

## Study on Structural Transformation in Operational Landholdings in Andhra Pradesh

K Mayuri, D Vishnu Sankar Rao, Y Radha, P Ram Babu, V Srinivasa Rao and S Hyama Jyothi

Department of Agricultural Economics, Agricultural College, Bapatla, A.P.

### ABSTRACT

This study is an attempt to measure the changes in the structure of operational land holdings in Andhra Pradesh based on secondary data during the period 1970-71 to 2010-11. The data regarding the different categories of operational land holdings were collected and simple percentages were calculated to observe the change in the categories over the study period. The results of the study revealed that percentage area and number both increased for marginal and small farmers from 1970-71 to 2009-10. The percentage area of semi-medium operational land holdings increased but the percentage number decreased whereas the medium and large holdings exhibited decrease both in percentage area and number during the study period.

**Keywords:** *Marginal, Medium and Large, Operational landholdings, Semi-Medium, Small.*

Land is the vital factor that forms the basis for economic activity and it is the crucial natural resource that produces food and non-food products. It acts as fundamental resource for any activity to generate incomes to the people, more specifically, rural population in agriculture dominated economics. The productivity of land serves as the engine of economic growth and the ownership of this asset determines the level of social equality and inequality in the society. Thus there are two distinct categories in India, those who own land and those who do not own any significant amount of land. Among the land holders too there are many categories depending on the extent of land holding. To reduce inequalities in land holding, land reforms have been attempted in India to rescue the most vulnerable sections in agriculture i.e., the landless labour and small tenants. In this context the present paper examines the distribution of landholdings among the different categories of land holders over the decades.

An operational land holding is a techno-economic land unit used wholly or partly for agricultural production and operated (directed/managed) by one person alone or with the assistance of others, without regard to title, size or location. An operational land holding may consist of either one or more than one parcels of land, provided they form the part of same unit. Operational landholdings include only those units which are used either in farm production or farm production + livestock and poultry products (primary) and/or pisciculture or for only livestock and poultry products (primary) and/or pisciculture.

There are five categories of land holdings in India, which are given here under:

1. Marginal holdings: up to 1 hectare.
2. Small holdings: >1 ha to 2 ha
3. Semi-medium holdings: >2 ha to 4 ha
4. Medium holdings: >4 ha to 10 ha
5. Large holdings: >10 ha

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

Secondary data on operational land holdings was collected for the period 1970-71 to 2010-11 from 'Reports on Census of Land Holdings' and 'Statistical Abstracts of Andhra Pradesh,' Directorate of Economics and Statistics. The collected data were analyzed using simple percentages of total operational land holdings and results were interpreted.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1 & 2 show the size-wise changes in the structure of landholdings. The salient feature of the change was in terms of phenomenal increase in the proportion of marginal and small holdings, and the area under their cultivation, with an equally significant decline in the proportion of large holdings.

#### Marginal Holdings

The data on operational holdings clearly showed that there was a steep increase in marginal operational holdings both in number as well as area over the study period i.e. from 1970-71 to 2010-11. The percentage of number of marginal farmers in total number in 1970-71 was 46 per cent (24.9 lakhs) which increased to 63.94 per cent (84.24 lakhs) in 2010-11. The percentage of area under holding of marginal farmers in total area in 1970-71 was 8 per cent (10.9

**Table 1. Distribution of operational holdings in Andhra Pradesh during 1970-71 to 2010-11 (Number in lakhs)**

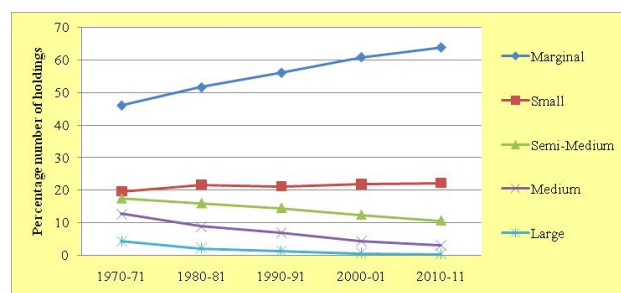
Categories of operational land Holding	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	Percentage change from 1970-71 to 2010-11
Marginal	24.90	38.40	52.10	70.23	84.24	238.31
	(46.00)	(51.60)	(56.10)	(60.90)	(63.94)	
Small	10.6	15.9	19.7	25.18	29.18	175.28
	(19.60)	(21.60)	(21.20)	(21.83)	(22.15)	
Semi-Medium	9.40	11.70	13.50	14.24	13.99	48.83
	(17.40)	(15.90)	(14.50)	(12.35)	(10.62)	
Medium	6.90	6.50	6.40	5.01	3.97	-42.46
	(12.70)	(8.80)	(6.90)	(4.34)	(3.02)	
Large	2.40	1.60	1.20	0.66	0.36	-85.00
	(4.30)	(2.10)	(1.30)	(0.57)	(0.27)	
Total	54.20	73.70	92.90	115.32	131.75	143.08
	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	

**Table 2. Area distribution of operational holdings in Andhra Pradesh during 1970-71 to 2010-11 (Area in lakh ha)**

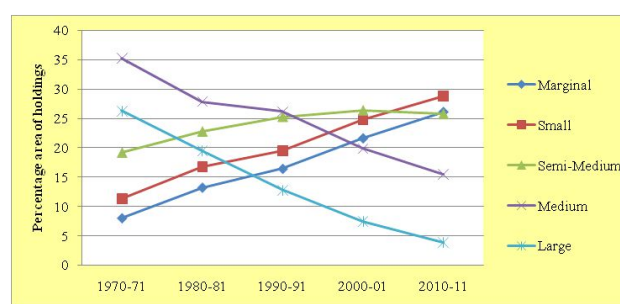
Categories of operational land Holding	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	Percentage change from 1970-71 to 2010-11
Marginal	10.9	18.9	23.7	31.04	37.27	241.93
	(8.00)	(13.20)	(16.40)	(21.60)	(26.08)	
Small	15.30	24.10	28.30	35.65	41.19	169.22
	(11.30)	(16.80)	(19.50)	(24.80)	(28.82)	
Semi-Medium	26.10	32.60	36.40	37.95	36.84	41.15
	(19.20)	(22.80)	(25.23)	(26.40)	(25.78)	
Medium	47.90	39.80	37.80	28.55	22.08	-53.9
	(35.20)	(27.80)	(26.10)	(19.80)	(15.45)	
Large	35.70	28.00	18.50	10.80	5.52	-85.54
	(26.30)	(19.50)	(12.80)	(7.50)	(3.87)	
Total	135.90	143.33	144.60	144.00	142.93	5.17
	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	
	2.51	1.94	1.56	1.25	1.09	-

Source: GoAP, Reports on Census of Land Holdings and Statistical abstracts of Andhra Pradesh, DES, GoAP.

Note: Figures in the parentheses represent percentage to respective total land holdings



**Fig 1. Per cent change in operational land distribution of number of holdings under different categories to total number of landholdings of Andhra Pradesh during 1970-71 to 2010-11.**



**Fig 2. Per cent change in operational land distribution of area of holdings under different categories to total area of landholdings of Andhra Pradesh during 1970-71 to 2010-11.**

lakh ha) which increased to 26.08 per cent (37.27 lakh ha) in 2010-11. The overall percentage change between 1970-71 and 2010-11 in number and area of marginal farmers was 238.31 per cent and 241.93 per cent respectively.

### Small Holdings

The number and area of holding of small farmers also increased over the years which is evident through Table 1 and 2. The percentage of number of small farmers in total number in 1970-71 was 19.6 per cent (10.6 lakhs) and increased to 22.15 per cent (29.18 lakhs) in 2010-11. The percentage of area under holding of small farmers in total area in 1970-71 was 11.3 (15.3 lakh ha), which increased to 28.82 per cent (41.19 lakh ha) in 2010-11. The overall percentage change between 1970-71 and 2010-11 in number and area of small farmers was 175.28 per cent and 169.22 per cent respectively.

### Semi medium Holdings

The percentage of number of semi medium farmers in total number decreased from 17.4 per cent in 1970-71 to 10.62 per cent in 2010-11, but increased in absolute number from 9.4 lakhs to 13.99 lakhs. The percentage of operational holding area under semi medium farmers in total area increased from 19.2 per cent (26.10 lakh ha) in 1970-71 to 25.78 per cent (36.84 lakh ha) in 2010-11. The overall percentage change between 1970-71 and 2010-11 in number and area of semi medium farmers was 48.83 per cent and 41.15 per cent respectively.

### Medium Holdings

The percentage of number of medium farmers in total number declined from 12.7 per cent (6.90 lakhs) in 1970-71 to 3.02 per cent (3.97 lakhs) in 2010-11 and the percentage of area of holdings of medium farmers in total area declined from 35.2 per cent (47.90 lakh ha) in 1970-71 to 15.45 per cent (22.08 lakh ha) in 2010-11. The overall percentage change between 1970-71 and 2010-11 in number and area of medium farmers were declined by -42.46 per cent and -53.90 per cent respectively.

### Large Holdings

The percentage of number of large farmers in total number declined from 4.3 per cent (2.40 lakhs) in 1970-71 to 0.27 per cent (0.36 lakhs) in 2010-11 and the percentage of area under operational holding of large farmers in total area declined from 26.30 per cent (35.70 lakh ha) in 1970-71 to 3.87 per cent (5.52 lakh ha) in 2010-11. The overall percentage decline from

1970-71 to 2010-11 in number and area of large farmers was 85 per cent and 85.54 per cent respectively. The results were also depicted in Fig 1 and Fig 2 showing the per cent change in number of land holdings and per cent change in operational holdings for all the five categories of farmers, respectively.

Similar results were observed by Narasimha Reddy (2015) stating that the proportion of marginal and smallholdings, which was about 57 per cent in 1956, and less than two-thirds in 1970-71, increased to 86 per cent by 2010-11. During the same period, the share of the area under these holdings too increased substantially from slightly less than one-fifth to more than closer to almost half i.e., 55 per cent of the total operated area. The proportion of large holdings declined from about 9 per cent in 1956 to 4.3 per cent in 1970-71 to about one-quarter of a per cent i.e., 0.27 per cent by 2010-11, and the area operated under these holdings declined from 38.19 per cent in 1956 to 26.3 per cent in 1970-71 to 3.8 per cent. There has also been almost doubling of the number of semi-medium holdings (2-4 hectares) from 7.75 lakhs in 1956 to 13.99 lakhs in 2010-11, and the area too more than doubled under these holdings, from 16.69 lakh hectares to 36.84 lakh hectares.

### CONCLUSION

The overall scenario of distribution of operational landholdings in Andhra Pradesh revealed a gradual increase in area as well as number of marginal, small and semi-medium holdings over the study period whereas, the same for medium and large holdings declined over the study period. Thus there is a structural change in the size distribution of operational holdings in percentage terms and absolute terms in area and number of holdings. It can be concluded from the above results, that there is a positive trend seen in both the area as well as number of operational land holdings in Andhra Pradesh. The concentration of large operational lands has been decreasing and that of marginal and small are increasing, though is a positive note for decrease in the concentration of operational land holdings under a few heads, the marginal and small farmers are more prone to cash crisis and bankruptcy, and hence the government should take proper measures for their healthy survival.

### LITERATURE CITED

<http://www.gktoday.in/blog/agricultural-census/>  
**Narasimha Reddy 2015** *Farmers' Indebtedness and Agricultural Credit Situation in Andhra Pradesh*. Draft Working Paper. Council for Social Development, Hyderabad.