



Problems Encountered by Farmers on Procuring Agricultural Inputs in Bangarapet

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Abstract

The importance of agricultural inputs in getting a robust harvest of Ragi, paddy, groundnuts, horsegram, cowpea, sunflower, Toordal, Avarekallu all food grains, pulses and oilseeds cannot be underestimated. But for these crops to give a bountiful harvest adequate use of inputs such as water, high quality seeds, tractors, finance, other inputs such as balanced use of chemical fertilizers and other necessary safe pesticides were essential. In Bangarapet five villages were taken for study and 150 farmers were sampled. They cultivated a mix of ragi paddy, horsegram and avarekallu falling into seasonal categories of Karif and rabi crops. The research gap revealed that these farmers wanted to revert to mechanization of agriculture. They welcomed modern means of agricultural implements. They wanted to depart from the traditional methods of agriculture. So, they felt the need and importance of procuring agricultural inputs necessary to make this changeover. Research Methodology consisted of both primary and secondary data and simple random sampling was the sampling technique used. Data analysis was done by means of percentage method. Findings show that they were partially successful in their endeavor.

Keywords: Agricultural Inputs, Modernization, Procurement, Manure High Quality Seeds.

1. Introduction

The major problem here was to find out whether the farmers of Bangarapet villages have taken to mechanization of agriculture using the latest variety seeds, irrigation facilities, fertilizers use of pesticides scientific ways of improving the soil fertility machinery for harvesting, employing farm hands to the minimum, availability of loans for agricultural purpose was perhaps the main necessities needed in improving the basic agricultural needs [1]. So ultimately the problem lay in finding out if the framers have transformed from using traditional methods of agriculture to procuring better input facilities to transform their farming into better yielding agrarian output. Soil types found in Bangarapet were red loamy soil, gravelly soil, and also laterite. It was observed that black soil retains water in considerable quantities. Red soil in Bangarapet was mainly used to grow ragi, groundnuts and pluses (Avare, cowpea, toor dal) Soil health centre located in Bhuvanahally and

Kagati in Kolar guided the farmers in avoiding indiscriminate use of fertilizers in soil and in balancing use of chemical fertilizer[2,3]. Analysis of availability of water for irrigation was present. Main irrigation was done by lakes, Tanks, ponds and borewells. (areas in hectares). In Bangarapet crop cultivation was done mainly in Batavarahalli Budikote, Chalghanahalli, Dasarahosahalli, Hunsanahalli which were selected for the study.

2. Literature Review

1. Prof. Sukhpal Singh (2004) [4] stresses that agricultural inputs are at the heart of rural marketing and rural development. They support farm production which is the source of income for a very large part of rural population and create market for other consumable and durable products in rural areas.
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3. According to Varshney (1997, p.251) [11], the importance of an efficient marketing system for farm inputs may be judged by the following:

- Farm products are produced in the country side. The effect of change in production method can, therefore, be realized only if the farm inputs reach the farmers in time at the least cost [6].
- The use of modern inputs by farmers largely depends upon the spread of information about them. The marketing system has to perform this function [7].
- An efficient marketing system for farm inputs is essential for the development of the inputs –manufacturing and supplying industries in the country [8].

3. Objectives

- To find out the problems faced by farmers in their procurement of agricultural inputs in sampled villages of Bangarapet.
- To find out if the size of their farms was a deterrent in procurement of basic farming resources [9].
- To suggest a few measures to solve this problem of procurement of agrarian products of these sampled respondents.

4. Research Gap

To increase production of food crops on small farms use of modern agricultural inputs was the only way. But many problems deterred the farmers from the procurement of these farm inputs. What were the main issues, deficits faced by the sampled farming community?

5. Research Methodology

Both Primary and secondary data was used for the study. Primary data was the main source of the study. Accordingly, questionnaire was designed and interview method was followed. For the secondary data government reports and previously published articles were studied. Sampling design followed was simple random and for analyzing data percentage method was used [10-12].

6. Data Interpretation

The table 1 analysis showed that the main problem was water scarcity as failure of north western monsoon which was the main water source for agriculture in Kolar and Bangarapet led to crop loss borewell water was also not possible due to low ground water level [13].

Table 1 To Find Out the Problems of Procurement of Agriculture

Sl no	Name of the sampled villages	No of sampled respondents	Water scarcity	Inferior quality of soil	Difficulty in mechanization	Financial problem
1	Batavarahalli	30	50%	20%	20%	10%
2	Budikote	30	40%	20%	20%	20%
3	Chalganahalli,	30	35%	25%	20%	20%
4	Dasarahosahalli	30	40%	20%	20%	20%
5	Hunasanahali	30	40%	30%	20%	20%

Source: Field Survey 2024 March



Table 2 Size of the Farms

Sl no	Name of the sampled villages	No of sampled respondents	Size of farms*		
			1 acre	2 acres	3 acres
1	Batavarahalli	30	55%	25%	20%
2	Budikote	30	50%	30%	20%
3	Chalghanahalli,	30	60%	30%	10%
4	Dasarahosahalli	30	50%	40%	10%
5	Hunasanahalli	30	50%	50%	-

Source: Field survey 2024 March

Most of the lands were classified as very small comprising of less than one hectare of land small lands consisted of 1-2 hectares of land 2-4 hectares of land were decided as Semi-medium lands. * (Extracted from Table 2 Talukwise distribution of number and area of operational land holdings in Kolar District 2000-2001, Kolar 2011 Chapter -4 "Agriculture and Irrigation." (Pg 297) Farmers having very small operational land holdings of one acre of cultivated land were more in number in all the four sampled villages followed by small operational farms in Chalghanahalli, Batavarahalli and medium operational land holdings in Batavarahalli and Budikote. Therefore, most of the sampled respondents had one acre of land [14].

7. Suggestion

- Water resources in the sampled villages should improve.
- There should be better access to financial facilities for the farmers of these villages [15].
- Modern agricultural resources such as tubewells and water pump equipments, farm machinery fertilizers, HYV seeds pesticides, canals diesel, are agriculture inputs which can only be produced in Industries. So industrial growth in Bangarapet is also necessary for production of modern agrarian inputs.

Conclusion

The best thing to happen to agriculture in Karnataka was the shift in the directional approach of farming community from traditional methods to mechanized agriculture .but unless more importance is given to sharing up and reserving rain water and water resources in general is the first requisite for improving agriculture which is the step in the right direction followed by providing healthy seeds, financing the purchase of tractors for furrowing the land improving soil quality by judicious use of fertilizers and pesticides will go a long way in providing the best agricultural inputs for farming in Bangarapet.

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