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ABSTRACTS OF M.Sc. THESES

Singh, Binay Kant. 1992. Economic Analysis of Farming Systems in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur. *Major Advisor* : A.S. Saini.

The present study has four objectives viz., (i) to examine various types of farming systems operating in different zones of Kangra district alongwith their pattern of existing resource use, income and employment, (ii) to assess the technological gap in various components of farming systems and examine the reasons for the same, (iii) to explore possibilities for improving over all income and employment of farmers under various farming systems at existing and improved level of technology and (iv) to identify the problems/constraints faced by the sampled farmers in various systems and suggest the policy measures to solve the same.

Three stage random sampling design was adopted to select blocks villages and farm households. Tabular analysis and budgeting (partial and complete) technique was employed to generate alternative plans.

It was observed that most of the holdings are small and fragmented. It is, therefore, suggested that consolidation should be given priority and norms should be devised to maintain the minimum size/number of fragments on a farm. It is further suggested that profitable farming systems such as vegetable based and dairy-based should be encouraged. For this, appropriate input supply base and market infra-structures should be developed. The inter-sectoral linkages among various sub-systems showed strong input linkage and complementarity especially among cereals, livestock, agro-forestry and common property resources. There was pronounced technological gaps in all the important components of farming systems. The possibilities for enhancing farms income and employment evinced through various alternative plans in this study portrayed cascading effect of reallocation of land, technological adoption and inclusion of subsidiary enterprises. This calls for immediate attention of the farm scientists/experts to encourage on-farm implementation of these plans in the study area. Besides, timely supply of farm inputs and regulated marketing systems to dispose off farm produce should be strengthened.

Singh, Dayanand. 1992. Resource-use Efficiency on Kangra Farms. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur. *Major Advisor* : R.K. Sharma.

In Himachal Pradesh the input efficiency is low because of lack of irrigation, terrain topography, small and fragmented holding, climate etc. The present study, therefore, has been under-taken to work out the resource use efficiency of different resources for various enterprises on different size of farms.

The study is based on 40 small (<2 ha) and 20 large (>2 ha.) four randomly selected from 2 blocks of Kangra district. The data pertain to agricultural year 1990-91.

The findings of the study revealed that on all-farms the percentage of scheduled caste farm families was the highest. The overall literacy rate was 80 percent for males and 71 percent for females. Paddy (HYV) was occupying 26 percent of the total cropped area in *kharif* season. Wheat crop was the other important cereal crop in *rabi* season accounting for about 24 percent of total cropped area. Average yield per hectare of selected crops were found high as compared to state average but much below the potential yield levels. The average use of fertilizer in all-farm situation was found to be 22 Kg/ha. The use of chemical fertilizers were estimated to be higher on large farms than small farms. In maize crop the response of bullock labour was the highest on all-farm situation. The elasticity coefficients of human labour for paddy crop in different groups were positive. The returns to scale for all crops except maize showed that both small and large farms were operating in the first irrational zone of production function. The marginal value productivities of inputs were estimated to be greater than one for all crops on all-farm situation which revealed sub-optimum use of inputs factors. The small farms were found to be efficiently utilizing working capital for all crops except wheat. It is suggested that efforts should be made towards the timely supply of inputs so that their use can be increased.

Kumar, Rajesh. 1991. Marketing of Vegetables in Solan District of Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur. *Major Advisor* : R.K. Sharma.

This study analyses post-harvest losses and other marketing aspects/ particularly channels, returns and costs, of major vegetables in Solan district of the state. Specific objectives are :

- (i) To study the post-harvest losses of selected vegetables in the study area,

- (ii) to work out costs and returns associated with important marketing channels used by cultivators,
- (iii) to study the factors influencing the marketing of vegetables and,
- (iv) to study the various problems associated with marketing of vegetables.

Two blocks in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh namely Solan and Kandaghat were selected on the basis of highest area under vegetable crops. Seven villages and 4 villages in Solan and Kandaghat blocks respectively were randomly selected. Finally a sample of 37 small and 23 large (vegetable growers) was selected randomly.

Primary data were collected by survey method for the year 1989-90. The secondary information were taken from relevant government offices. Tabular and Multiple linear regression were used to fulfil the requirements of the above mentioned objectives.

The findings of the study revealed that the extent of post-harvest losses was higher in tomato and capsicum. The harvesting and assembling was an important stage for losses. The losses were mainly due to insect-pest and diseases. It was found that wholesalers, commission agents, village traders and retailers were the main marketing functionaries operating in the study area. The produce through commission agents was sold in the distant markets; whereas wholesalers collected the produce from local markets. Four marketing channels i.e. channel-I (Producer-Forwarding agent-Commission agent-Wholesaler-Retailer Consumer), Channel-II (Producer-Primary wholesaler-Secondary wholesaler-Retailer-Consumer), Channel-III (Producer-Village trader-Wholesaler-Retailer-Consumer) and Channel-IV (Producer-Retailer-Consumer) were studied. Among them, Channel-I and Channel-II were the most common. Channel-I was followed in case of tomato and capsicum while bean and peas were disposed off through channel-II. Moreover, channel-II was found more efficient in case of tomato and capsicum, whereas in case of beans and peas Channel-I was better. Among the various factors influencing marketed surplus of vegetables total production and percent losses to total production were found to be main determinents. Lack of standard grades, scarcity of wooden boxes, cheap and quick transportation, malpractices by traders and lack of market information were the main constraints in marketing of vegetables.

Kumar, Anil. 1992. Impact of land Reforms on Agricultural Development in Kangra District (H.P.). Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishva-vidyalaya, Palampur. *Major Advisor* : R.K. Sharma.

The present study was undertaken to study the impact of land

reforms on cropping pattern, productivity, structural changes in land holdings, emerging trends and role of land reforms in increasing income and employment in the study area and the problem faced by the farmers after getting land.

Two tehils in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh namely Palampur and Baijnath were randomly selected. Four villages from each tehsil were randomly selected along with land reform measures. A complete list of cultivators were obtained and categorised into three groups, Group-I, those allottees who had no land before land reforms, Group-II, tenant-cum-owners, those who became owners after the land reforms, Group-III those who were owners before and after the land reforms. Finally, 25 allottees, 25 tenant-cum-owners and 10 owners were selected. The study pertains to the year 1989-90 alongwith information of the year 1971-72. Tabular analysis and Cobb-Douglas production function were employed to meet the objectives.

The findings of the study revealed that the area under cash crops increased on all the farms groups after the land reforms and the yield also increased and was the highest in Group-II farms. The average size of holding of large farmers decreased from 3.96 hectares to 3.11 hectares which was due to the fact that land was taken from these farmers and distributed among landless persons. The distance from fragment to fragment and house to fragement decreased because of consolidation of holdings. The impact of land reforms on income and employment was found positive. Among the various problems faced by the farmers, poor quality of land small size of holding, inaccessibility of credit, low levels of use of inputs and unemployment were the main problems. It is suggested that financial assistance should be given to poor farmers for land improvement, to make distributive units economically viable, re-distributive policy is required, separate land reform agency, hiring out/in should be encouraged and employment opportunity in non-agricultural sector such as village cottage industry with-in the village should be developed.

Prashad, Hanuman. 1990. Evaluation of Agricultural Credit Utilisation in Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya Palampur. *Major Advisor* : A.S. Saini.

The study analyses the credit utilization pattern, costs involved in getting agricultural credit, its impact on farm income and employment and problems faced by the beneficiaries in acquiring credit from organised financial institutions.

Two blocks of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh, namely, Panchrukhi and Nagrota Bagwan were selected randomly. Further, one

bank branch from each selected block was drawn randomly. Finally, a sample of 5 percent of the total beneficiaries from each type of loan was selected randomly, thus, making a total sample of 80 beneficiaries (58 from Panchrukhi and 22 from Nagrota Bagwan) for this study. Primary data were collected by survey method for two agricultural years (i) 1989-90 and (ii) preceding year during which the loan was availed.

The findings of the study revealed that the misutilization of credit was higher in co-operative societies as compared to commercial banks and the major proportion of diverted credit was used to meet out the domestic needs like family consumption, litigation, etc. The cost of borrowing credit was marginally higher in commercial banks. Moreover, the amount paid unwillingly as cost of credit was found only in commercial banks and no such practice was found in co-operative societies/Government agencies. The impact of credit on farm income and employment was found positive on all the schemes/purposes financed by the organised institutions. Among the various problems faced by the beneficiaries, the higher rate of interest and low pace of cash income flow from credit in scheme/project were important in agricultural credit. It is suggested that an adequate amount of loan should be advanced. To ensure the proper utilization there should be intensive supervision of agricultural credit and there should be separate provision for consumption loans. It is also suggested that the loan cards of different limits should be issued to the farmers by verifying their credit worthiness and past behaviour and capacity.

Sanjay. 1990. Economic Analysis of Off-Season Vegetables in Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur.
Major Advisor : D.S. Thakur.

The study was conducted in Kullu and Solan which are the leading districts in the production of off-season vegetable crops in Himachal Pradesh. The main objectives of this study were to work out the economics of vegetable production and to study the marketing system for vegetables. For this purpose a sample of 100 farmers (50 from each study districts) was selected for the survey during the agricultural year 1990-91. The study revealed that tomato was the major vegetable crop grown in both the study areas. The productivity of all the vegetable crops were found higher on Solan farms. Consequently, the cost as well as net returns from vegetable crops were higher in Solan. The income from vegetable crops was the major component of household income accounting for about 90 per cent of the total income. The study of marketing system revealed that vegetable growers were following 4 marketing channels and the sale through commission agent/wholesalers was the

main channel. However the direct sale through retailers was more paying to the producers. Hence this channel was found to be the most efficient. The study brought out pertinent suggestions on production and marketing fronts to raise the profitability of vegetable crops in Himachal Pradesh. The supply of pure quality seeds, application of balanced fertilizers, development of irrigation facilities, market regulation and central fixation of support prices and cost effective market operations etc, were the important recommendations based on this study.

Sud, Vandna. 1992. Role of Women in Tribal Economy (A study of *Gaddi* Tribe of Himachal Pradesh). Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur. *Major Advisor* : R.C. Oberoi.

The present study is aimed at recording and quantifying the role of *Gaddi* women in tribal economy. The *Gaddi* tribals belong to mountain farming settled in Bharmaur tehsil, District Chamba (H.P.). They are semi-agricultural and semi-pastoral tribe whose economy is mainly based upon shepherding, farming and handloom weaving. The *Gaddi* women considered to be the backbone of tribal economy as they are exclusively involved in almost all the farm operations. In view of their tremendous contribution it is being increasingly realised that in order to uplift the socio-economic status of women, economic development of the region and social justice; women must be resorted to their venerable position. Keeping in view the drudgery faced by the *Gaddi* women, an attempt has been made in this study to analytically examine their socio-economic status, their role and contribution in farm and household economy, their participation in decision making and the measures to improve the economic status of *Gaddi* women.

The sample size (n) was estimated by the method given by Cochran (1972). A sample of 74 households containing 43 small and 31 large households, on the basis of land holding, was drawn through SRSWOR using proportional allocation method.

The main findings of the study revealed that male-female ratio in the study area was 1 : 1.11. The level of literacy among women was only 42 per cent and majority of women had their education only upto primary standard. The average marital age in case of female was as low as 15.4 years. The women accounted for 58 per cent of the total farm workers and 19 percent of total off-farm workers. The average operational holding, per farm, was 0.72 hectare. The maximum investment on livestock was 64 per cent. The average cropping intensity was worked to be 121 per cent on account of snow bound area and severe winter. The immovable property was mostly owned by men whereas cash at

home and ornaments etc. were in charge of women. Regarding professional status, three-fourths of the women were engaged in farming and handloom weaving. The Government service was uncommon among female. In crop production, women were dominating in all the operations except land preparation. In case of cattle raising, about 71 per cent of the labour was being contributed by women. However, shepherding was found to be exclusively the men's job. The handloom weaving was mainly the female dominated activity. The overall contribution of *Gaddi* women to the total farms income was worked out to be 27 per cent, however, their highest contribution was found in handloom (80 per cent) followed by farm animals (71 per cent), field crops (63 per cent), fruit crops (28 per cent) and sheep (1.50 per cent). The majority of tribal women had passive role in various decisions regarding crop production and sheep rearing. However, they were playing active role in rearing of milch animals and handloom weaving. In home management, they had active role to play in some of the decisions particularly marriage of their wards and some religious ceremonies. In order to raise their socio-economic status; education of tribal need to be given priority. In addition to this extension programmes are required to be focused upon women and small scale industries should be popularized in the tribal areas so that surplus female labour from less remunerative jobs can be diverted to more productive employment.

Gupta, Monika 1992. An Economic Analysis of Dairy Farming in Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur. *Major Advisor* : S.K Chauhan.

India has a large share of cattle (15%) and buffalo population (46.66%) of the world. Though, it ranks third in total milk production in the world only after Russia and USA, but it is insufficient to meet the existing nutritional and economic demand in the country. With this objective in view the state and central governments have launched a number of schemes. to increase the milk production. These measures have started yielding positive results. Keeping these in view the study was undertaken with the following objectives : (i) to study the trends of bovine population, milk production and productivity of milk in Himachal Pradesh, (ii) to examine the efficiency of various resources on dairy farms and the differences in technical efficiency of milk production through indigenous and crossbred milch animals, (iii) to study the composition of household income, its distribution and extent of income inequalities, (iv) to study the role of women in dairy farming, and (v) to identify the various constraints for dairy development in study area.

The present study was carried out in Kangra district of Himachal

Pradesh. A multistage random sampling technique was adopted to select two blocks, eight villages and 100 milk producers. The farmers in the selected villages were categorised into three groups, on the basis of operational holdings. A total sample of 100 farmers comprising 61 small, 25 medium and 14 large was randomly selected for the agricultural year 1990-91. The main finding of the study was that milk production between 1978 and 1990 in the state was increasing at the rate of 5.68 per cent per annum. Likewise the bovine population was also increasing. Cross sectional regression analysis reveals that factors such as stage of lactation, quantity of fodder and capital turned out to be important variables in affecting the milk yield. The marginal value productivity of capital was found to be the highest indicating scope for its further use. It was also found that dairying, next to agriculture was not only the important source of farm income in the study area, but being a labour intensive enterprise, created sufficient employment opportunities particularly for women. In dairy enterprise, women played a decisive role in various activities. The problems most commonly reported by the respondents pertained to the high cost of fodder, concentrates, scarcity of fodder and high cost of genetically good quality cattle, etc.

The policy implications of the study are that efforts should be made to educate the farmers to feed more and balanced doses of higher concentrates and fodder, and to switch over to cross breeding because of their multiple advantages. As women's participation is more as compared to men, they should be educated preferably by women officials regarding the use of modern farm techniques, livestock rearing practices, health care, nutrition etc. The production of high quality grasses rich in legume component should be stepped up by educating the farmers.

Khunt, K.A. 1986. Study of Some Important Economic Aspects of Dry Land Agriculture in Rajkot District of Gujarat State. Gujarat Agricultural University, Sardar Krishinagar, Gujarat. *Major Advisor* : V.T. Raju.

The present study was undertaken in Rajkot district of Gujarat State to study the various aspects of dry land agriculture like resource use efficiency, change in cropping pattern and employment position. Cobb-Douglas production function and simple correlation were the statistical tools used to measure resource use efficiency and change in cropping pattern, respectively.

The study revealed that human labour was overutilised in

groundnut and cotton crops. Excessive use of bullock labour was observed in groundnut. Allocation of land under groundnut, cotton and bajra was not found to be optimal. Ratios of MVPs of fertilizers and pesticides to their cost were 1.43, 1.64 and 3.69 for groundnut, cotton and bajra, respectively, which indicate underutilization of these resources. The sum of elasticities was found to be greater than unity (1.4474) in bajra, indicating increasing returns to scale. The cropping pattern of large and medium groups was found to be stable but in case of small farms a slight change in cropping pattern was observed. The employment analysis revealed that total available employment days was directly related to farm size. Number of unemployed days showed inverse relationship with the size of farms. Crop and animal husbandry were the major sources of employment accounting for about 83 per cent of the total employment days.

The study recommends that any increase in fertilizers and pesticides use would increase the farm income. Overutilization of human labour can be checked by creating alternative employment avenues like cottage industries, handlooms and so on.