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Constraints Encountered by Beneficiary Farmers in Adopting National Food Security Mission (NFSM) Interventions in Selected Districts of Karnataka State, India

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author GC performed the research. Author NSSG was the major advisor and author YNS was the advisory member. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

India is facing the problem of food insecurity since independence. The Government has taken several measures to overcome this, still there was no maximum change that has taken place in the status of country's food security. For the growing population the country has to produce more and more year after year. To make this possible the government announced National Food Security Mission Scheme to enhance the productivity of crops and income of the farmers through various crop based interventions. The present study on constraints faced by beneficiary farmers of NFSM in adopting NFSM interventions was undertaken in Belagavi and Haveri districts of Karnataka State

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with sample size of 180 beneficiaries from different components of NFSM viz., NFSM – Rice, NFSM – Pulse and NFSM – Coarse Cereals. Expost - facto research design of social research was used in the present investigation. The major constraints faced by the beneficiary farmers in adopting NFSM interventions among the beneficiary farmers of Belagavi district were, lesser amount of subsidy (in Rs), limited number of demonstrations and subsidy paid after purchase while an initial payment remains the highest problem. Whereas in case of Haveri district, the major constraints encountered by beneficiary farmers were, poor quality materials/machinery are supplied, non availability of particular seed varieties or hybrids and redtapism.

Keywords: Interventions; productivity; beneficiaries; constraints; NFSM.

1. INTRODUCTION

Agriculture sector is the backbone for country's economy and also the livelihood option for more than half of the population. Besides providing for the livelihood of farmers and labourers, the agricultural sector also addresses food security for the nation, the decline in the growth rate of food grain production due to decline in the yield rate and decline in the area of cultivation lead to malnutrition, anaemia and death of population due to starvation. Though majority of the population practicing agriculture in India, the growth rate of agriculture is decreasing due to various problems, therefore in order to provide solutions for the farmers' problem in getting higher yield and to feed the larger population of the country, the Government of India launched National Food Security Mission in the year 2007. The programme is mainly based on crop focused interventions which makes the farmers to adopt technological interventions by providing subsidies and benefits, thereby enhancing area of cultivation and increasing productivity of the crops [1 and 2].

Though the programme has included many interventions to increase the yield and income of the farmers, still many interventions were not adopted by the farmers due to various reasons and thereby farmers are not getting the targeted yield. Therefore in order to tackle this issue it is important to know the constraints of the farmers in adopting the NFSM interventions which helps the policy makers, department officials and other line departments in effective implementation of the programme.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Bhingardeve et al. [3] observed that majority of wheat growers (91.67%) faced the constraints

about non-availability of seed of improved varieties followed by high cost of fertilizers (89.17%), timely supply of seed (62.50%) and high cost of technology (51.67%).

Samota [4] reported that shattering with over maturity, susceptible to diseases, non-availability of high yielding variety seeds at local level, lack of knowledge, poor quality of high yielding variety seeds and higher requirement of manure and fertilizers were the major constraints which influenced the adoption of recommended high yielding varieties of wheat crop by the farmers of Banswara district.

Roy [5] reported that the constraints faced in availing the NFSM benefits by the beneficiaries worked-out in findings shows that all the beneficiaries (100%) reported that information about NFSM reaches comprehensively to all the households in the area under the study. Majority (95.00%) of the beneficiaries told that the eligibility or criteria for availing the subsidy is provided to the majority of households, 97.00 per cent of the beneficiaries reported that the procedure for obtaining the subsidy was quite easy under the NFSM programme. The suggestions for improvements of the NFSM scheme given by the beneficiaries worked out in findings shows that all the sample beneficiaries i.e. 100.00 per cent the beneficiaries under NFSM suggested for timely supply of seeds through NFSM scheme. 90.00 per cent of the sample beneficiaries also suggested that adequate quantity of plant protection chemicals should be provided to all the sample beneficiaries under NFSM scheme in the area under the scheme.

3. METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Belagavi and Haveri districts of Karnataka State in the year 2019-20. In these districts, the three components of NFSM namely NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Pulse and NFSM-Coarse Cereal were selected to study the impact

of NFSM interventions on socio economic status of beneficiary farmers and also to elicit the extent of adoption of NFSM interventions. These districts were selected purposively, among the thirty districts covered under NFSM scheme in the State; these are the only two districts which cover all the three components of NFSM. Under each NFSM component, the crops selected were Paddy (NFSM –Rice), Redgram (NFSM –Pulse) and Maize (NFSM – Coarse Cereal). Three talukas in each district were selected at the second stage drawing one taluka for each NFSM component. Among the selected taluka, six beneficiary farmers were selected randomly for each intervention considered for the study and under each NFSM component five interventions was selected based on the achievements of financial targets fixed by the NFSM authorities. Thus for five interventions 30 members were selected who may or may not adopted other interventions which are implemented at the farm level. Therefore from two districts the total sample size was 180 NFSM beneficiary farmers.

Constraints in the study was operationalized as the reasons or factors which are inhibiting the respondents to adopt NFSM interventions and thereby restricting them to reach the target of NFSM at its fullest potential. Based on the constraints expressed by the beneficiaries in adopting the interventions of NFSM they were generalized into ten in number and they were analysed using frequency and percentage. With respect to frequency and percentage each constraint was ranked from one to ten.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 indicates constraints expressed by beneficiary farmers of Belagavi district with regard to adoption of NFSM interventions. Lesser amount of subsidy (in Rs) was ranked first followed by limited number of demonstrations were ranked second. While, subsidy paid after purchase while an initial payment remains the highest problem was ranked third. Lack of initiative from government officials for conducting FFS was ranked fourth, Redtapism was ranked fifth, followed by Lack of competence of AAO's /AO's in conducting FFS was allotted sixth rank, Timely non availability of critical inputs was given seventh rank, followed by political interference and biased towards big farmers in availing benefits in the eighth rank. Poor quality materials/machinery are supplied was allotted ninth rank, followed by non availability of particular seed varieties or hybrids was found at tenth rank.

The results showed that, majority of the beneficiaries expressed that, poor quality materials/machinery are supplied and was ranked first followed by non availability of particular seed varieties or hybrids were ranked second. While, redtapism was ranked third. Timely non availability of critical inputs was ranked fourth, Lack of competence of AAO's /AO's in conducting FFS was ranked fifth, followed by political interference and biased towards big farmers in availing benefits was allotted sixth rank, Limited number of

Table 1. Constraints expressed by the beneficiary farmers in adopting NFSM interventions in Belagavi District (n=90)

Sl. No.	Constraints	f	%	Rank
1	Timely non availability of critical inputs	68	75.55	VII
2	Limited number of demonstrations	88	97.77	II
3	Lack of initiative from government officials for conducting FFS	84	93.33	IV
4	Lack of competence of AAO's /AO's in conducting FFS	70	77.77	VI
5	Non availability of particular seed varieties or hybrids	61	67.77	X
6	Political interference and biased towards big farmers in availing benefits	67	74.44	VIII
7	Redtapism	74	82.22	V
8	Lesser amount of subsidy (in Rs)	89	98.88	I
9	Subsidy paid after purchase while initial payments remains the highest problem	87	96.66	III
10	Poor quality materials/machinery are supplied	63	70.00	IX

(The responses are mutually exclusive)

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Table 2. Constraints expressed by the beneficiary farmers in adopting NFSM interventions in Haveri District (n=90)

Sl. No.	Constraints	f	%	Rank
1	Timely non availability of critical inputs	75	83.33	IV
2	Limited number of demonstrations	66	73.33	VII
3	Lack of initiative from government officials for conducting FFS	64	71.11	IX
4	Lack of competence of AAO's /AO's in conducting FFS	74	82.22	V
5	Non availability of particular seed varieties or hybrids	86	95.55	II
6	Political interference and biased towards big farmers in availing benefits	69	76.66	VI
7	Redtapism	77	85.55	III
8	Lesser amount of subsidy (in Rs)	62	68.88	X
9	Subsidy paid after purchase while initial payments remains the highest problem	63	70.00	VIII
10	Poor quality materials/machinery are supplied	88	97.77	I

*(The responses are mutually exclusive)**Source: Field Survey, 2020*

demonstrations was given seventh rank, followed by subsidy paid after purchase while initial payments remains the highest problem in the eighth rank. Lack of initiative from government officials for conducting FFS was allotted ninth rank, followed by lesser amount of subsidy (in Rs) was found at tenth rank (Table 2). The findings of the present study are in concordance to the study results of Singh et al. [6] and Roy [5].

The constraints expressed by the farmers of both the districts might be due to lack of extension services provided by the line departments, government and other developmental agencies implementing NFSM. Somewhere it was felt that, farmers were more interested and the extension functionaries failed to identify the interest of the farmers in few areas. The constraints also outlined negligence of the officials in procuring quality inputs and timely supply of the same to the farmers. The farmers also expressed political interference in availing subsidies and benefits of the programme which could be overcome through thoughtful suggestions.

5. CONCLUSION

There are number of programmes and schemes introduced by the government for the welfare of farmers, but the full adoption of interventions of the majority of the implemented programmes was not seen which is one of the reason for not reaching the targeted output and the programme

goals completely. Therefore the identification of the constraints expressed by the farmers in adoption of interventions serves as an effective assessment for the implementing agencies and the line departments to work on it and refine the interventions according to the need and demand of the farmers.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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