

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME THROUGH AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

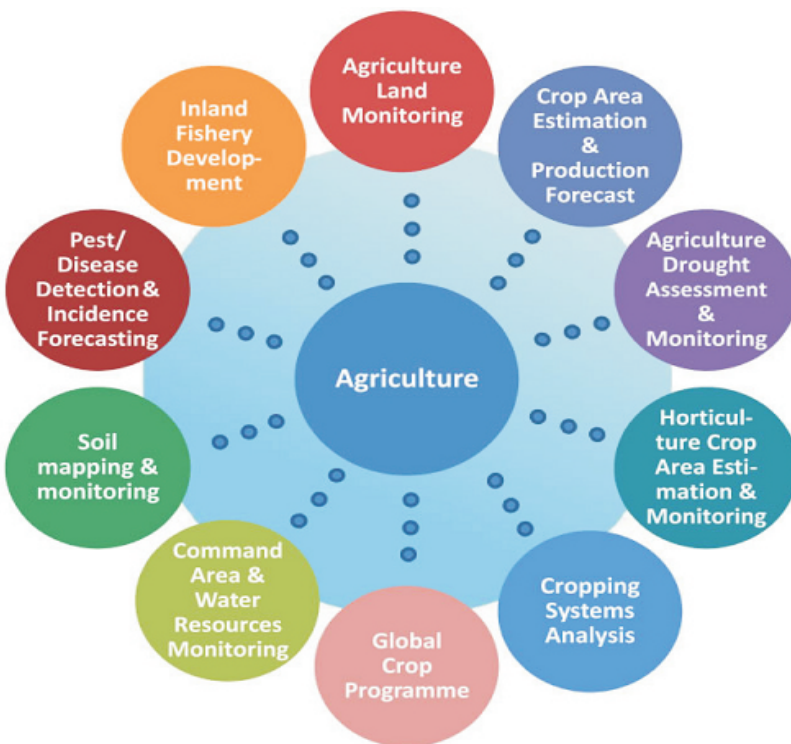


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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

The current food security challenge in india consists of two dimensions: the first tries to maintain and increase india ability to meet its national food requirements, and the second seeks to eliminate inequalities and poverty amongst households that is made apparent by inadequate and unstable food production, lack of purchasing power, poor nutritional status and weak institutional support networks and disaster management systems. Food security is seen as a Constitutional Right in South Africa and guarantees its citizens the right to have access to sufficient food and water, and that “the state must by

legislation and other measures, within its available resources, avail to progressive realisation of the right to sufficient food.” Despite national food security, many india households experience continued food insecurity and malnutrition and unemployment.

KEYWORDS

food security, food security, purchasing power, sufficient food.

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INTRODUCTION

Employment Guarantec Scheme Linked to Horticulture Development Programme is launched by the Government of maharashtra in the year 1990-91. A Separate minister is appointed for the effective implementation of this programme ,but separate horticulture development department is not created at Taluka level . The progrmme is implemented through agriculture department .No doubt horticulture is a part of agriculture .But there are 41 small and big programmes of central Government and state Government which are impemented through agriculture department . Government officers have to work more and they cannot concentrate this programme .It has been observed that 83.33% Govt officers are of the opinion that their workload is excessive.

As it has been observed, no procedure it followed for the selection of beneficiaries Anyone who wishes to participate in the programme can meet to Government officer, supervisor or to Agriculture assistant and his name m written in the list of participants or .sometimes agriculture assistant calls on the farmers and tells them to participate in this programme. They sometimes follow the procedure for selection of beneficiaries but it is lengthy and nominal. While selecting the farmer for this programme it is not taken into consideration whether the farmer is really interested in fruit cultivation; They follow a procedure for selection of beneficiary but it is too vegue It has been observed 84.09% of the beneficiaries of this programme are not really interested m fruit cultivation

DELAY IN ALLOTMENT OF PLANTS

It has been observed that there is always delay in allotment of plants to beneficiaries. As soon as the land is ready for plantation beneficiaries should get plants. There is delay in allotment of plants. And it causes delay in plantation. If plantation work is not done in a particular season of plantation, it affects mostly the survival of plants. No lgo is prepared for the distribution of plants. Due to the lack of planning the beneficiaries cannot get plants for plantation at proper time. Sometimes there is delay in allotment of plants by 3-4 months. It has been observed 74.35% beneficiaries have responded that there is always delay in allotment of plants

PLANTS FROM PRIVATE NURSERIES ARE USED MORE

It has been observed that plants are grown in Govt, nurseries and private nurseries. Quality of the plants in Govt. Nurseries is better than the quality of the plants in private nurseries. Government nurseries are developed scientifically under the supervision of expert Government officers. Faulty and defective plants are removed at the initial stage. But the private nurseries are developed commercially. They are not developed under the supervision of experts. They are not developed scientifically. So the plants are faulty and defective. It affects total survival of plants. It has been observed that plants in the Govt, nurseries are of better quality. 80.12% beneficiaries are of the opinion that quality of plants from Govt, nurseries is better than the quality of plants from private nurseries (Table No.62). Govt, nurseries are developed permanently and private nurseries are developed temporarily. Due to the lack of nursery planning there is always shortage of plants. So the plants from private nurseries are used for plantation. For the development of nurseries proper planning is necessary.

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UNDUE INTEREST OF BENEFICIARIES IN SUBSIDY

It has been observed that beneficiaries are more interested in subsidy than fruit cultivation. 88.67% respondents are of the opinion that subsidy is essential and it should be increased. (Table no.66) and 84.09% respondents have agreed that they are not really interested in fruit cultivation (Table No. 67). It clearly shows that beneficiaries are more interested in getting the amount of subsidy and they are not really interested in fruit cultivation. Survival percentage of each crop in the year 2000 is not more than 15 percent. It supports the above statement. It can be said that beneficiaries participate in the programme for getting amount of subsidy. Their performance proves it. It has been observed that subsidy is not an effective tool for horticulture development. It has also been found that in the last ten years amount of subsidy due was Rs. 494.40 lacs. Amount of subsidy paid is Rs. 219.10 lacs and amount of subsidy unpaid is Rs. 275.30 lacs (Table No. 40) in view of die low percentage of survival remaining amount of subsidy is not beneficiaries.

LACK OF STORAGE FACILITY

It has been observed that the existing programme has not covered storage facility, jot to fifteen percent beneficiaries who have survived their plants and cultivate efficiently face this difficulty. They have to sell their fruits immediately in the local Markets, They cannot wait for price to rise. They cannot store their fruits because such frality is not available in Taluka. They have to sell their fruits at unfavourable prices, tune and terms. They have to suffer loss. This can be problem of other beneficiaries too. 72.77% respondents are of the view that storage facility should be made available to (hem. (TableNo.63). If they get the advantage of such facility the percentage of survival ran be increased So the Beneficiaries store their fruits in die home premises for one or nm days. But it affects the quality of fruits. They suffer loss in sale, If affects the survival of plants and success of this programme.

LACK OF PROCESSING FRUITS

The existing programme has not covered processing of fruits. But it is expected that Government officers should guide the beneficiaries in processing of fruits. Processing is an important marketing function. For assured market and better prices processing is essential. 87.68% respondents are of die opinion that processing units should be started in Baramati Taluka. (Table no. 64). If processing units could be started in Baramati Taluka, the beneficiaries will get better prices for their fruits and assured market for their fruits. If they get better prices the percentage of survival of plants will increase. So plantation and cultivation of fruits are not sufficient. Processing of fruits should be considered. Beneficiaries should get proper guidance in processing. Govt, officers should learn various methods of processing so that they can guide the beneficiaries in processing of fruits.

LACK OF MARKETING FACILITIES AND ASSURANCE IN MARKETING

It has been observed that marketing facilities are not available in Baramati Taluka. Market Assurance is not provided to die beneficiaries in Baramati Taluka. The listing programme has not considered about marketing of fruits. It is mentioned in the provisions of this programme that Govt,

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officer will guide the benefioancs in the Marketing of fruit But bcneficianes did not get such guidance in the last ten years. 91 06% respondents have asked for the marketing facilities and market assurance (Table kjo 65) The beneficiaries have to sell their fhnts in local weekly markets Tho should get proper guidance from Govt, officers. Marketing facilities are not available for the beneficiaries Market assurance is not provided to them. They cannot get proper decision of marketing fruits. They are ignorant about foreign markets. They don't know the procedure of foreign markets. Govt, officers are also ignorant about the marketing of fruits. In the wholesale markets middlemen deceive the beneficiaries. Thus, the marketing of fruits is an important problem before beneficiaries It affects survival of fruits and mccess of this programme.

EXCESSIVE WORKLOAD FOR GOVT. OFFICERS

It has been observed that Government officers are guides of beneficiaries. It is expected that they will solve the problems of all the beneficiaries. They should guide the beneficiaries. But they have to work for 41 programmes winch are unreduced by Central Government and State Government. They cannot concentrate on the horticulture development programme. The Government officers have to maintain all the records for 41 programmes. It is very difficult work for them. It has been observed that 83.33% respondents are of the opinion that the work load of Government officers is excessive (Table No. 68). They work mechanically. They have no time to speak with the beneficiaries. They cannot get recent knowledge in fruit cultivation h becomes very difficult for them to attend various programmes arranged for them.

QUALIFICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

It has been observed that 5% respondents have passed only S.S.C. examination and 66.67% respondents have completed a diploma of agriculture at Manjari farm. Pune They are not expert in fruit cultivation. They had no basic knowledge about horticulture development. These are the Govt. Officers always in contact with beneficiaries. They themselves do not know anything in horticulture development. They cannot guide to the beneficiaries. Other 28.33% respondents are B.Sc. Agri. Graduates But they have no contacts with the beneficiaries. They can guide to the beneficiaries but they have no time to guide them. Total 71.67% respondents are not able (Table No. 69). Those who are not well qualified cannot improve their qualification because it is not made compulsory for them. They cannot improve their knowledge by attending various courses in horticulture development. They cannot use the latest communication devices i.e. computers and internet. They do not read latest magazines, articles published in newspapers. So the qualification of Government officers is an important problem in the horticulture developmentprogramme .

EXISTING HORTICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

It has been observed that Govt, officers are unaware about the provisions of the existing horticulture development programme. They don't know nature, meaning, objectives, importance, need, of the programme. They have not understood the programme well. 70% respondents have agreed that they have not understood the programme in detail (Table No. 76). They don't try to improve

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their knowledge in horticulture. They work mechanically in filling the forms and preparing the reports. Nobody has understood this programme. They are interested in target oriented work. They don't work actively. They cannot solve the problems of the beneficiaries. They cannot convince them. It is rumoured that some of the officers and beneficiaries prepare only record of plantation and misappropriate the amount of subsidy.

DEMOTIVATED GOVERNMENT OFFICERS

Most of the Government officers are about to retire in about 6 to 8 years and though they have good experience in the field of Agriculture; they are highly de-motivated to perform anything special for the success of the scheme. Obviously, they perform only "routine" functions. It is equally true that they have much more workload but the main difficulty is lack of enthusiasm of doing something new and useful for the success of the scheme. No doubt, their role is significant but they are totally unconcerned and hence the scheme is suffering badly (Table No. 71).

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE IN MODERN TECHNOLOGY

It has been observed that use of modem technology helps to reduce cost ofcultivation. Beneficiaries should use modem technology in fruit cultivation. Government officers should guide them. But as it has been observed 76.67%respondents have been agreed that they do not know about the various modern methods used in plantation andCultivation (TableNo.73). They have not used such type of technology on then own farms. It is impossible for them to guide the beneficiaries they have heard about it but they directly have not used it on their farms they cannot guide to the beneficiariesnot completed any training to learn modern Technology Modem techniques to cost of cultivation or to save water are important in fruit cultivation Without ih.it can cultivate efficiently But beneficiaries cannot get such guidance.

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE IN PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF FRUITS

It has been observed that processing and marketing of fruits are the two important functions. The existing programme has not covered these two functions It is only stated that Government officers will guide the beneficiaries But it is found that Government, jgicet5 are unaware about them. 81 67% respondents had agreed that they don't know variousmethods of processing of fruits (Table No 74).And 86 67% respondents have agreed that they don't know about marketing of fruits (Table No. 75). They have no knowledge about foreign markets They have not done any type of market survey They cannot guide the beneficiaries about processing of fruits and marketing of fruits They feel that this is not their job They don't feel it necessary to learn processing and marketing of fruits It has been observed that there is no Government officer who has good knowledge in fruit processing and fruit marketing May be it due to their excessive workload but the fact is that they are not interested in it

LACK OF EDUCATION

It has been observed that 84 70% respondents have completed their primary education. They

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don't understand the need, importance, methods, objectives, advantages of modern technology. They are interested only in traditional cultivation. They can't use modern methods of cultivation. Modern technology requires continuous efforts on the farm It requires more concentration. Well-educated beneficiaries can understand the seed, importance, methods, objectives, advantages of modern technology Those who have accepted the modern technology are well-educated beneficiaries They cultivate efficiently They are always interested in getting knowledge in modern technology. Education helps to change their thinking. 84.70% respondents have completed primary education (Table No. 77). Their traditional cultivation requires more time and money. They feel that modern technology requires much more investment.

LACK OF SOIL INSPECTION

It has been observed that nature of land should be suitable' for fruit cultivation.To Know whether the land.In suitable for fruit cultivation or not.It is necessary to inspect soil before taking decision of fruit cultivation. But in the survey it has been observed that 83.50% respondent don t inspect soil before taking decision of fruit plantation (Table No. 81). they don t think whether the land is suitable for fruit plantation suitable land is not selected by them for plantation. In soil inspection it can be known which type of fertilizers are required for that particular soil. But due to lack of soil inspection the beneficiaries are not knowing anything about that soil and its requirement. Soil inspection is an easy work. It is difficult to know why they don't get their soil inspected.Their wrong decision in selecting land for fruit plantation affects the survival of plants. They cannot provide the required fertilizer to that soil and they cannot improve their percentage of survival.

FAMILY MEMBERS DON'T WORK WITH THEM ON THE FARM

In the existing horticulture development programme it was presumed that the family members of the beneficiary will work on his farm so that they can save on the labour cost. But as it has been observed in survey 83.70% respondents have agreed that their family members don't work with them on their farm (Table No. 79). Instead of family members they use labour for the work on daily wage basis. They have to spend more money for that. There is always delay for the completion of such work Workers cannot work like their family members. They come at 11.00 a.m. and go at 5 00 p.m. such type of work increases the labour cost. The quality of the work is also inferior. Common tendency of beneficiaries and their family members is not to work on their farm. At the initial period they don't get any income from fruit cultivation and so they ignore to work on their farm.

IMPROPER IRRIGATION SOURCE

It has been observed that horticulture requires less water at a time. But supply of water should be regular. There should not be a gap in water supply. So the source of irrigation is an important part in horticulture development. It has been observed that 76.94% respondents use canal as source of irrigation. Sometime the water flow is excessive and sometimes it is less than requirement. Canal irrigation is source of irrigation which is beyond the control of beneficiaries. They cannot exercise any control on water supply. They cannot supply water as and when required. And in rainy days they cannot

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stop surplus water on their farm Generally well irrigation is a better source of irrigation for fruit cultivation. Beneficiaries can use this source as per requirement of trees But only 16.50% respondents have this source and 76.94% respondents have canal ligation source (Table No.82) Beneficiaries choose canal irrigation land for fruit cultivation because they feel that in summer it becomes easy to water plants. It is difficult in case of well irrigation.

LACK OF REAL INTEREST IN FRUIT CULTIVATION

It has been observed dial due to the lack of real interest in fruit cultivation beneficiaries cannot cultivate fruits efficiently. It has been observed in the survey conducted that 84.09% respondents have agreed that they have no real interest in fruit cultivation (Table No.83) Fruit cultivation is easy' but not without real interest. Why they participate in the programme is a difficult question. At the time of plantation they feel it is easy to cultivate fruits. But after plantation they expect instant income which is not possible. So they do not make more efforts They hope that they will get 100% subsidy.

But in the first year they get 50% amount of subsidy. Remaining 50% amount depends on the survival percentage of first year which is difficult for them. So they cannot concentrate the fruit cultivation. They remove their crops after one year or two years.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

On the basis of our observations, we can conclude,

- a. Fruit cultivation is more profitable than other crops.
- b. It is profitable in the long term
- c. It does not give immediate income.
- d. Inputs required (Capital, labour, water etc.) are comparatively less than other crops.
- e. Gestation period is more i.e. 7-8 years.
- f. If the programme is implemented properly it can be successful
- g. Amount of subsidv is not 100% in the vear 2000.

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