



AgEcon SEARCH
RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL & APPLIED ECONOMICS

The World's Largest Open Access Agricultural & Applied Economics Digital Library

This document is discoverable and free to researchers across the globe due to the work of AgEcon Search.

Help ensure our sustainability.

Give to AgEcon Search

AgEcon Search

<http://ageconsearch.umn.edu>

aesearch@umn.edu

*Papers downloaded from **AgEcon Search** may be used for non-commercial purposes and personal study only. No other use, including posting to another Internet site, is permitted without permission from the copyright owner (not AgEcon Search), or as allowed under the provisions of Fair Use, U.S. Copyright Act, Title 17 U.S.C.*

Summaries

		Page
1.	MGNREGA and Sustainable Livelihood Security in Maharashtra: A Region-Wise Analysis <i>Deepak Shah</i>	284
2.	Progress of Protected Cultivation under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) Project in Himachal Pradesh <i>K.D. Sharma, M.S. Pathania, Brij Bala and Manoj Gupta</i>	285
3.	Disadvantaged Regions and People: Inherent Regional Social Weaknesses in Mainstreaming the Efforts <i>Harshita Tewari and H.P. Singh</i>	286
4.	Can Crop-livestock Interaction Be the Way Forward for Disadvantaged Regions and People? <i>K.K. Datta, Shiv Raj Singh and Uttam Bhattacharya</i>	287
5.	The Disadvantaged Mountain Farmers of Gurez Valley: Issues of Livelihood, Vulnerability, Externality and Sustainability <i>F.A. Shaheen, S.A. Wani and S.H. Baba</i>	287
6.	Impact of Bringing Green Revolution of Eastern India (BGREI) in Chhattisgarh <i>Ravi S. Chouhan, Deepak Rathi, Hari Om Sharma</i>	288
7.	A Study on the Impact of Sericulture Development Programmes in Himachal Pradesh <i>S.K. Chauhan, Sakshi Chouhan and Megha Rattan</i>	289
8.	Government Initiatives and STs in Maharashtra: Can they be Empowered? <i>Jayanti Kajale and Sangeeta Shroff</i>	290

MGNREGA and Sustainable Livelihood Security in Maharashtra: A Region-Wise Analysis

Deepak Shah*

The study not only assesses the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the state of Maharashtra with emphasis on livelihood security of rural households but it also addresses issues relating to public works undertaken, wage payments, employment generation, women participation and coverage of SC, ST and other categories of rural households. Although there has always been a debate about the effectiveness of MGNREGA in terms of coverage of the target group, and also it is criticised on two grounds that it is expensive and corruption will not allow it to succeed, the experience of Maharashtra shows that it is partly true. The scheme is successful in terms of asset creation, watershed development, prevention of drought, large-scale administration of rural public works and reduction in large-scale migration. The scheme is also not that successful in terms of coverage of weaker sections of the society. The major problem relates to the employment generation as the man-days generated and the number households provided 100 days of employment are quite low in almost all the regions of Maharashtra. Even after eight years of implementation of MGNREGA, per household employment generation in Maharashtra is noticed to be less than 60 days in a year. The share of SC and ST in per household employment generation has drastically declined over time in Maharashtra. Another problem relates to the decline in work participation by women in Maharashtra, which is certainly a matter of concern. However, about 95 per cent of households received job cards against their application for job cards under MGNREGA in Maharashtra. The wages offered under MGNREGA are low in the state, which could be due to improper methods of measurement of productivity. The other problems relating to wages encompass lack of information on the part of workers about wage rates for different kinds of work in different types of terrain, lack of their bargaining power, fudging of muster rolls leading to low wage payment, difficulty in understanding the mode of payment-mix of cash and kind as prescribed in Maharashtra, etc. However, the MGNREGA is much better scheme compared to other employment related programmes. A lot of efforts need to be made to make its presence felt in different parts of the country. The linking of employment guarantee schemes with other schemes of public works will certainly improve skill levels among workers, though this will require improved levels of coordination in the public sector.

*Faculty Member, Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (Deemed to be University), Pune-411 004 (Maharashtra).

Progress of Protected Cultivation under Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) Project in Himachal Pradesh

K.D. Sharma,[†] M.S. Pathania,[†] Brij Bala^{††} and Manoj Gupta[‡]

The protected cultivation technology holds special significance for hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh where arable land is scanty and there is a great variation in agro-climatic conditions. About 90 per cent of the holdings are marginal and small and the main input i.e. irrigation water is also scarce as the irrigated area is just 18 per cent of the cropped area. The area under protected cultivation in the state has increased consistently and during 2013-14, about 300 hectares area was reported to be under protected cultivation. The support from NABARD under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) has come as a boon for promotion of protected cultivation in Himachal Pradesh and the state has made spectacular progress in the promotion of protected cultivation with the implementation of two RIDF projects namely, “*Pandit Deen Dayal Kisan Bagwan Samridhi Yojna*” (RIDF IX) worth Rs. 154.92 crore during 2008 to 2012 and thereafter Dr. Y.S. Parmar Kisan Swarojgar Yojna (RIDF XIX) worth Rs. 111.19 crore starting from 2014 to 2017. The protected cultivation has gained momentum in the state. The study is based upon a sample of 150 polyhouse farmers of different polyhouse size categories (small, medium and large) selected randomly from five districts of Himachal Pradesh to examine the progress and economics of protected cultivation. The findings of the study reveal that majority of polyhouse owners undertake farming as their main occupation. The average area per farm was found to be 103 m² for small, 265 m² for medium and 644 m² for large polyhouse farms. On overall basis, the total capital investment per farm varied from Rs. 1,32,149 on small, Rs. 3,11,998 on medium and Rs. 6,47,909 on large farms. Capsicum (green as well as coloured) was found to be the most predominant crop accounting for about 57 per cent of the cropped area followed by tomato (19.36 per cent). There exists immense potential for increasing the yield of crops as the yield gap between potential and actual was to the extent of 57 to 72 per cent. Financial viability showed that medium polyhouse units were more profitable at the existing level of productivity with a BCR 1.24 and IRR 20.11 per cent. The overall contribution of polyhouse income in the total annual household income was about 12 per cent on small, 26 per cent on both medium and large categories. The employment generation per farm was to the extent of about 106 mandays per farm. There is a need to provide expertise for which a special technical cell should be created in the agriculture department of each block to solve the emerging problems of polyhouse

[†]Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension Education and Research Sociology, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya Palampur-176 062, ^{††}Regional Research Station, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Bajaura, Kullu-175 125 and [‡]Regional Research Station, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Dhaulakuan, Sirmaur-173 031.

owners. The farmers need to be trained not only in technical aspects of growing crops but also with regard to selection of profitable cropping system and adopting efficient marketing strategies. More number of medium sized polyhouse units should be popularised in the state due to their higher financial viability. There is a need to provide insurance cover to polyhouse structure to cover up risk of damage due to wind storms and other factors.

Disadvantaged Regions and People: Inherent Regional Social Weaknesses in Mainstreaming the Efforts

Harshita Tewari and H.P. Singh*

An attempt is made to construct the agricultural development index for 28 states in India with an aim to identify the disadvantaged region and examine the reasons for backwardness which in turn may help to reduce the regional disparity among the states and increase the pace of agricultural development in the country. The composite index of agricultural development has been constructed by following the method developed by Iyengar and Sudarshan. The study revealed that the North-Eastern region constituting eight states was found to be at the bottom in ranking and therefore was considered as a disadvantaged region. The region was found to be backward in case of mechanisation as the number of pumpsets energised is low which may be due to topographical shortcomings. The region has low level of fertiliser consumption per gross cropped area which makes the area suitable for organic farming. The proportion of gross cropped area to gross sown area (more than 1) indicates the existence of opportunity in utilising the land resource more than once in a year. The region has only 18 per cent of gross cropped area under irrigation which reflects scope to increase the area under irrigation and improve the productivity. The study concludes that the region has immense potential in terms of irrigation, fertiliser use, organic farming and congenial climate to be developed as an agriculture hub. However, there is need to formulate demand-driven policies which harness the potentialities and convert regional and social weaknesses to the strength of the region. Proper initiatives are required in the field of watershed management, organic certification, location-specific researches, extension activities and women empowerment to pave the way for agricultural development.

*Research Scholar and Professor, respectively, Department of Agricultural Economics, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi-221 005 (Uttar Pradesh).

Can Crop-Livestock Interaction Be the Way Forward for Disadvantaged Regions and People?

K.K.Datta, Shiv Raj Singh and Uttam Bhattacharya[†]

The agrarian crisis needs to be converted into an opportunity for change and to benefit our farmers. Ensuring sustainable, enriched environment, improved quality of life and good human values may be a major task in welfare economics. With agrarian crisis emerging from the natural calamities and small size of farms, it needs to search the available unexplored opportunities and to benefit our farmers in general and specifically to the disadvantaged farmers who are living in the fragile backward regions in India. The central issue is the low viability and high volatility of the farm sector. Low viability comes from small size of average holding in India (only 1.15 ha), with 85 per cent of holdings being less than 2 ha in size. Low productivity adds to this low viability. More than half the land cultivated is rainfed. But even an irrigated plot of 2 ha, with two crops a year and reasonably high productivity, appears insufficient to give the farmer ample income to feed a family of five. In fact, our past experience has clearly evinced that the income from cropping alone is hardly sufficient to sustain the farmers' needs. The integrated farming systems approach is considered to be the most powerful tool for enhancing farm income and profitability of farming systems, especially for small and marginal farm-holders who belong to the disadvantaged group. The policymakers need to address the central question: Is it acceptable to have overall growth of 7-9 per cent in the economy, with less than 2 per cent growth in agriculture? In that context, the present paper has attempted to examine, how we can explore the changes within the farm sector taking into account the linkages between farm sector and livestock in order to attain the path towards sustainable growth where inclusive growth of the rural masses will be focal point.

The Disadvantaged Mountain Farmers of Gurez Valley: Issues of Livelihood, Vulnerability, Externality and Sustainability

F.A. Shaheen, S.A. Wani and S.H. Baba*

Gurez, the land of ancient Aryans or *Dardistan* is a land locked mountainous valley with a geographical area of 362.88 sq. km inhabiting population of 37, 992 persons purely of tribe *Dard*, falling within the Kashmir Province of Jammu and Kashmir state. The valley is a typical case of disadvantaged regions due to its economic, social and regional specificities. The study attempts a livelihood analysis

[†]Ex-Head & Principal Scientist, Dairy Economics, Statistics & Management Division, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal-132 001 (Haryana), Assistant Professor, G.N. Patel Dairy Science & Food Technology College, SDAU, S.K. Nagar, Gujarat and Institute of Development Studies Kolkata/IDS, Kolkata-700 064, respectively.

*Division of Agricultural Economics and Marketing, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar 190025, Srinagar (J&K).

and tries to explore the issues of vulnerability, externality and sustainability of disadvantageous tribal community of Gurez valley. The work was carried as a priority assignment by SKUAST-Kashmir for disadvantageous and inaccessible areas of J&K state in order to improve their livelihood base for inclusive growth in such areas. Agriculture in Gurez valley is characterised by subsistence farming, a prominent feature of hill agriculture. Mixed cropping is a common agricultural practice in the region. Forests act as a prime natural resource which provides ample direct and indirect benefits to the people of valley. Despite rich environmental values and geographical profile, the livelihoods of Gurezi's were found vulnerable to geo-political affairs of being a border valley and various mountain specificities. People are trapped in the vicious circle of various sensitive factors such as inaccessibility, marginality of resources, fragility, poor carrying capacity, vulnerability of non-farm employment, un-explored niches, out-migration and erosion of *Dard* tribe due to displacement etc. Externalities of being a border valley was found in terms of large contingent of security forces stationed in a fragile and ecologically sensitive valley impacting environment as well as restricted area of forest and pasture lands which has a huge opportunity potential to generate income through small ruminant production system worth more than Rs. 25 crores per annum. The study also identified and analysed the indicators of unsustainability, their underlying processes and the focused efforts to reverse the same in order to restore sustainability within Gurez valley agro-ecosystem along with policy recommendations for upscaling the developmental efforts in agriculture and allied sectors in order to improve the livelihood base of tribal community of Gurez valley.

Impact of Bringing Green Revolution of Eastern India (BGREI) in Chhattisgarh

Ravi S. Chouhan, Deepak Rathi and Hari Om Sharma[†]

The programme of Bringing Green Revolution of Eastern India (BGREI) was launched during the year 2010-11 in seven states of Eastern India, viz., Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal based on strategic action plans developed by these states. The present study has been undertaken in Bilaspur, Bastar, rainfed upland Durg and irrigated hybrid Bastar districts of Chhattisgarh in order to assess the impact of Bringing Green Revolution of Eastern India (BGREI) in different agro-ecological situations namely: rainfed uplands, rainfed low lands (shallow low land) and irrigated rice (hybrid, traditional). The study has relied on both secondary and primary data collected from the officials of state, districts and blocks as well as selected rice growers pertaining to the agricultural years 2010-11 and 2011-12. For the purpose a total of 40 beneficiaries and 20 non-beneficiaries spread over four selected districts were covered in the study. The

[†]Agro-Economic Research Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh).

findings revealed that the BGREI programme implemented in Chhattisgarh gave positive impact on the dissemination of modern technologies of farmers' field, increased cropping intensity and minimised the yield gap between potential and actual yield of paddy. There is still wide scope for further improvement in the cropping intensity and productivity of paddy in the area under study. The study calls for more efficient action in terms of diffusion of up-to-date technologies to the farmers' fields in order to increase cropping intensity on farmers' field as well as increase yield of paddy in Chhattisgarh State.

A Study on the Impact of Sericulture Development Programmes in Himachal Pradesh

S.K. Chauhan, Sakshi Chouhan and Megha Rattan*

During 11th plan period of 2007-12, Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) of Central Silk Board (CSB) was initiated for strengthening sericulture support system namely; mulberry plantation and equipments, silk seed and cocoons, post-cocoon and service sector in five districts of the state of Himachal Pradesh namely, viz., Kangra, Mandi, Bilaspur, Hamirpur and Una with a financial outlay of Rs. 11.37 crore to strengthen the already existing infrastructure for promoting sericulture activities. The programme envisaged distribution of mulberry plants, silk seed, rearing appliance, assistance for the construction of separate rearing house along with necessary training to jobless and marginalised rural people to encourage the adoption of silkworm rearing. In this context the study attempts to carry out a socio-economic analysis and to quantify the socio-economic impacts of the CDP in Himachal Pradesh. A detailed survey was carried out with 120 beneficiaries selected through proportional allocation in 9 government sericulture centres (GSC) and 59 sample villages covered under these GSCs pertaining to the agricultural year. Data were collected on well structured schedules during 2013. The data were analysed by using descriptive statistics like ratios, averages, percentages etc., and conclusion and recommendations were drawn for the development of sericulture and overall improvement in the livelihood of the beneficiaries. The detailed analysis revealed quite satisfactory achievement for all sectors in the study area. Among divisions Chumarwin, Mandi and Nadaun performed better with their achievement level of almost 100 per cent. However, in Dehra and Palampur the comparative achievement was low and requires more efforts in achieving their set target and coming up to level of other divisions. Across sectors, mulberry primary, mulberry seed and even service sector achieved progress to the extent of over 93 per cent with almost 100 per cent for the first two sectors. The level of achievement of cocoon sector in the post project implementation period was low (65.33) which deserve the attention of project

*Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension Education and Rural Sociology, CSK Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya, Palampur.

executing authorities in all the study areas, particularly in Palampur division where the level of achievement was below 50 per cent. The study further revealed that cocoon rearing was practiced by the various age group people ranging from 30 years to 60 years and the household with small family size and in few cases the disabled were helping other family members in the process of pruning, chaffing and feeding mulberry leaves. It was also observed that the socio-economic status of trained sericulture farmers who owned a separate silkworm rearing house, better tools and equipment, adequate mulberry leaves of improved S146 variety and access to extension workers and cocoon market was higher as compared to those who did not have any training. The beneficiary sericulture household possessed higher knowledge and adopted new technology and attained higher level of employment and income as compared to non-beneficiary households. This enabled them to invest on construction of a rearing house and children's education besides meeting their daily domestic needs. The factors like age, education, experience, extension contact, adoption level and so played an important role in influencing the investment in sericulture. On the basis of these findings, it is recommended that skill development training programmes should be organised frequently for enhancing the socio-economic status of sericulture farmers both in the state and elsewhere in the country. A detailed interaction and discussions with the households in the project villages showed that the project has made a visible impact in the selected villages which was evident from the fact that not only more and more people were adopting this activity, the frequency of rearing silk worms had also increased. The study indicated the positive association between production of cocoon and education/training of the farmer, i.e., more the education/training level of the farmers, higher the production rate and better quality of cocoons. It is therefore, recommended that more farmers should be educated and encouraged to take up this activity for better quality and quantity of silk.

Government Initiatives and STs in Maharashtra: Can they be Empowered?

Jayanti Kajale and Sangeeta Shroff[†]

The tribal communities of India traditionally residing in the hilly and forest regions of various states have always remained isolated from the mainstream economic activities. Loss of access to their traditional resources due to various reasons and failure of the system to transmit the benefits of the development process have adversely affected the overall development of the tribal population. The constitutional provisions and various government policies addressing deprivation of this section have not been able to bring about desired change in the lives of these communities. Maharashtra is the second largest state in terms of total ST population. The percentage of poverty among STs in this state and other socio-economic

[†]Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune-411 004 (Maharashtra).

indicators underline the vulnerable position of STs in the state. In view of this, the paper discusses implementation status of two important government initiatives for the STs, viz., Tribal Sub Plan Strategy (TSP) and Recognition of Forest Rights Act (FRA) which have potential to bring about positive transformation in the lives of the state tribal population. The paper also discusses policy implications in this regard. It is observed that though efforts are being made to ameliorate the problems of ST population through instruments like TSP and acts like FRA, the desired change is yet to be brought out. Though the expenditure incurred under TSP has been increasing, it appears that it has not been able to positively impact the lives of tribal population. This could be because of inadequacy of the funds available and also because of weak implementation of various schemes under TSP. In case of FRA also, it is observed that a number of legal and administrative issues are there which need to be looked into to bring about fundamental and far reaching changes leading to empowerment of the tribal population of the state. Strengthening of the implementation of FRA for settlement of the tribal population, implementing strategies for conservation of water, establishment of primary health centres, imparting skill based education and training relating to agro based activities are very important. Further, the extension machinery of the government should be strengthened and the outreach of the extension officers should be improved so as to create awareness about various schemes among the tribal population.