

Effect of Alternative Sources of Employment on Availability of Agriculture Labour in Paddy Growing Areas of Coastal Andhra Pradesh - A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

It is observed that there has been a drastic change in labour availability pattern in low lying paddy growing areas. The present study is made to explore the pattern of availability of labour for paddy cultivation and reasons for the change. Farmers are facing shortage of agriculture labour availability for transplanting, weeding, pesticide and fertilizer application, harvesting, threshing and winnowing activities. Lack of willingness to work as agriculture labour, migration of agriculture labour to nearby urban areas and other government employment generation schemes are perceived as top three reasons for non availability of agriculture labour. Non agriculture unskilled labour are comparatively better educated than agriculture labour. The demand for the agriculture labour during peak season is resulting in migration of agriculture labour from other areas. Due to limited income it is observed that few tenant farmers, marginal and small farmers are also working as agriculture labour on other farms, similarly few small and marginal farmers are leasing out their land and are attending to other alternative source of employment. Non agriculture unskilled labour are more satisfied with working environment and wages, than agriculture labour.

Key words : Agriculture employment, Agriculture labour, Paddy cultivation, Rural Employment .