

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE MEMBERS OF PARTICIPATORY IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

Present study was conducted in Anand district of Gujarat state where functioning of PIMS is more effective. The result revealed that the most important economic, administrative, technical and personal problems faced by the members of PIMS were lack of financial provision at the time of payment of irrigation charge, at night time trace-passer damaged canal / field channel / water course, deterioration of soil condition due to continuum and over irrigation and it is difficult to schedule irrigation when it arranged at night time.

INTRODUCTION

Irrigation as the main catalyst of agricultural development in India accounts for the largest share in total investment in the agricultural sector, Gujarat state has a relatively lower share in the overall availability of water in India. In Gujarat, only 23 per cent of the total cultivable land of the state is under irrigation. Even with the fullest exploitation of the Sardar Sarovar Project, about 52 per cent of the state agriculture will be dependent on the mercy of monsoon, particularly erratic, inadequate and uncertain rainfall. On the basis successive, experience of Rotational Water Delivery System (RWDS), the concept of participatory irrigation management was accepted. Though participatory irrigation management is an accepted concept but operationalisation of this concept in a systematic manner has been a major weakness. Therefore the investigators felt necessary to find out the problems faced by the members of Participatory Irrigation Management Society (PIMS) and also to collect the suggestions to overcome their problems.

METHODOLOGY

Anand district has taken a lead for adopting the RWDS of canal irrigation in the state. Anand

district is composed of eight talukas, among these talukas, Ankla and Borsad talukas were selected purposively for the study as irrigation water is distributed from the same minor of Mahi-Kadana Irrigation Project. Among the various PIMS working in the both talukas, Sardar Patel Krushi Vikas Ane Piyat Sahakari Mandali (SPKVPSM), Bhetasi of Ankla taluka and Akshar Piyat Ane Krushi Vikas Sahakari Mandali (APKVSM), Bochasan of Borsad taluka were selected purposively which was started in the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively. For the study. Fifty members from each PIMS were selected randomly making total sample size of 100 respondents. Interview schedule was prepared in light of the objective to collect data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problem in this study was operationalised as the items of difficulties faced by the members of PIMS in efficient use of canal irrigation water. During the course of the present investigation, the respondents expressed many constraints which were grouped into four categories viz., (i) economic, (ii) administrative, (iii) technical and (iv) personal problems. All the problems were ranked on the basis of mean scores. The responses of

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the respondents with regard to the problems are presented in Table 1 to 4.

1 Economic problems

The data in Table 1 showed the economic problems faced by the members of PIMS in descending order of rank were lack of financial provision at

the time of payment of irrigation charge (rank-I), PIMS did not help for obtaining credit from the any financial organization (rank-II), masonary work / maintenance / repairing of canal / field channel were costly (rank-III), higher irrigation charge recovered by PIMS (rank-IV).

Table 1: Economic problems faced by the members of PIMS

n=100

| Sr. No. | Problems | Mean Score | Rank |
|---------|--|------------|------|
| 1 | Lack of financial provision at the time of payment of irrigation charge | 2.75 | I |
| 2 | PIMS did not help for obtaining credit from any financial organization | 1.64 | II |
| 3 | Masonary work / maintenance / repairing of canal / field channel were costly | 1.50 | III |
| 4 | Higher irrigation charge recovered by PIMS | 1.06 | IV |

2 Administrative problems

Looking to the data given in Table 2 indicates the administrative problems in descending order of rank were at night time trace-passer damaged canal, field channel, water course (rank-I), inadequate canal water supply for irrigation to the tail-enders (rank-II), irregular supply of canal water for irrigation (rank-III), problem of water course from outlet to field (rank-IV), less coverage of irrigation area compared to irrigation efficiency of PIMS (rank-V), problem of cleanliness of channel and water course (rank-VI), inability to provide irrigation water by the PIMS at critical stage or dry spell of rain (rank-VII), problem of some dominant farmers in distribution of irrigation water (rank-VIII), problem of distribution of annual report in general body meeting (rank-IX), improper maintenance and repairing of channel and water course (rank-X), improper implementation of time schedule for irrigation (rank-XI), inadequate supply of canal water for irrigation (rank-XII), farmers those who were nearer to outlet using more irrigation water (rank-XIII), time schedule for irrigation was not prepared (rank-XIV), annual general body meeting was not held/called scheduled regularly (rank-XV), election of management committed PIMS was not carried out timely (rank-XVI), each caste was not given opportunity for representative in management committee (rank-XVII), female

members were not involved in management committee (rank-XVIII), lack of co-ordination and co-operation between PIMS personnel and members (rank-XIX), lack of co-ordination and co-operation among the members of PIMS

(rank-XVIII), harassment for the payment of irrigation charge (rank-XXI), adequate motivational efforts were not employed for increasing the members of PIMS (rank-XXII) and period for paying irrigation charge was not informed well in advance by the PIMS personnel (rank-XXIII).

3 Technical problems

A perusal of data presented in Table 3 indicates the technical problems in descending order or rank were deterioration of soil condition due to continuous and over irrigation (rank-I), problem of high intensity of weed (rank-II), literature pertaining to modern agricultural technology and water management practices was not provided by PIMS (rank-III), training programmes pertaining to agricultural technology and water management practices were not arranged by PIMS (rank-IV), educational tour field trips were not arranged by PIMS (rank-V), technical information was not available at PIMS office (rank-VI) and PIMS personnel were not technically well equipped (rank-VII).

Table 2 : Administrative problems faced by the members of PIMS

n=100

| Sr. No. | Problems | Mean Score | Rank |
|---------|--|------------|-------|
| 1 | At night time trace-passer damaged canal / field channel / water course | 2.03 | I |
| 2 | Inadequate canal water supply for irrigation to the tail-enders | 1.67 | II |
| 3 | Irregular supply of canal water for irrigation | 1.62 | III |
| 4 | Problem of water course from outlet to field. | 1.61 | IV |
| 5 | Less coverage of irrigation area compared to irrigation efficiency of PIMS. | 1.60 | V |
| 6 | Problem of cleanliness of channel and water course | 1.58 | VI |
| 7 | Inability to provide irrigation water by the PIMS at critical stage or dry spell of rain | 1.57 | VII |
| 8 | Problem of some dominant farmers in distribution of irrigation water | 1.56 | VIII |
| 9 | Problem of distribution of annual report in general body meeting | 1.55 | IX |
| 10 | Improper maintenance and repairing of chennal and water course | 1.54 | X |
| 11 | Improper implementation of time schedule for irrigation | 1.49 | XI |
| 12 | Inadequate supply of canal water for irrigation | 1.46 | XII |
| 13 | Farmers those who were nearer to outlet using more irrigation water | 1.44 | XIII |
| 14 | Time schedule for irrigation was not prepared | 1.43 | XIV |
| 15 | Annual general body meeting was not called regularly | 1.42 | XV |
| 16 | Election of management committed PIMS was not carried out timely | 1.41 | XVI |
| 17 | Each caste was not given opportunity for representative in management committee | 1.39 | XVII |
| 18 | Female members were not involved in management committee | 1.35 | XVIII |
| 19 | Lack of co-ordination and co-operation between PIMS personnel and members | 1.33 | XIX |
| 20 | Lack of co-ordination and co-operation among the members of PIMS | 1.30 | XX |
| 21 | Harassment for the payment of irrigation charge | 1.28 | XXI |
| 22 | Adequate motivational efforts were not employed for increasing the members of PIMS | 1.20 | XXII |
| 23 | Period for paying irrigation charge was not informed well in advance by the PIMS personnel | 1.16 | XXIII |

Table 3 : Technical problems faced by the members of PIMS

n=100

| Sr. No. | Problems | Mean Score | Rank |
|---------|--|------------|------|
| 1 | Deterioration of soil condition due to continuous and over irrigation | 2.20 | I |
| 2 | Problem of high intensity of weed | 2.09 | II |
| 3 | Literature pertaining to modern agricultural technology and water management practices was not provided by PIMS | 1.91 | III |
| 4 | Training programmes pertaining to agricultural technology and water management practices were not arranged by PIMS | 1.80 | IV |
| 5 | Educational tour/field trips were not arranged by PIMS | 1.77 | V |
| 6 | Technical information was not available at PIMS office | 1.50 | VI |
| 7 | PIMS personnel was not technically well equipped | 1.46 | VII |

4 Personal problems

As evident from Table 4 that members of PIMS have suggested the personal problems in descending order or rank were arrangement of time for

irrigation was difficult when it arranged at night time (rank-I), non-availability of labour at night time for irrigation (rank-II) and members were not followed the time schedule of irrigation properly (rank-III).

Table 4: Personal problems faced by the members of PIMS

n=100

| Sr. No. | Problems | Mean Score | Rank |
|---------|---|------------|------|
| 1 | Arrangement of time for irrigation was difficult when it arranged at night time | 2.09 | I |
| 2 | Non-availability of labour at night time for irrigation | 2.08 | II |
| 3 | Members were not followed the time schedule of irrigation properly | 1.48 | III |

In general, the aforesaid discussion leads to conclude that the most important economic problems faced by the members of PIMS were lack of financial provision at the time of payment of irrigation charge. The major administrative problems faced by the members of PIMS were at night time trace-passer damage canal / field channel / water course The important technical constraints being faced by the respondents was deterioration of soil condition due to continuous and over irrigation, and the major personal problems was it is difficult when it scheduling of irrigation at night time .These findings go to corroborate the observations of Bhatt (1990), Gaikwad and Ingle (1992).

CONCLUSIONS

The most important problems faced by the members of PIMS were : Lack of financial provision at the time of payment of irrigation charge, At

night time trace-passer damaged canal / field channel / water course, Deterioration of soil condition due to continuous and over irrigation, Problem of high intensity of weed, Arrangement of time for irrigation was difficult when it arranged at night time and Non-availability of labour at night time for irrigation

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