

Levels of Alienation of Cotton Growers in Distress Areas: A Micro Study in Guntur and Warangal Districts of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The Ministry of Agriculture & Co-operation, Govt. of India reported that 11782 farmers have committed suicides in the country during last five years. Most of these suicides have been reported from cotton growing areas of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab and other states. In this context, an attempt has been made in this study to look at the alienation of cotton growers. The study was conducted in Guntur and Warangal districts of AP considered as major cotton growing areas during 2007. The alienation was measured on four variables i.e., powerlessness, meaninglessness, isolation and self estrangement. The findings reveal that majority of the respondents are moderate to high in economic and socio-political powerlessness issues. An equal percentage of the respondents are in agreement with the statement that cotton farming is trapped in vicious circle of drought and rain. Majority agreed that isolation is felt due to engagement of each one with their own commitments and can not spend time with friends, relatives and family members. Regarding majority of the statements that reflect self-estrangement respondents are under undecided stage. This might be due to confused stage of cotton farmers because of earlier sufferings of cotton and last few years cotton is fetching good returns. Great majority (about 80 per cent) of the respondents had medium alienation followed by high (about 20 per cent) alienation. Same trend was observed among both the categories i.e., up to 2 ha and more than 2 ha refelecting that farm size does not have influence on alienation.

Key words : Alienation, Cotton, Growers.