

Constraints in the oil palm economy of Andhra Pradesh: a multi-actor analysis using garrett ranking

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ABSTRACT

This study analyses the constraints faced by different stakeholders in the oil palm value chain in Andhra Pradesh, with emphasis on farmers' institutional affiliation and downstream market actors. Primary data were collected from 402 oil palm farmers (268 non-FPO and 134 FPO farmers) across five coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, along with collection centres, mills, wholesalers, and retailers. Garrett's ranking technique was employed to prioritise perceived constraints. Results indicate that non-FPO farmers are primarily constrained by informational and behavioural factors, including lack of awareness about FPOs, weak extension services, high input costs, and delayed payments. FPO farmers experience relatively better access to technical support but remain constrained by poor road connectivity, market concentration, and payment delays, suggesting limited influence of FPOs over structural bottlenecks. Collection centres face irregular supply and quality issues, while mills are most affected by price volatility and labour shortages. Wholesalers and retailers report handling inefficiencies, delayed payments, low margins, and shifting consumer preferences. Overall, the findings highlight that institutional affiliation improves internal support but does not resolve broader infrastructural and market-level constraints.

Keywords: *Constraints, Garrett Ranking, Market functionaries, Oil Palm and Problems*