

"PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS OF AGRICULTURE IN SOLAPUR DISTRICT"
UGC No. F.23-1066/09(WRO)

Prof. Dr. Y.S.Khan
Dept. of Geography
Sangameshwar College,
Solapur – Maharashtra

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The main purpose of this chapter is to sum up major conclusion. An attempt is also made to discuss agricultural problems. Suitable suggestions are also given in this chapter to change the existing situation and thereby to achieve agricultural development in Solapur district. The Present Study entitled **“Problems and prospects of agriculture in Solapur district. A geographical Analysis”** is an attempt to find out some problems and their remedies. The following result has emerged from the analysis. The topic of research is divided into nine units such as introduction of the region, backgrounds of the region, General land use, Agricultural land use, irrigation and technological determinants of agriculture, Agricultural productivity, Drought prone agriculture, Co-relation matrix of the variables influencing agriculture and conclusions, problems and suggestions.

AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS -

In this part, the numbers of problems of agricultural developments have been discussed. Most of these problems are associated to the questions of agricultural research and training. The following are the problems of agriculture, which are very serious and acute in the Solapur district.

1. UNCERTAINTY OF MONSOON RAINFALL -

Out of the total regions annual rainfall, nearly 85 percent rainfall is received during monsoon period some times region gets more rainfall some time it will provide less rainfall to the region. Rainfall is the dominant single weather element influencing the intensity and location of farming system and the farmer's choice of the enterprises.

2. OVER CROWDING IN AGRICULTURE -

The real problem of agricultural regions is that, there are too many people who depend on agriculture. Since 1981, the proportion of people depends on agriculture has remained by and large constant around to percent.

3. PROBLEM OF DISCOURAGING RURAL ATMOSPHERE -

The farmers of the region are generally speaking, poor, illiterate, ignorant, superstitious, conservative and bound by out mode customs and institutions such as the caste system and the joint family. Except for a small group of enlightened farmers who adopted quickly modern techniques of production, while majority of farmers are not motivated by consideration of economic progress. Besides, they are so poor that they do not have sufficient means to improve their economic conditions. The farmers of the study region are using wooden ploughs and iron ploughs on large scale. The density of tractor per thousand hectare of land is relatively low in Solapur district.

4. PROBLEM OF SOIL EROSION -

The problem of soil erosion is a complicated problem. Soil erosion varies from place to place according to the character of the soil, the slope of the ground,

the vegetation cover, the use to which the soil is being put and the nature and amount of rainfall.

The very shallow and medium shallow soils have poor water retention capacity poor fertility and vulnerable to severe soil erosion. These soils do not support to the rabbi crops. Such soils are found in Bhima, Sina and Nira basins in solapur district. Due to the soil erosion, the crop productivity is very low.

5. INADEQUATE IRRIGATION FACILITIES -

There are few major projects in the study region. There are some medium and minor schemes in the Solapur district. Most of the medium and minor irrigation schemes become dry in the summer season due to shortage of proper rainfall distribution.

6. POOR ECONOMIC CONDITION OF LABOR -

Mostly, 50 percent agricultural labors are having poor economic status. Most of the Agricultural workers belong to the depressed classes who have been neglected for ages. They have been like dumb driven cattle.

Agriculture workers are still illiterate and ignorant in all tahsils in the study region. Another thing is that agricultural worker does not have continuous work in farm. They are getting only 60 to 100 rupees per day from the farmers. Agriculture labors do not get work in the rainy and summer seasons regularly.

7. PROBLEM OF PLANT PROTECTION -

No systematic quantitative studies have been conducted in the study region so far to determine the loses caused by insect, pests and plant diseases except in irrigated tract. Most of the farmers of the region are economically poor and they are unable to use pesticides on large scale in the fields.

8. LESS USE OF HYV SEEDS -

Agriculture in the study region, suffers from the application of inadequate and bad seeds. Usually, seeds are kept unprotected for the next sowing season. Thus, the seed is badly affected by the worms and when sown the resulting plants also are badly affected by the worms and when sown the resulting plants turn unhealthy. Some times, the farmers have to open their seed for consumption and for sowing purpose borrow from the local grain merchants or Baniya, which is bad and unhealthy. Therefore, the yield of agricultural crops is very low as compared to western Maharashtra.

9. PROBLEM OF CREDIT FACILITIES AND INDEBTEDNESS-

Credit puts definite limitation on agricultural practices. All agricultural inputs requires capital. All the farmers make their decision on the basis of capital, available to them. The farmer borrows loan year after year but he is not in a position to clear off the loans, because his agricultural output is not large enough to pay off his debt. Therefore, the debt of the farmers goes on increasing this is known as indebtedness. The main cause of the indebtedness of the farmer is his poverty. It is well known saying in our country that “the Indian farmer is born indebt, lives in debt and dies in debt.”

10. PROBLEM OF DRAUGHT -

Entire district comes under drought prone area. Some times region gets heavy rainfall and wet faming occurs in the region. Some times dry famine found in the region due to absence of monsoon rain fall. During summer season irrigation, wells become dry. Even there is shortage of drinking water in the various villages during the summer season.

11. LACK OF MARKETING SYSTEM -

Marketing facilities are very poor in the entire study region. There are few regulated agricultural marketing centers, which have very poor facilities.

Majority of the small farmers sale their produce in the villages due to the lack of transport and communication facilities high transport cost and very low marketable surplus in scarcity area, the farmers sale their agriculture produce to village Baniya, the big size holder who have comparatively large surplus to sale, their produce in the markets. The following are some of the general constraints observed in study region's market (i) force sale (ii) Lack of organization (iii) lack of market intelligence (iv) inadequate shortage capacity (v) lack of godwons (vi) absent of grading (vii) superficial middlemen and malpractices and (viii) lack of information regarding prices.

12. LOW PRICE OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES -

Till now, the government has been fixing food grains prices at "Slightly" higher than the average of immediate post harvest prices during the previous few years. The principle of fixing farm prices is indeed wrong, as the immediate post harvest prices are nothing but distress prices and if these are to be fixed for the whole year this would act as disincentive to the farmer who has to invest heavy so as produce more.

13. PROBLEM OF TRAINING CENTERS -

The farmers of the study regions are generally speaking, poor, illiterate, ignorant, superstitious, and conservative bound by out mode customs and institutions such as the caste system and the joint family superstition and belief in fate, are the causes which keep the farmers satisfied with their primitive system of cultivation. There are only few training centers in the region under study. They are unable to give the training to the entire study region. The farmers are away from the recent agricultural technology.

14. LARGE DIVERSITY OF CROP -

The agriculture of Solapur district is predominantly characterized by the cultivation of a wide variety of food and non-food crops. There exist, sharp

differences among the region with respect to the methods of cultivation. Due to the differences in soil and climatic conditions different varieties of crops are grown which includes Kharif as well as Rabi cereals.

SUGGESTIONS -

To solve these problems in the district of Solapur, the following points should be tackled by farmers and government intelligently.

1. Untimely and unequal distribution of rainfall.
2. Overcrowding in agriculture should be reduced.
3. Problem of discouraging rural atmosphere by increasing literacy.
4. Soil erosion and its conservation.
5. Inadequate irrigation facilities should be enhanced.
6. Poor economic condition of labor should be improved.
7. Problem of plant protection by using herbicides, pesticides and Insecticides.
8. Use of HYV seeds should be encouraged.
9. Problem of credit facilities and indebtedness should be given concession.
10. Problem of draught should be tackled by harvesting water.
11. Marketing system should be given proper facilities.
12. Prices of agricultural commodities must be revised from time to time.
13. Problem of training centers should be improved.
14. Large diversity of crops should be encouraged.

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