

Constraints of Rural Youth in Adopting Agriculture as an Occupation

Keywords: Constraints, Suggestions, Occupation, Rural youth.

Youth are the most potent segment of the population of a country. The youth of today are the hopes of tomorrow. They are the back bone of the country. The socio-economic development and prosperity of rural areas depends to a considerable extent, on the type of youth living in rural areas, because the rural youth have abilities to orient themselves to go along the main stream of the development process.

Youth are prone to desire and ready to carry out their desires into action. They have open minds and further they have advantage of education and better capacity of understanding new techniques and skills. The youth is thus the best medium of our community-life on the technological as well as human plane by carrying new ideas and messages to their families.

But from last few years, this is somewhat different. The wide spread illiteracy in rural areas, unemployment among the educated youth, lack of proper guidance, 'brain drain' of educated rural youth to urban areas are some of the major problems. It is disturbing to note that youth are losing interest and confidence in agriculture and allied activities; hence, they are not willingly involved in agricultural operations. In spite of excellent and tremendous development in the field of agriculture science and technology only a few have been adopted. In addition, land fragmentation resulting in increase in number of marginal and small holdings and low returns from the sector also play a critical role in formation of negative attitude towards agriculture among rural youth.

Savitha (2011) in her study on participation and decision making of rural youth in agriculture reported that among rural youth male, 81.67 per cent of them expressed lack of awareness (about latest technology, varieties etc.) as their major problem, followed by lack of improved equipments (40.00%) and lack of training to do specific activity (35.00%). With regard to rural female youth, 48.33 per cent expressed lack of awareness, and 35.00 per cent expressed health problem.

Angaitkar *et al.* (2013) in his study found that majority of youth's (86.66%) had problem of lower price of farm produce, 82.50 per cent youth had

problem of lack of irrigation water for cultivation, 75.83 per cent youth's had problem of lack of hybrid seeds for sowing, 70.00 per cent had problem of lack of training about improved farm technology, 61.66 per cent faced problem like transportation and 60.83 per cent faced problem of lack of labor for farm operation and 55.83 per cent had problem of lack of availability of pure seeds and fertilizers.

The investigation therefore, is an attempt to determine the constraints faced by rural youth in adopting agriculture as an occupation and their suggestions to overcome such constraints.

The present investigation was carried out in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh. Three mandals were selected purposively; four villages from each mandal were also selected by purposive sampling, making a total of twelve villages. 120 rural youth were selected by proportionate sampling for the study.

For ascertaining the constraints, rural youth were asked open ended question to state the difficulties faced by them in adopting agriculture as an occupation. The suggestions offered to overcome constraints were ranked on the basis of frequency and percentage of rural youth who reported respective suggestions.

The constraints faced by rural youth in adopting agriculture as occupation in percentage rank order of their decreasing importance as detailed below:

High cost of cultivation (81.66% - 1st rank) was the foremost constraint followed by inadequate availability of labour (70.83% - 2nd rank), Low returns (68.33% - 3rd rank), Pests and diseases problem (65.00% - 4th rank), Inadequate power supply (61.66% - 5th rank), Inadequate and untimely supply of fertilizers (56.66% - 6th rank), Lack of remunerative prices (54.16% - 7th rank), Inadequate irrigation facilities (48.30% - 8th rank), Inadequate training programmes (38.30% - 9th rank), Under employment (35.00% - 10th rank), Inadequate and untimely supply of seed (31.66% - 11th rank), Lack of proper guidance (29.16% - 12th rank), Destruction of crops by wild Boars (20.00% - 13th rank) and Inadequate technical know how of chemicals (18.33% - 14th rank).

Constraints of the Rural youth in adopting agriculture as occupation**(n=120)**

S. No	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Inadequate irrigation facilities	58	48.3	8
2	Inadequate availability of labour	85	70.83	2
3	Inadequate power supply	74	61.66	5
4	Destruction of crops by wild Boars	24	20.00	13
5	Low returns	82	68.33	3
6	High cost of cultivation	98	81.66	1
7	Inadequate training programmes	46	38.33	9
8	Inadequate and untimely supply of fertilizers	68	56.66	6
9	Inadequate technical know how of chemicals	22	18.33	14
10	Under employment	42	35.00	10
11	Pests and diseases problem	78	65.00	4
12	Lack of remunerative prices	65	54.16	7
13	Inadequate and untimely supply of seed	38	31.66	11
14	Lack of proper guidance	35	29.16	12

Suggestions elicited to overcome constraints in adopting agriculture as an occupation

Considering the constraints faced by the rural youth and to overcome the same in adoption of Agriculture as an occupation successfully, they were asked to give their valuable suggestions. The suggestions given by the rural youth were identified and ranked based on frequency and percentage.

An eye bird view of Table, clearly revealed that Adequate and timely supply of fertilizers (65.00% - 1st rank) was foremost one followed by Timely

financial support (60.83% - 2nd rank), Supply of pheromone traps (55.83% - 3rd rank), Regular supply of power (51.66%- 4th rank), Supply of NSKE (50% - 5th rank), Timely information on latest technologies (45.83% - 6th rank), Adequate and timely supply of quality seed (40.83% - 7th rank), Adequate and timely release of water for irrigation (40.00% - 8th rank), Conduct training programmes (37.50% - 9th rank), Awareness programmes on agriculture to youth (35.00% - 10th rank).

Suggestions elicited to overcome constraints in adopting agriculture as an occupation**(n=120)**

S. No	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Regular supply of power	62	51.66	4
2	Adequate and timely release of water for irrigation	48	40.00	8
3	Conduct of training programmes	45	37.50	9
4	Adequate and timely supply of fertilizers	78	65.00	1
5	Timely information on latest technologies	55	45.83	6
6	Timely financial support	73	60.83	2
7	Supply of pheromone traps	67	55.83	3
8	Awareness programmes on agriculture to youth	42	35.00	10
9	Supply of NSKE	60	50.00	5
10	Adequate and timely supply of quality seed	49	40.83	7

The findings of the study clearly indicated that High cost of cultivation, inadequate availability of labour, Low returns were major constraints faced by rural youth in adopting agriculture as an occupation. Adequate and timely supply of fertilizers, Timely financial support, Supply of Pheromone traps were major suggestions given by rural youth.

Keeping in view of the above, efforts should be made for the arrangements of required resources, agricultural inputs, organization of trainings and awareness programmes by extension agencies, policy makers and administrators.

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