

## **CONSTRAINTS FACED BY MIXED FARM BUSINESS OWNERS IN SOUTH GUJARAT**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Farming in India is facing severe problems like floods, unseasonal heavy rains, cyclones and droughts. Most of the areas in our country suffer from different kinds of problems almost every year. As such, agriculture is becoming speculative. Under these conditions, mixed farming is the option that help provide an assured and continuous source of income.

South Gujarat consists mainly tribal people. Their major mixed farming system is crop enterprise and livestock enterprise. They get income and employment opportunities through such mixed farming. Therefore, for the development and progress of tribal people, a need was felt to know the constraints faced by these tribal people in farming.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present study was conducted in South Gujarat. All the six districts of South Gujarat namely Bharuch, Narmada, Surat, Valsad, Navsari and Dangs were included in the present study. These districts are located mainly in three parts of South Gujarat. Viz, upper, middle and lower parts. Bharuch and Narmada districts are in the upper part of South Gujarat. Surat district is in the middle part of South Gujarat and Valsad, Navsari and Dangs districts are located in the lower part of South Gujarat.

These districts have tribal people in all talukas. The highly tribal populated talukas were selected from these districts. Three

villages from each talukas were purposively selected on the basis of concentration of tribal population. From each village 10 respondents were randomly selected. Thus, total 180 respondents were selected for the study. The data were collected from the respondents through well structured pretested interview schedule for the purpose.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The major constraints in crop and livestock enterprise experienced by farmers were noted. The responses were compiled and percentage were calculated. The data in this regard are presented in Table 1 and Table 2.

The data presented in Table 1 reveal that in crop enterprise, major problems of farmers of upper, middle and lower part of South Gujarat was 'inadequate irrigation facilities'. Second ranked problem for middle and lower part was 'inadequate supply of electricity', while for the upper part it was 'costly inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides)'. Third ranked problem of upper part was 'inadequate supply of electricity'; where as for middle part it was 'costly inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides)' and for lower part it was 'costly labour'.

Fourth ranked problem of upper part was 'lack of capital'; where as for middle part it was 'costly labour' and for the lower part it was 'costly inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides)'.

The data presented in Table 2 reveal that in

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livestock enterprise, major problem of the farmers of upper part of South Gujarat was 'costly cattle feed'; where as for farmers of middle part it was 'irregular visit of veterinary doctors' and for lower part it was 'lack of veterinary hospital in villages'. Second ranked problem of farmers of upper part and lower part was 'irregular visit of veterinary doctors' while it was 'costly commercial cattle feed' for the middle part. The third ranked problem of farmers of upper and middle part of South Gujarat was 'lack of veterinary hospital in villages' followed by 'shortage of green fodder', 'lack of training' and 'lack of capital'.

The findings are in line with the results reported by Dube *et. al.* (1989) and Sheela and Sundaraswamy (1994).

The suggestions offered by the farmers of the three parts to resolve the problems in crop enterprise are by and large the same. Their ranking, however, differed greatly from part to part of South Gujarat. The

suggestions offered are as follow :

1. By promoting large scale use of pump sets, the problem of irrigation can be solved to a great extent.
2. There should be adequate and regular supply of canal water.
3. Inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides should be made available at subsidised rate.
4. There should be regular and adequate supply of electricity.
5. There should be provision of adequate loan on easy terms either through co-operatives or nationalized banks.
6. In view of acute labour problem and intensive cultivation, efforts should be made to promote use of herbicides.
7. Maximum utilization of family labour should be made to reduce prohibitive investment on hired labour.

**Table 1: Ranking of problems faced by farmers of South Gujarat in crop enterprises**

Sr. No.	Problems in Crop enterprises	Ranking of Problems		
		Upper part	Middle part	Lower part
1.	Inadequate irrigation facilities	I (70.68)	I (64.40)	1 (78.90)
2.	Reduction of crop yield due to weeds	VI (45.10)	V (50.00)	V (46.80)
3.	Inadequate supply of electricity	III (57.90)	II (60.00)	II (59.00)
4.	Costly labour	V (50.40)	IV (55.0)	IV (55.40)
5.	Costly inputs (Seeds, fertilizers and pesticides)	II (61.40)	III (57.80)	IV (50.00)
6.	Lack of capital	IV (56.00)	VI (43.90)	VI (40.00)

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of farmers in a particular part of South Gujarat facing the problem)

**Table 2 : Ranking of problems faced by farmers of South Gujarat in livestock enterprises**

Sr. No.	Problems in Crop enterprises	Ranking of Problems		
		Upper part	Middle part	Lower part
I.	Shortage of green fodder	IV(50.48)	IV(45.00)	IV (53.00)
2.	Costly cattle feed	I (85.60)	II(68.90)	III (66.00)
3.	Lack of capital	VI (30.00)	VI (35.00)	VI (38.00)
4.	Lack of Veterinary hospital in villages	111 (60.00)	III (62.00)	I (87.40)
5.	Irregular visit of doctors to different villages	II (70.48)	I (80.20)	11 (75.00)
6.	Lack of training	V (46.70)	V (42.65)	V (48.30)

(Figures in parentheses indicate the percentage of farmers in a particular part of South Gujarat facing the problem)

The suggestions offered by the farmers of the three parts to resolve the problems in livestock enterprise like that of crop enterprise, are by and large, the same. Their ranking, however, differed greatly from part to part of South Gujarat. The suggestions offered are as follows :

1. Animal feed should be made available at subsidized rates through co-operatives.
2. Existing natural pasture and community or wasteland should be improved with farmer's participation. Some area should be allotted to livestock owner for the cultivation of green fodders.
3. Village should be provided with better animal health and artificial insemination facilities.
4. Fodder crops should be included in cropping patterns to ensure the availability of green fodder through out the year.
5. Veterinary department and other agencies should give proper training.
6. There should be provision of adequate loan on easy terms for the development of livestock enterprise.

## CONCLUSION

The major constraints faced by mixed farm business owners in South Gujarat, in crop enterprise were 'inadequate irrigation facilities', 'inadequate supply of electricity', 'irregular visit of doctors to different villages', 'costly cattle feed' and 'lack of veterinary hospital in villages'.

The most important suggestions offered by the farmers were 'promotion of large scale use of pump sets' that can solve the problems of irrigation to great extent. There should be 'adequate and regular supply of canal water and electricity'; 'animal feed should be made available at subsidies rates' through co-operatives and existing natural pasture and community or waste land should be improved with farmer's participation and some area should be allotted to live-stock owners for the cultivation of green fodder.

## REFERENCE

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- Sheela, B. and Sundaraswamy, B. 1994. Problems of dairy practicing women. *Maharashtra. J. Ext. Edu.*, XIII : 295-296.