



## A STUDY OF AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS OF MARGINAL FARMERS IN MARATHWADA REGION SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AURANGABAD DIST

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### ABSTRACT

Maharashtra is an agrarian state with around 70% of its people directly or indirectly depends upon agriculture. And 74% land depend on rain water, Agriculture in Marathwada is often credited as betting with monsoons because of it's almost dependency on rainfall from monsoons. The failure of these monsoons Leading to a severe drought, lack of better prices, exploitation by Middlemen, all of which have led to a serious problems among farmers across Marathwada. Recently in Marathwada number of farmers committed suicide and in this issue Majorly Marginal Farmers are affected so we need to understand the fact about Marginal farmers what they are going through. So Researcher has decided to study the problems of marginal farmers in the Marathwada. Since marginal farmers have not been studied earlier, the purpose of this study was understand the problems of Marginal farmers and their causes. And these study main objectives are to study the agricultural status of marginal farmers, to study the Agricultural problems of marginal farmers & Understand problems coping mechanism of marginal farmer.

This study has been conducted in Aurangabad districts in Marathwada Region it is an explanatory type of research and used survey method with the support Convenience Sampling .

In this study it has been observed that marginal farmers are more vulnerable & their situation in very High risk cause due to drought, unexpected climatic conditions, no irrigation facility Productivity per acre extremely low, high input cost, lower remunerative prices to farm produce, hence net return per acre very poor. Risk and vulnerability of farmers to natural calamities and price shock is very high. debt, unavailability of market access & storage facility after the harvesting, intermediary system in Agriculture market, these are the main problems of marginal farmers in Marathwada region and coping mechanism of marginal farmers also has been explored in this study with the support of positive negative perspective.

**KEYWORDS:** Marginal, Farmers, Problems, Agriculture, Land.

### INTRODUCTION

Marathwada region is mainly agriculture dependent and drought prone area and most of farmers are dependent on rain water and year by year rain fall is going down .and now the situation is like drought The situation of farmers is worst due to drought and agrarian crises as they are in big problem and due to that they are committing suicide. As of 2018, in Maharashtra alone, more than 60,000 suicides had taken place, with an average of 10 suicides every day. The National Crime Records Bureau of India reported that a total 296,438 Indian farmers had committed suicide since 1995.

Aurangabad being is most affected district in the region. More than 600 water tankers are supplying water However, suicides ratio of farmers are suicides in the region compared to last year's 991 suicides, according to official sources from Divisional Commissioner office. Continuing and so far, 909 farmers' have

committed suicide in 2017, 1053 in 2016, 1133 in 2015, and 574 in 2014 year. For this farmer suicide issue many reasons included such as drought, debt, climatic condition, not getting (MSP) fair prices, increasing input cost, etc.

We need to understand the facts and problems of marginal farmers because this group is in an intense situation increasing day by day. In Marathwada currently farmers are committing suicide very vastly. Present Marathwada agricultural situation is going to most horrible due to many reasons. Someone has correctly said that a farmer is born in debt, lives in debt and dies in debt. So decided to study the problems of marginal farmers, since marginal farmers have not been studied earlier, this study supported to understand the problems of marginal farmers.

In this research study researcher has found out major problems of marginal farmers and their present agricultural status from Aurangabad Dist Marathwada. Researcher explored agricultural problems & their causes. And how marginal farmers come out from agricultural problems and cope up. This kind of study has not been conducted so far in this particular region so this research study is going to help developing major plan of action for agricultural development of marginal farmers in Marathwada. Also researcher explored what are the best solutions and alternatives on farmer's problems.

## METHODOLOGY

This research study has been conducted in Aurangabad district Marathwada Region with the objective of study the agricultural status and Problems of Marginal Farmers also explored coping mechanism of Marginal Farmers. It was an explanatory research. With support of Survey Method and used convenience sampling under Non Probability type.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Indian agriculture characterized by millions of marginal and small farmers, who are facing difficulties to operate the high risk of farming. The risks are related to weather uncertainties, uneven access to technologies and natural resources, unreliable input supplies, stressed infrastructure in power and irrigation and uncertain marketing arrangements which are responsible for less bargaining power in input and output marketing of Indian farmers in present economic scenario. The increase in population, subdivision and fragmentation of land holdings due to breakdown of joint family system encouraging conversion of semi-medium and medium group of farmers into group of small and marginal farmers, which resulting uneconomic land holdings. In future Indian agriculture will be dominated by marginal and small holdings, on which application of new agricultural technologies would become more difficult (Rao, 1989).

In study of TISS it has been clearly shown that the following issues emerge out of the landholding pattern and the caste groups in terms of the suicides there is almost an even match between the small landholders and the marginal and large landholders across caste groups. Out of the total sample, 50% belong to the small land holding category it means marginal farmers and 63% farmers committed suicide from SC, ST, OBC, VJNT. So it shows that there is high vulnerability to committing suicide from excluded communities. The overwhelming numbers are reflected in the small and medium sized holdings across caste groups — at 50% and 43% respectively. This is suggestive of a problem that is widespread cutting across the caste and class barriers. The overall profile of the landholders suggest that few suicides have taken place in landless families and the maximum numbers are concentrated in the small and medium sized landholders.

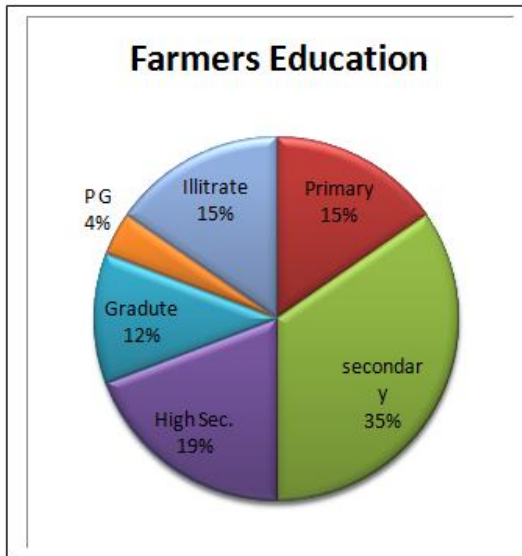


Figure.2

As per the data of education among the Small and marginal farmer community it seems that the low level of education can effect the decision making power on new techno- managerial level resources. The data shows more than 30% of farmer community is illiterate or only primary level educated. Though the secondary educated farmers percentage is 35% but it is inadequate proportion when we cross check the Karta i.e. decision maker of the family. Only 4% of higher educated population indicates that there is lack of Higher education in farmers community. The ratio of illiterate marginal farmers in Marathwada region is indicating higher than national average of illiteracy among marginal farmer which is 12% as per census 2011. The agriculture literature and the technical agri instruments are useless for 15% farmers who are illiterate, and more or less primary level educated farmers.

Figure 6 , annual income of marginal farmers family on an average 56% marginal farmers having 51 thousand to 99 thousand Rs annual income 32% farmers having 1 -50 thousand rs annual income and only 12% farmers having above one lack annual income its means marginal farmers financial condition is not that much good 32% farmers have very less income and only 12% farmers having income above one lack Rs. So this figure indicating us farmers financial status is not suitable in present scenario so marginal farmers need to start some other activity related to agriculture

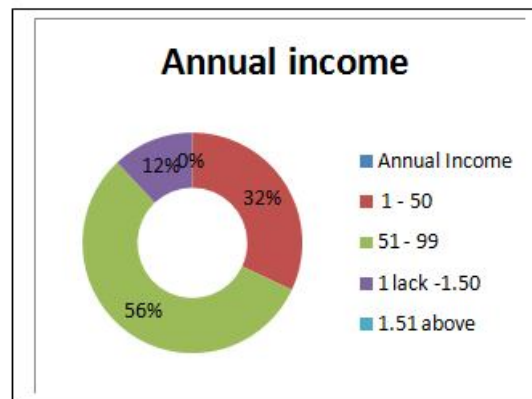


Figure.2

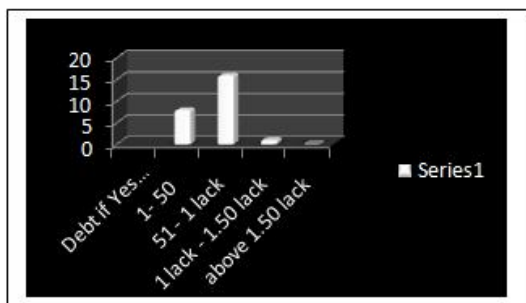


Figure.3

Figure 3 is indicating us size of land holding all are below 3 acre when we compare this figure with figure no 2 it show three acre land holding farmers annual income on an average only 51-99 thousand rs

In figure 8 we can see the expenditure on agriculture of marginal farmers 50% farmers expending on agriculture 31-60 thousand rs per annuam 25 % farmers expending 1-30 thousand rs and 13% expending 61-91 and 12% are expending 91thousand and above, expenditure on agriculture is very high compare to profit this year farmers got only one crop and that is kharip but that also in loss due to scaricity of rain in marathwada more than 60% farmers having loss this year in the marathwada

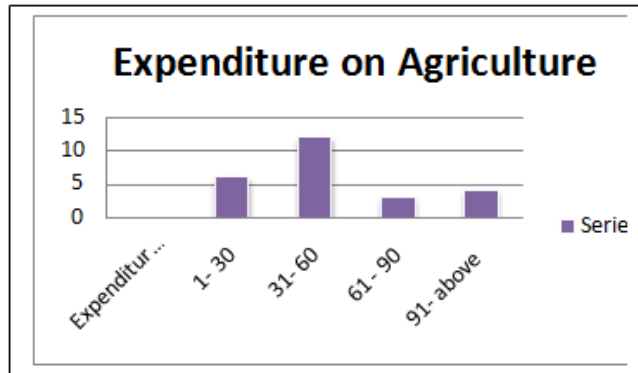


Figure.4

This figure is showing us debt is the main concern in any wher in india 68% farmers having debt on them. When numer of social scientist studied causes of farmers suicide phenomenon one of the main reason has been obzerved that indebtedness so we can say this is the alram for farmers stress suicide need to work on that issue is very important for us.cause farmer suicide issue is increasing day by day in marathwada some one correctely said farmers born in debt and dies in debt. This situation should not be come in this region

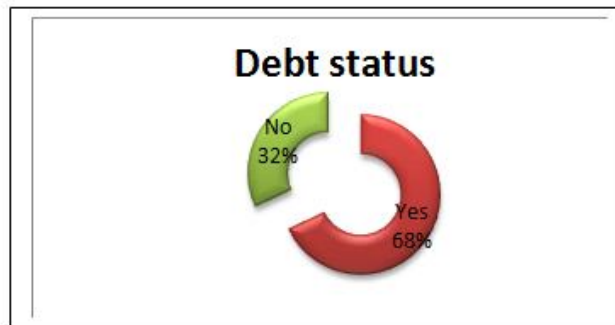


Figure.5

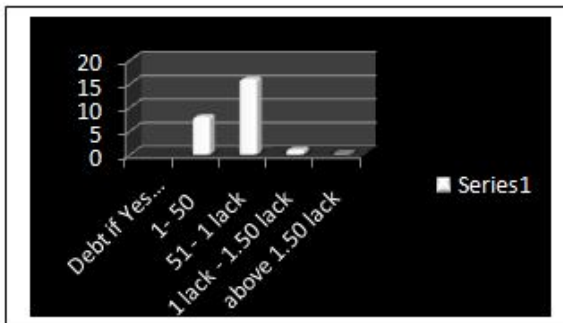


Figure.6

Figure 6 is showing us on an avearage debt in ruppees on farmers that is 51-1 lack rs debt on 60 % farmers and more than 30% farmers having 1-50 thousand rs debt on them

In this figure we can see the situation of agriculture in aurangabad maharahstra 60% farmers in total loss from agriculture and only 40% farmers are in profit somehow so this is the fact so what can farmers do they don't have other support so need to start some agriculture related allied activities that can increase the income of farmers

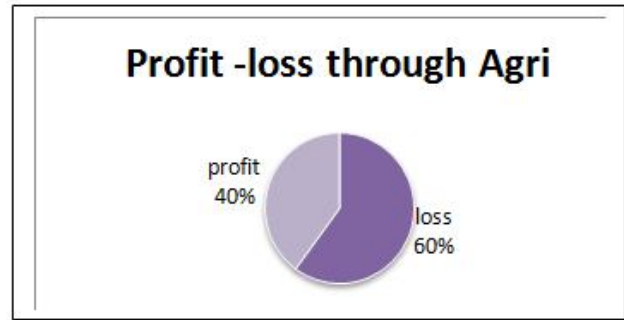
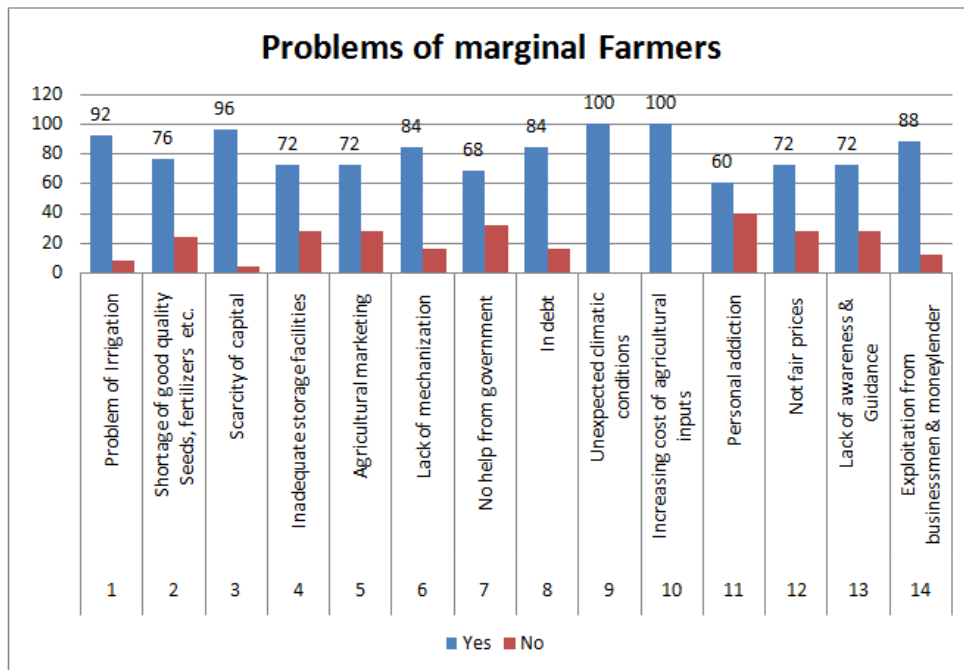


Figure.7

**PROBLEMS FACING BY FARMERS**



**1. Problem of irrigation**

90% of farmers are becoming victim on name of irrigation. In this study it is identified that number of irrigation issues.

- a) Poor implementation of Government supported watershed program in this area.
- b) Huge expenses made over the bore wells and deep wells in agriculture land. In such case where water table is low there farmer went in to debt and became bank defaulter.
- c) Scheme misappropriation by few middleman and corrupt people.
- d) Traditional way of irrigation which is costly and ineffective.
- e) Unawareness about unavailability of water, required quantity of water for particular crop, type of soil and water testing measurement,
- f) Shift of crop pattern i.e. selection of cash crop without market risk study.
- g) Poor electric supply by concerned authority.

## **2. Shortage of good quality seeds fertilizer etc.**

In this study it has been observed that 76% marginal farmers having this issue that they cannot get good quality seeds fertilizer etc. due to many reason Good quality of agriculture produce is one of the need of market where the farmers face problems these problems can be analyzed as following

- a. Still the farmers are unable to understand what is FAQ (fair average quality) and how it affect the farmers income in this regard farmers are unaware.
- b. Farmers unaware about the deduction of price on less quality of agriculture produce.
- c. Farmers in this area are unaware about pre harvest management and post harvest management scientific procedure.

## **3. Scarcity of capital**

96% farmers have that Problem they are not able to generate capital for self in available resources that's why they are most vulnerable group in Agricultural , Following are the points which the farmer face more problems in agriculture income.

- a) Working capital for processing the goods. If farmer want to sale his commodity by value adding he need more working capital for this activity. In such cases bankers ask him collateral or margin money which is incapable for marginal farmer.
- b) Working capital for cooperative institute in their village. Though there is credit society registered under the Co operative act 1960 the limitation of this institute is that it cannot run procurement of farmer commodity because of lack of working capital.
- c) Even marginal farmers have less opportunity to generate fund for his own

## **4. Inadequate storage facilities**

In this whole study researcher found 72% poor storage system as problem for farmers. As such storage system can be established on need based assessment but here the Government warehouse institutions are easier to access only for big traders. Marginal farmers have got less commodities so they rarely go for storage. But the State Ware House Corporation or NABARD scheme built Gramin Bhandaran Yojana very poorly implemented in this area. So farmer feel there is poor storage facilities so they could not wait for better prices by putting commodity in ware house. Following are few reasons due to poor storage system occurs to farmers.

- a) Insecurity in house storage
- b) They urgently require money so can't hold for better prices
- c) No insurance for home storage or store house where insurance cannot be covered the loss.
- d) Sudden sale of produce in any available market basically to middle men who keep lowest price in peak season.
- e) Huge weight loss in storage place, In adequate and imperfect state ware houses, Unawareness about the lease loan on ware house stored commodity, The low quality of store houses, rising issues of insurance which gives place for untrustworthy of warehouses, No maintenance of stored commodity of farmers.

## **5. Agriculture marketing**

The Marketing is back bone of the agriculture but it is main constraints on marginal farmer's part so this study focused on basic problems in marketing of agri produce. 72% farmers face that problem as agricultural marketing. Following are the main points which can flash light on major constrains in market of marginal farmers.

- A. Lack of information** – The farmers cant get information about the current market scenario. Apart from traditional ways of information there is no any resource of information on village level which can provide updated market prices.
- B. Unaware of MSP- Marathwada** region majorly rain fed agriculture area where the national essential commodities are produced so these are under the rule of essential commodity like pulses but the private

market remains less than MSP minimum support price as per recent law it is not permitted to traders. Thus the private trader monopoly in determination of price is one of the point which affects direct to income of farmers.

- C. Individual sale-** Most of farmers go for selling on individual where the risk of less weight, mistake accounting and lower price, quality deduction these kind of complicated issues can arise at market place. Even on payment also the risk of late payment or partially payment installments can be missed on part of traders where the compensatory or protective steps are nil for farmers.
- D. APMC limitations-** For fare price APMCs has been established by government but marginal farmers rarely get access.

## 6. Lack of mechanization

84% farmers facing lack of mechanization as problem, Poor mechanism is one of the major constrains in marginal farmers. Following points are identified in this regard.

- No MIS system in not only marginal farmers but whole agribusiness on national or state level.
- No base line survey data available in Government agencies like Gram Panchayat or Taluka agri office.
- Shortage in resources like tractors, seed sowing machine, spray pump at public offices like Gram Panchayat, village level societies, NGOs etc. As per observation of in this study such resources are owned by village level rich people who are one of the major role in exploitation chain of the marginal farmers.
- Marginal farmers avoids good kind of machine technology like for deep ploughing tractor should be used but for cost cutting farmers uses only single anchor bullock to cultivate which can lead them to poor yield of produce.
- The market cost of machines is more costly that the marginal farmers can't have purchasing power for their own agriculture purpose.

## 7. No help from Government

More than 60% farmers are not happy with government they said no help from government that's why we are in trouble .Though the Government has playing vital portion of direct and indirect taxes the Government policy remains inaccessible for farmers. Following are points by which farmers feels that they do not have helping hand from Government.

- Heavy documentations or condition for avail benefit of schemes.
- Political leaders or middle men influences while selection of beneficiaries.
- Corruption while getting these schemes. High percentage of bribe.
- Unaware about such schemes to farmer, even no grass root level announcement or information flow up to last marginal farmer's door from Government agencies.
- Apart from Gram Panchayat office or village accountant ( Krushi Assit, talathi) no any kind of reliable agency to fare and equal distribution of resources.
- Government official language and common man language should be mixed by using local literature for making aware about schemes.
- No bank accounts for direct transfer of amount.

## 8. Indebt

More than 80% farmers saying that we are facing indebt as problem due to number of reason the reasons for the marginal farmer indebt can be...

- Total crop loss in annual year or continuous while the climate condition is normal
- Double loan from bank and Private money lender at the same time with heavy interest.
- Low income than expected against the input cost.
- Market price fluctuation before sale
- Miss -utilization of loan amount or partially loan amount used for some other reasons.

- Costly experiments in agriculture like more bore wells, high deep digging wells without using scientific methods.
- Loan for not income generating reasons like costly two wheelers, mobiles or luxurious goods or cement houses from which the farmers can't get benefit but he needs to invest more money on its maintenance.

### 9. Unexpected climate condition

Unexpected climate condition is one of the major constrains before the marginal farmer. The whole Marathwada is rain fed area so the agriculture business is depending on the rain fall average with perfect time. Due to some natural climate changes we can observe the unexpected rain fall or drought in last five years. It is found that Marathwada is the region where the average rain fall is less than normal rain fall. Often dry draught situation occur in this area. Many time marginal farmer heggitate to sow the land. Late arrival of monsoon can affect decisions of farmer the selection of crop and seed. The poor rain also leads farmer to avoid weeding management. Even the farmers are becoming more leering helplessness by the kind of compensatory subsidies by Government. Tough the compensatory amount is less for per acre per farmer but the expectation of such kind of subsidies leading farmers to malpractices like loan defaulter in bank or village level credit society. And above chart shows that 100% farmers facing this problem.

### 10. Increasing input cost of Agriculture

100% marginal farmers saying that they are facing increasing input cost of agriculture as problem In this study it is identified that the input cost of agriculture has been increased drastically. As per the profit loss data it is more than the total value of the production. The invisible cost like transportation, harvesting, self labor cost, APMC commission also adds to loss value in agri business of the marginal farmer. The selection of seeds, sowing methods, unnecessary utilization of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, traditional way of harvesting these are few reasons by which total yield of the produce is got affected.

### 11. Personal Addiction

Above chart indicating 60% farmers having some personal addiction which is lead to more expenditure on agri income. Which affect family very negatively identified in this study that the farmer families are suffering from personal addiction like alcohol or gambling. Due to this type of personal addiction they take private loan from money lender with 5% interest per month for what he found always in pressure of such loan. Sometimes it leads to bonded seller to a particular merchant.

### 12. Not fare price

From above chart we can able to understand the situation of farmers and what they are going through more than 72% Farmers says we are not getting fair prices or they are facing problem. The farmers are getting less than MSP price for their produce. Even they are the last persons who are getting less profit in the whole value adding chain. The other kind of variables like poor storage facilities, no accessibility to APMCs, middleman undue influences these are invisible reasons for getting poor price for their commodity. The input cost is so high that the many farmers could not get break even for their produce. Due to their storage constraints, advance loan or lease loan over the standing crop these two reasons are more affecting for quick sale of produce in hand. The market trends and price fluctuation indicates that there is lowest price in the season when farmer get agri produce i.e. harvesting time and highest price of the year at the time of sowing season. So the small and marginal farmers cannot wait up to market highest price due to the small volume of their commodity, poor storage system, advance loan over the standing crop etc. ultimately the producer is the lowest price winner in whole value addition chain of the market.

### 13. Lack of awareness and guidance

- Information Technology-



From above chart 72% farmers facing lack of awareness and guidance as problem. In Marathwada region we can found a poor information and technology. Most of farmers are unaware about the many information and technology

- Poor Awareness about Government schemes- though there are number of schemes for small and marginal farmers the access to these schemes is limited. Due to the lack of information flow from Government scheme implementing agencies these schemes remains only for limited people who are very less in numbers.
- About the market price updating the farmer's knowledge is very poor still he is dependent on the traditional ways of getting information on current market prices. No any supportive mechanism to track such information so the whole play of price fixation is monopoly of traders in this area.
- Even many of farmers not having bank accounts due to their poor transaction in bank so they are inaccessible to bank schemes like crop loan linkage or loan waving scheme

#### 14. Exploitation from businessman & Money lender

In this study it has been observed that 88% marginal farmers facing this problem that they are exploited in many ways by money lender, businessman reasons for this farmers are not fully aware about market, farmers are in need, farmers are not fully educated, farmers have not purchasing power etc.

#### COPING MECHANISM

##### Positive Mechanism

1. **Control on family or personal expenses-** to meet the loss occurred in agriculture production farmer take few hard decisions like controlling unimportant expenses like grand marriage ceremony, cultural activities, expenses on different festival, use of old clothing etc.
2. **Avoids big loans go for micro finance help-** The farmer always avoids big amount of loans and started borrowing small amount of loan like loan from SHG. Or village level credit society by giving more confidence of financial soundness in future to these financial institutes.
3. **Calculative agriculture-** when the farmer go loss in agriculture production he start to become calculative or accountable in next year crop selection, less use of chemical fertilizers, bullocks use for cultivating land, market choosing or even in harvest management, labor ,management by self laboring along with familiars.
4. **Renew of loan-** if loss occurred than the farmer can go for loan renewing by keeping the same agreement, he put land on lease but not sell its ownership of land.
5. **Explores new schemes of Government or non government agencies-** when farmer become insolvent in eyes of bank than they start to explore the schemes of Government from which they can get little bit relief from debt or loss. He applies for drought compensation, insurance companies, different supportive policies etc.
6. **Enrolling name in new FPOs-** Farmer joins in Farmers Producer Organization where he can minimize his market risks. He can collectively go for few important decisions like selection of crop, cost cutting methods for cultivation and going with collective direct marketing with other Co- producers.
7. **Allied activities-** small and marginal farmers start allied activities like goat farming , poultry, cattle possessing all such kind of activities brings current and fresh money to family and helps them to meet the loss in the agriculture.

##### Negative Mechanism

1. **Addiction-** Farmers go for alcohol consumption or gambling to come out of this situation. Farmer under the threat of production ruin mostly go on the way of making addicted friends and with them he can consume alcohol which can lead him to suicide kind of thoughts or illegal activities.

2. **Private money lending-** Many farmers go for private money lender with more interest to meet the production cost. This type of coping system leads him to be more and more in debt. This type of informal resources of loan can lead him to sell his land of agriculture.
3. **Selling** of livestock or valuable things of women in family or sell small portion of land.
4. **Stopping the education** of children in family- the farmer who kept his children in urban area for higher education or professional courses he stop their education and call back to home and involve them in agriculture activities sometimes it leads to child labor.
5. **Not sowing-** Some farmers leave out the low yield agriculture land without sowing.

### SUGGESATIONS

1. **Need to promote sustainable agriculture** practices in farming which is not getting high Input cost such as Organic farming, Promote farm-saved seeds and Low cost farming
2. **Government should ensure women's participation** and need to organise Camps for stress relief, Counselling and Family planning.
3. **Farmers should get equitable prices** in local market to farmers product and Also farmers should get direct market access for selling their Agri Product
4. **To do lessen the intermediary system** between farmers and customers from this farmers and customers also get benefit.
5. **Farmers should get right to decide** price of own farm product due to that farmers will get good and fair prices for their own product.
6. **Farmers should get timely finance** from government agency with minimum interest rate
7. **Small Farmers should get subsidies and crop insurance** on all crops presently subsidies only on few crops the government should be gives an subsidies on all seeds, the normal farmers don't have that much range of income to buy the seeds in market cost so there should be subsidies on seeds
8. **Coordination within Resources & Needs of farmers:** Marginal farmers should know their resources, strength of farmers then they should have to identify their priorities and fulfill needs according to available resources in Family.
9. **Farmers Movement should be there:** Generally in Marathwada there is no any Farmers movement existence so far. So there should be farmer's Pressure group that can raise the issues of marginal farmers and provide support and advocacy towards farmer's wellbeing.
10. **Planning of Agriculture activities:** Farmers should be do agricultural planning and do scientific work in field it means what how to sowing
11. **Agriculture resource Centre:** Agriculture resource centre need to start in Rural Area of Marathwada cause farmers need different support and guidance in daily activities and this kind of resource centre will work as multiple support centre this centre will support to come out from misconceptions of farmers also this centre will provide knowledge skills about new tools techniques etc. this centre will provide scientific information to the farmers
12. **Water shade development Project:** in this region government should start water irrigation facilities to marginal farmer through different programme and polices. Also government should run different water shade development plan and project for especially for Marginal farmers land. Basically aim of these activities marginal farmers should get irrigation facilities.
13. **Seed Bank:** seed bank should be developed by government, NGOs with the support of farmers. Seed bank will insure farmers should be get good seeds on time and in reasonable amount.
14. **Proper implementation** of government scheme & Programme generally in Marathwada lack of awareness and under utilization of government scheme that issues has been observed in this study its duty of government proper and strictly implementation of programme and schemes related to well being of farmers also government should run different awareness Campaign and strict monitoring on Government schemes and programmes.
15. **Farmers should be aware** about climate change impact and interventions strategy for the same

16. **Farmers should get Minimum Fair Prices** towards farming product
17. **Marginal farmers should be insured about Minimum Employment wages** in year by government also farmer should get concession in agricultural product because they are in high risk in committing suicide in Marathwada.
18. **Middleman system should be removed** from Market cause they are controlling demand and supply chain also farmer get exploited from this system
19. Marginal farmers should get easily **storage facility** in local level then only they will be get benefit and they will able to save their product long time.
20. **Farmers club should be started** in each village with support of Government/NGOs and that club should be start some entrepreneurship in big level and this will generate income source to the farmers
21. **Training, workshop, seminar** should be organized for marginal farmers in village level this activity will support to generate knowledge skills and attitude of farmers and from this they will be emotionally strong in each sense.
- 23 **Legal Compliances-** Farmer should be made free from legal compliances like loading unloading of his commodity in market yard, commission agents break of trust with farmers, no share in secondary goods, compensation provisions, trustworthy insurance to crop, free and easy access to ware house and APMCs. Bankers monopoly in loan disbursement such type of number of legal licenses make farmer to avoid entering in to new format of marketing. So it must be more viable.

## CONCLUSION

Agriculture in Aurangabad primarily on rain fed, 80% of area under dry land farming. Productivity per acre extremely low, lower remunerative prices to farm produce, hence net return per acre very poor. Risk and vulnerability of farmers to natural calamities and price shock is very high. Lack of irrigation facilities Due to high input cost, debt, unavailability of market access & storage facility after the harvesting, chemical farming and its high cost, intermediary system in Agriculture market, these are the main problems of farmers in Marathwada region and this kind of bunch of problems leading painful pathetic situation for Marginal Farmer in Marathwada. Farmers agricultural status also not that much sound to cope up with many problems cause debt on farmers are very high, on education The data shows more than 30% of farmer community is illiterate or only primary level educated, debt is the main concern in any wher in maharshtrara 68% farmers having debt on them. Agricultral expenditure more than income. So this is very critical constion for faremrns from marathwada region but they can cope up with many alternatives which have been suggested in this paper.

We have suggested some preventive curative measures for that issue if we able to implement above suggestion then definitely Marginal farmers will Happy and prospers

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