

FARMER'S SUICIDE IN INDIA

CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND MITIGATION

Edited by
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About the Book

Agriculture plays an important role in the Indian economy, but farmers are committing suicide across the country. This book seeks to understand the suicide cases through various contributory factors. As the investigation is more focused on farmers suicide naturally concentrated on farm activities. But at the same time other qualitative factors imparting suicides are explained in clear detail. The two major issues, namely causes and consequences of suicide and mitigation to overcome suicide are discussed in detail in the book. Different articles here have highlighted the situation of different parts of the country. The feature of this book is that experts who have knowledge of the issues have contributed to this book. This book will be a valuable source of reference on the subject for the policy-makers, social scientists, teachers and students of economics, sociology and the development thinkers.



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A Study on the Reasons behind and Remedies to Prevent Suicide of Farmers in Kerala - With Special Reference to Wayanad

Muhammed Rafi N

Introduction

Agricultural Sector of India is wide, deep and large. In all over the country covers the same in different forms and types according to difference in the climate, soil, etc. the agricultural sector of the country served as life blood and leaving breath of the people and economy. Around two third of the population is associated directly the agricultural activities and around 18% of the GDP covered by the same sector, so it's a convincing explanation to why this sector called primary sector of the economy.

Since independence showing a negative growth in the sector up to 1958, then after change the reality to a positive growth. Many years facing severe drought, 2002-03 one of the example the same, which year shows negative reflections in the growth of the sector. 1960s to 1970s shows and experienced an impressive growth of the Indian agricultural sector; green revolution is the central reason behind the good result. Rice is a diverse crop which grown in diverse climate and soil conditions; so, which produced in both seasons. Its result is shown as around 450% increased between 1950 and 2014. Numerically that is around from 20 million to around 106 million from 1950 to 2014.

In 2013-14 shows a historical growth rate in the agricultural sector of India, The major reason behind it was a good and normal monsoon during the year. So, the climate condition is one of the major reasons behind the growth and declining of the agricultural sector of India. In

the early years of the Indian independence agricultural sector occupied around 45% of the GDP, now it's declining to around 20%. Government policies, rate and availability of monsoon, soil degradation, market factors, supply & demand, availability & awareness of the modern technology, EXIM policies are act vital roles in these kinds of negative growth.

Significance of Study

Wayanad is a hill top district in Kerala, it is considered as one of the very backward 50 districts in the country. Tourism and agriculture are two major sources of the income of the district. By many reasons such as lack of adequate knowledge, least training, less awareness on government policies farmers direct to private money lenders and take extra burden of the repayment of loans. Farmer's suicide in Wayanad is too much discussed different venues in national level and international level due its contemporary importance. The reason behinds international attention of the farmer's suicide was the deeper roots and reasons of the same. The problem has an international relevance also. Agricultural price slash the byproduct of globalization. A liberalised economic policy touches firstly in the agricultural sector of the same. The major reason behind the agricultural price slash is liberalised or globalised trade and economic policies of concerned economies. In Indian scenario Kerala is not only the victim of the agricultural price slash, many other states face the crucial or distressful realities of the same. Vidharbha and many area of Maharashtra state are various examples to the damages of the agricultural price slash in India.

Without adequate considerations nothing sustain in any circumstances. The same principle is applicable to agricultural sector also. So, for the betterment of the agricultural sector, nurturing an agricultural friendly culture among youth is the only way. Addition of agricultural syllabus to university level is one of the best ways to achieve this objective. Now universities are not keen interest on the same thing.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the reasons for price slash in agricultural products
2. To study about reasons of suicide tendency among the farmers
3. To find out the reasons of failure of measures taken by the Government.

Methodology of the Study

In the study used both primary and secondary data. Primary data collected from experts, public and youth. Total 100 samples collected from all these groups. Secondary data collected from both printed and online sources. And data also collected from the sources of the government agencies and departments. Here I used various research articles and journals for statistical data.

Farmers Suicide in Wayanad

Farmers suicide in Wayanad make heavy burden in socio-economic side of Wayanad. It's make collateral damages in different sides of common life in the region. A major reason behind these hundreds of suicide is price slash. A number of government policies lead the farmers to the suicide or suicide from agricultural sector. Heavy increase in the cost of production, thrift competition, least intervention and consideration of the government and other authorities, natural calamities, etc. are major reasons behind commit suicide. Most of the farmers accept financial support from number of private money lenders with heavy interest. During the price slash or damage due to natural calamity the repayment of loss going to default. This kind of realities leads farmers to heavy threats on land acquisition or seizure of property and physical attack from local money lenders and their accomplice. This is majority reason behind most of the suicide.

Major Reasons behind the Farmers Suicide in Wayanad

1. **Money lending:** Money lending is one of the important reasons associated with farmer's suicide in Wayanad. Most of the farmers living poverty so they need fund as borrowings. The cost and size of the borrowings decide the productivity of a farmer.
2. **Price slash:** price slash of the agricultural produce is major supporting part of the suicide tendency of the farmers. Product selling and its profit is the only way find out fund for repayment of loans. So the price slash and loss is highly touched the existence and growth of the farming and agricultural sector
3. **Drought:** with price slash drought act a vital role in the loss of production. Due to climate change Wayanad climate is entirely different from actual Wayanad climate. It's highly affects the quality & quantity of the outcome. Many number of varieties of

paddy and coffee hide from the present day realities of cultivation due to climate change or drought

4. **Heavy rain:** Due to climate change sometimes get heavy rain fall, this kind of rainfall is far from actual or normal quantity or seasons. Like drought heavy rain fall and rain fall in unwanted time will be affected in production and existence of plants.
5. **Government policies:** Government policies are one of the affected or associated factor in the existence and growth of the farming and agricultural development. After the liberalised policy of government many number of farmers decided to quit from agricultural activities.
6. **Energy sources:** India faces severe shortage of energy. It is another important aspect or factor of the slow growth of the agricultural sector in India. In Wayanad situation it is more severe, dams and monsoon are main energy source of Kerala. So the rate of rain fall is important in the growth and existence of the agricultural production in two ways.

Data Analysis and Interpretations

Table 1: Area of cultivating land

Area of cultivating land	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Less than One Hector	12	24
1 - 5 hectors	28	56
5 - 10 hectors	7	14
Above 10 hectors	3	6
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

Chart 1: Area of cultivating land

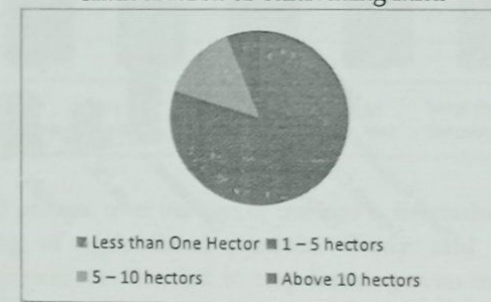


Table 1 opined that 56% of total respondents having 1 -5 hectares of cultivating land

Table 2: Reasons behind price slash (Loss in operation)

Issue	1*	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Quality Reduction	0	0	0	8	10	12	20	50
Increase Cost of production	4	2	5	12	14	9	4	50
Liberalization	14	17	12	2	3	1	1	50
Import	11	11	17	3	4	2	2	50
Government policies	16	15	11	2	2	2	2	50
Lack Of Technical Know How	2	2	3	5	6	14	18	50
Drought	3	3	2	18	11	10	3	50
	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	

Source: Primary Data *1 - Most..... 7 - Least

Arithmetic Table 2 A
Reasons behind price slash

Issue	Mean Score	Mean Value	Rank
Quality Reduction	106	2.12	7
Increase Cost of production	177	3.54	4
Liberalisation	280	5.60	1
Import	258	5.16	3
Government policies	277	5.54	2
Lack Of Technical Know How	125	2.50	6
Drought	177	3.54	4

Table & Chart 2: Reasons behind price slash (Loss in operation)

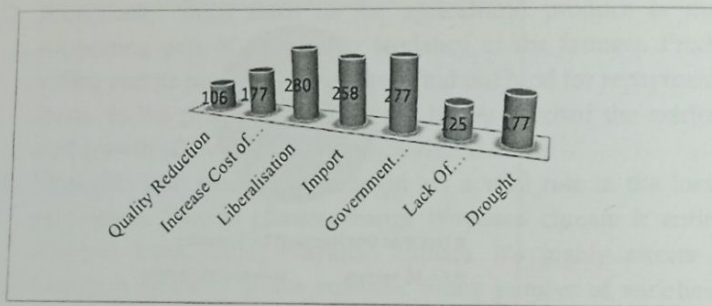


Table 2 proves, major reason behind price slash is liberalizing activated in the country. Government policies and import also boosting the speed of price slash.

Table 3: Effects of price slash in agri production

Issue	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Reduce production	6	4	11	17	12	50
Increase cost	13	13	14	8	2	50
Profit to loss	12	11	13	11	3	50
Loss to heavy loss	15	19	7	2	7	50
Stop the farming	4	3	5	12	26	50
	50	50	50	50	50	

Source: Primary Data

Arithmetic Table B
Effects of price slash in agri production

Issue	Mean Score	Mean Value	Rank
Reduce production	125	2.50	4
Increase cost	177	3.54	2
Profit to loss	168	3.36	3
Loss to heavy loss	183	3.66	1
Stop the farming	97	1.94	5

Chart 3: Effects of price slash in agri production

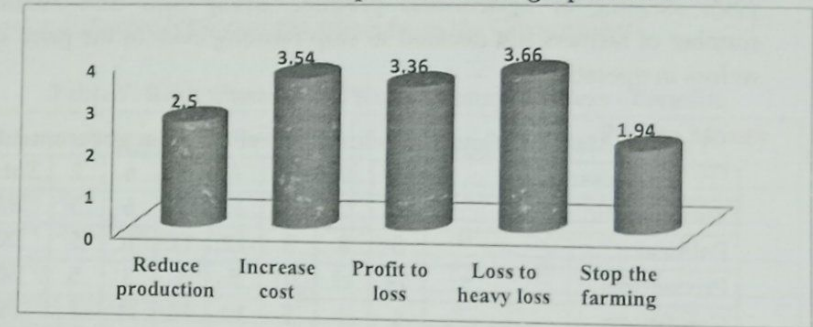


Table 3 proves, over burden of the loss is the main outcome of the price slashing of agricultural produce. Study said that minimum number of farmers not decided to stop farming even in the price slash or loss in operation

Table 5: Equity in Price of Agricultural Produce

Opinion	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Highly Equitable	3	6
Equitable	9	18
Neutral	6	12
Inequitable	23	46
Highly Inequitable	9	18
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Primary Data

Chart 5: Equity in Price of Agricultural Produce

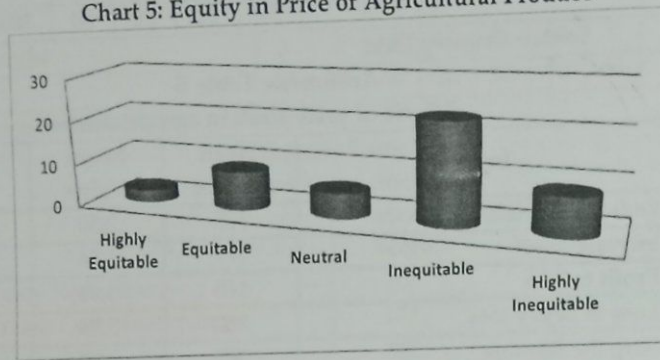


Table 5 proves, over burden of the loss is the main outcome of the price slashing of agricultural produce. Study said that minimum number of farmers not decided to stop farming even in the price slash or loss in operation

Table 6: Major difficulties behind get reliefs from government

Issue	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Bureaucratic	5	12	15	5	2	6	5	50
Political	5	8	3	12	11	6	5	50
Procedures	14	11	10	5	2	3	5	50
Conditions	4	1	5	10	12	11	7	50
Awareness	11	8	4	3	9	7	8	50
Insufficiency	7	6	7	9	5	8	8	50
Undeserved Parties	4	4	6	6	9	9	12	50
	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	

Source: Primary Data

Arithmetic Table C
Effects of price slash in agri production

Issue	Mean Score	Mean Value	Rank
Bureaucratic	225	4.50	2
Political	196	3.92	4
Procedures	251	5.02	1
Conditions	164	3.28	6
Awareness	206	4.12	3
Insufficiency	195	3.90	5
Undeserved Parties	163	3.26	7

Based on Table 6

Chart 6: Major difficulties behind get reliefs from government

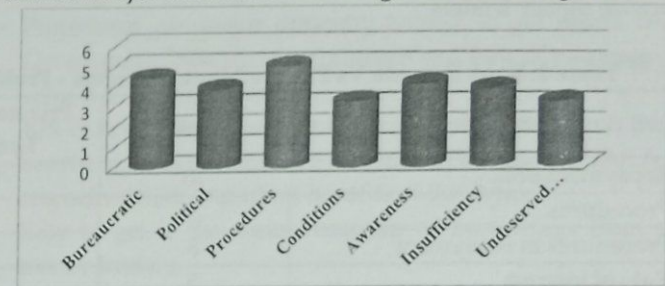


Table & Chart 6 & Arithmetic Table C shows procedures are major difficulty behind to get reliefs from the Government.

Table 7: Bank Finance Vs Private Money Lenders - Benefits

Benefits	Banks	Private Money Lenders
Least cost	14	0
Govt. intervention	20	9
Safety	12	2
Speedy processing	4	39
TOTAL	50	50

Source: Primary

Chart 7: Bank Finance Vs Private Money Lenders - Benefits

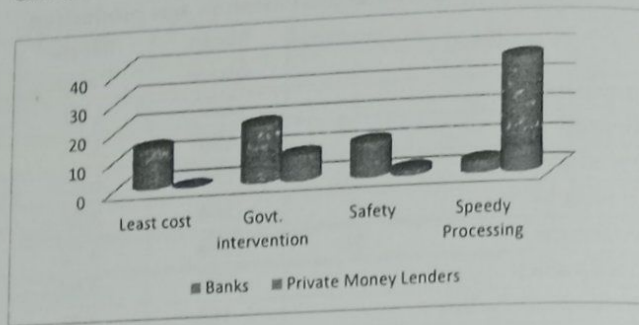


Table & Chart 7 proves Government intervention is the major benefit of bank finance and speedy processing is main advantage of private money lenders.

Table 8: Bank Finance Vs Private Money Lenders - Problems

Benefits	Banks	Private Money Lenders
Repayment policy	10	11
Procedures	27	3
Procedures in repayment	8	18
Rate of interest	5	18
TOTAL	50	50

Source: Primary

Chart 8: Bank Finance Vs Private Money Lenders - Problems

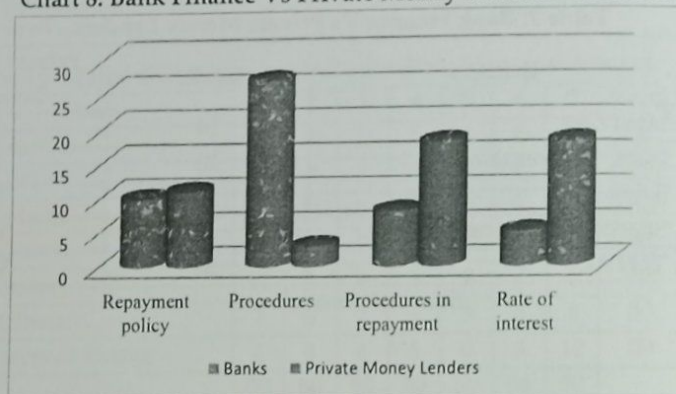


Table & Chart 8 proves procedures to get loan is the major problem of bank finance and high rate of interest & procedures on repayment are major problems of private money lenders.

Findings of the study

- 56% of total respondents having 1-5 hectares of cultivating land
- Major reason behind price slash is liberalizing activated in the country.
- Government policies and open market boosting the speed of price slash.
- Over burden of the loss is the main outcome of the price slashing of agricultural produce.
- Study said that minimum number of farmers not decided to stop farming even in the price slash or loss in operation
- Procedures are major difficulty behind to get reliefs from the Government; bureaucratic influence and lack of awareness are in second & third position.
- 40% of respondents are said government intervention is the major benefit of bank finance; and 28% and 24% said least cost & safety respectively are important benefits of the same.
- Easy to get is the main attraction of borrowings from private money lenders.
- Procedures are major problems or difficulties of bank borrowings.
- 72% of total respondents equally opined rate of interest & procedures for repayment are major defects of private borrowings.

Explanations

1. The study resulted major reason behind price slash of the agricultural produce in Wayanad and all other parts of India and world is the emergence of the LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation). Various government policies such as open market access, free entry & exit, reduction of tariffs & quotas are highly influenced the market situation.
2. The study proves the relationship between price slash farmers suicide. Major reason behind leading to the suicide is neglecting mentality of the authority in needy time, over number of procedures, bureaucratic delay, etc.

3. On time or immediately after government take some measures to prevent agricultural loss or write off agricultural loans. But lack of adequate information, delay in operation, lack of easiness in accessing, bureaucratic influence and private money lenders' these policies not to attain actual objective.

Suggestions

- Credit linked with crops
- Encourage Kolkhoz Model Farming (Joint cultivation) experienced in Russia
- Give role to financial agency in production and maintenance.
- Change the role of financial agency as lender to partner and adviser
- Reduce & eliminate procedures to get agricultural loans from banks
- Ensure awareness about various government schemes
- Control private money lenders
- Start an apex body to control & monitor private money lenders
- Government take initiation to start a monitoring cell to monitor agricultural loans

Conclusion

Indian agricultural sector is one the large agri sector in the world. About 60% of the total population served in this sector. The failure of the sector immediately affects the whole economy and societal life. Farmer's suicide is equal to the suicide of the whole community. All kinds of industrial development unable to satisfy need for food of whole population.

The farmer's suicide in Wayanad is one the black spot in the history of the country. Major reason behind it was price slash of the produce and the damage of new economic policy. On this space, if government is not takes some measures and strengthens, that's effects the lion share population in the country, may be that will lead to uncontrollable and invaluable damage or distress.

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