

Constraints Faced by Rural Youth in Adopting Agriculture as an Occupation

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ABSTRACT

Rural youth are the most important segment of the country like India where agriculture is the back bone of national economy. But, rural youth now a days, have been losing their interest in agriculture. Instead of being self employed in agriculture and allied activities, they are now turning to be "Job seekers". The constraints faced by rural youth in adopting agriculture as an occupation in the research area have been analyzed through personal survey. The major constraints which hinder in adopting agriculture as an occupation were: high rate of farming input and seed (92.00 per cent), less availability of laborers for performing farm operations (87.00 per cent), etc. In order to overcome the constraints, it is suggested that price of seed should be minimized (93.00 per cent), low labor consuming technology should be developed (86.00 per cent) and chemical fertilizer should be made available in time (82.00 per cent).

Keywords: Constraints, Suggestion, Occupation, Rural youth

INTRODUCTION

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. Since youth are recognized as effective "change agents", they can help in the process of dissemination and adoption of modern techniques of agriculture. If the talents and abilities of rural youth are properly nurtured and systematically guided, agriculture which is the backbone of national economy can attain sustained growth and bring prosperity to the country.

They participate in most of the agricultural operations like ploughing, harrowing, sowing, transplanting, weeding, harvesting, post harvesting activities and so on. Rural youth participate in marketing where the trade or enterprise is highly/largely commercialized. Rural youth play a key role in performing various tasks related to dairy and animal husbandry enterprise like maintenance of cattle/ goat shed feeding of animal/goats, collection of fodder for animals etc. As per one estimate, more than 380 million youth, "India's best resource", will be unable to find job by

the year 2016 (Anonymous 2009b), and their potentialities will be wasted through unemployment, underemployment and disgust. So there is a huge scope to use potential of rural youth in agriculture to achieve our target of food production.

But now-a-day, the picture 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.

Shivalingaih *et al.* (1996) conducted study on farming problems of rural youth and reported that a vast majority of small and big farm youth expressed high cost of fertilizers and chemicals, lack of subsidies, high cost of production and lack of credit facilities as their major problems. Phalke and Shaikh (2000) revealed that as opined by all rural unemployed youth, their unemployment was due to lack of irrigation facility, whereas 91.20 per cent of the

respondents faced a difficulty in meeting family needs. Nath and Bhattacharya (2004) found that more than four-fifth of the respondents had problem of lack of irrigation facility, lack of technical guidance and lack of reliable information sources.

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.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was carried out in Anand district of Gujarat State. A large number of development projects, State Agriculture Department, non-government organizations, cooperative organizations, Krushi Vigyan Kendra and Anand Agricultural University are in operation for development of farmers' community in this district. Using multi-stage random sampling techniques, the study was purposively in Tarapur and Khambhat talukas of Anand district. From each selected taluka, five villages and from each selected village, ten rural youth were randomly selected making the sample size of 100 respondents, which are shown in the following Table 1.

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

Table 2: Constraints faced by rural youths in adopting agriculture as an occupation

n=100

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Percent	Rank
1	High rate of farming input and seed	92	92.00	I
2	Less availability of laborers for performing farm operations	87	87.00	II
3	Unavailability of chemical fertilizers in time	83	83.00	III
4	Low price of produce in APMC	79	79.00	IV
5	Fluctuations in market rate	75	75.00	V
6	Irregular supply of electric power	73	73.00	VI
7	High cost of irrigation on rent base	34	34.00	X
8	Lack of own tube well	39	39.00	IX
9	High cost of transportation	61	61.00	VIII
10	Unavailability of guarantor against loan	65	65.00	VII

As seen from the Table 2 the major important constraints faced by the rural youth in adopting agriculture as an occupation were: high rate of farming input and seed (92.00 per cent), less availability of laborers for performing farm operations (87.00 per cent), unavailability of chemical fertilizers in time (83.00 per cent), low price of produces in APMC (79.00 per cent), fluctuations in market rate (75.00 per cent) and irregular supply of electric power (73.00 per cent).

suggestions offered to overcome constraints were ranked on the basis of number and percentage of respondents who reported respective suggestions.

Table 1: Selected villages from selected talukas in Anand district

n=100

Name of taluka	Name of village	No. of respondents
Tarapur	Dugari	10
	Moraj	10
	Padra	10
	Adruj	10
	Bhanderaj	10
Khambhat	Gudel	10
	Haripura	10
	Paladi	10
	Motipura	10
	Vatra	10

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by rural youths in adopting agriculture as an occupation

Constraints mean the difficulties or restraints faced by rural youth in the way of adopting agriculture as an occupation. If such constraints are identifies, corrective measures can be taken up. The data in this regard are presented in Table 2.

Some other constraints were: non availability of guarantor against loan (65.00 per cent), high cost of transportation (61.00 per cent), lack of own tube well (39.00 per cent) and high cost of irrigation on rent base (34.00 per cent).

Suggestions made by rural youth to overcome the constraints faced by them

Considering the constraints faced by the respondents

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 collected, summarized and presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Suggestions given by rural youth to overcome the constraints

n=100

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Number	Percent	Rank
1	Price of seed should be minimized	93	93.00	I
2	Low labor consuming technology should be developed	86	86.00	II
3	Chemical fertilizer should be made available in time	82	82.00	III
4	Rate of produce should be regulated	76	76.00	V
5	Proper marketing facilities should be established	78	78.00	IV
6	Irrigation water supply should be regulated	37	37.00	IX
7	Procedure to avail loan should be made easy	64	64.00	VIII
8	Middle man commission should be avoided	67	67.00	VII
9	Sufficient electric power should be provided regularly	71	71.00	VI

An attempt was also made to ascertain suggestions from the rural youth to overcome various constraints faced by them in adopting agriculture as an occupation. The rural youth were requested to offer their valuable suggestions against difficulties faced by them in adopting agriculture as an occupation.

The major suggestions as endorsed by the rural youth to overcome their constraints in adopting agriculture as an occupation were: price of seed should be minimized (93.00 per cent), low labor consuming technology should be developed (86.00 per cent), chemical fertilizer should be made available in time (82.00 per cent) and proper marketing facility should be established (78.00 per cent). Some other suggestions were: sufficient electric power should be provided regularly (71.00 per cent), middle man commission should be avoided (67.00 per cent), procedure of loan should be made easy (64.00 per cent) and irrigation water supply should be regulated (37.00 per cent). The result is similar to finding of Sajjan (2006).

CONCLUSION:

The findings of the study clearly indicated that high rate of farming input and seed, less availability of laborers for performing farm operations and unavailability of chemical fertilizers in time were major constraints faced by rural youth in adopting agriculture as an occupation. Price of seed should be minimized, low labor consuming technology should be developed and chemical fertilizers should be made available in time were major suggestions given by the rural youth.

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