Psychological benefits					
1	Job satisfaction	135	90.00	II		
2	Improved confidence, cognitive skills	self-esteem	and	144	96.00	I
3	Improved mental health	126	84.00	III		

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their benefits availed

Sr. no.	Benefits	Respondents (N= 150)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	34	23.00
2	Medium	89	59.00
3	High	27	18.00
	Total	150	100

Constraints faced by the members for availing benefits from Farmer Producers organizations.**Table 5:** Constraints faced by respondent's member for availing benefits in FPO

Sr. no.	Constraints	Respondents (N= 150)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1.	Limited infrastructure facility	116	77.00	I
2.	Unavailability of improved/ quality seed variety	26	17.00	VIII
3.	High fluctuation in market prices	101	67.00	II
4.	Lack of storage facility	52	35.00	VII
5.	lack of support from the government department after establishment of FPOs	68	45.00	IV
6.	Political interference of member	66	44.00	V
7.	Lack of transparency in work	48	32.00	IX
8.	Lack of participation among the organization for doing collective activities	94	63.00	III
9.	Limited functional linkages with other institution	62	41.00	VI

Suggestion to overcome constraints faced by the members in Farmer Producers organizations**Table 6:** Suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints faced by members while availing benefits in FPO

Sr. no.	Suggestions	Respondents (N= 150)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1	Active involvement of members should be there in most of activities	62	41.33	VII
2	Storage warehouse facility should be strengthened	123	82.00	I
3	Assured market should be provided by marketing board	54	36.00	VIII
4	Maintain transparency at higher level of organization	48	32.00	IX
5	Organize regular exposure visit	103	68.67	III
6	Training programmes should be imparted on regular basis	79	52.67	V
7	Improved varieties should be made available through SAUs/KVKs	73	48.66	VI
8	Facilitation for developing functional linkages with other institutions.	121	80.66	II
9	Articulate more liberal policies with respect to banks and extend limit of crop insurance for maximum fruits and vegetables	87	58.00	IV

Conclusion

1. The suggestions offered by members may be taken into consideration for creation of more favourable environment to encourage participation in various activities which will be helpful to make organisations economically stable.
2. The study will facilitate in knowing the benefits availed by the members. It would serve as a guideline for FPOs in planning and implementing various programmes for member farmers.
3. The suggestions offered by members may be taken into consideration for creation of more favourable environment to encourage participation in various activities which will be helpful to make organisations economically stable.

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