

**AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT SCHEMES ON
FARMERS OF MADHYA PRADESH AND EMERGING CHALLENGES IN
AGRICULTURE SECTOR WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO UJJAIN AND BHOPAL DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the dominant sector in the Indian economy as it employs more than 50% of the population and accounts for 18% of India's GDP (Business and economics journal). It comes under the priority sector of the government and huge funds have been allocated to this sector, but then also the current situation is not up to the mark. The data showed that on an average three farmers committed suicide per day in 2017 in Madhya Pradesh.(www.hindustantimes.com). This is a heartbreaking fact. Despite the allocation of huge funds, the farmer suicides are not declining. This study is concerned with the level of awareness among farmers about different schemes benefitting them, the impact of government schemes on farmer's income and challenges faced by the farmers. This research also tried to find out the reason for non availment of schemes by farmers. Primary data have been collected for conducting this research from farmers via. Questionnaire in Ujjain and Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh. The data was also collected from the Department of farmer welfare and agriculture development Bhopal.. The findings indicate that there are low levels of awareness about the schemes among the farmers and those farmers who are taking benefits of government schemes have higher income as compared to those who are unaware. The government should try to make them more aware through camps and cooperative societies about the schemes because these schemes are for the betterment of farmers and would help them in their bad times.

KEYWORDS: *Farmers, Agriculture, Indian Economy, Awareness, Schemes, Challenges.*

Introduction

Agriculture is one of the dominant sectors of Indian economy. It employs more than 50% of the total population and accounts for 18% of India's GDP (Business and economics journal). It comes under the priority sector of government. Central government allocated 57600 crore and state government allocated 9260 crore to agriculture in 2018-19(www.PRSindia.org). Despite having huge budget, 2nd highest agricultural average growth rate i.e. 9.4% (www.livemint.com), highest producer of oil seeds and 2nd highest producer of total food grain in India (pocket book of agricultural statistics 2017) Average monthly income of agriculture household in Madhya Pradesh is 6210 rupees which is less than the national average of 6426 rupees (www.livemint.com). Why income is not rising despite having high agricultural growth rate ? Three farmers committed suicide everyday in Madhya Pradesh in 2017 i.e. 1290(www.hindustantimes.com). This is a heartbreaking fact. This paper quickly reviews the awareness among the farmers about different schemes ruined by the government and how many farmers are availing the benefit from schemes. This paper is an attempt to study the ground reality and challenges faced by farmers in Ujjain and Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh.

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Review of Literature

These are some research papers and reports which we have reviewed in our study.

Research Papers

S. No	Year of Study	Topic of study	Authors	Objectives	Results/Conclusion
1.	2017	Awareness on agricultural insurance schemes in southern Haryana.	Dr. Manjeet Singh Rashmi Singh Jyoti Mishra	To find out the general awareness about agriculture insurance schemes.	Majority of farmers perceived low awareness level.
2.	2016	Agricultural policies in Oyun local government area of kwara state and its impact on the farmers.	Afolabi yusufademola	Impact of agriculture policy in Oyun local government area on the farmers.	Awareness and implementation of these policies do not adequately descend to the rural farmers.
3.	2018	Agricultural Distress and Farmers' Unrest in Madhya Pradesh – An Exploratory Study.	Dr. Anitha Govindaraj	To capture underlying causes and triggers for the farmers unrest in the Districts.	It was widely stated that the farmers were in distress, as they did not get fair price for their produce. in the protests were only due to agricultural distress and the role of several other local factors not related to agriculture cannot be ruled out.

Research Reports

- Compendium of missions / schemes 2018.

Objectives of the Study

- To study about agricultural status and socio economic condition of farmers in Madhya Pradesh.
- To determine the awareness level among the farmers about different schemes of central and state government.
- To identify the reason for non availment of schemes by farmers.
- To know the challenges faced by the farmers regarding low productivity in Ujjain and Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh.

Significance of Study

This research is important from the point of view of farmers/government. We all know that farmers are backbone of the country and their average monthly income is low because they are not aware about modern agriculture and the schemes of government from which they can take benefit and there are various other reasons. As this study will contribute to the development of agriculture which will lead to the development of nation. This research can be taken into consideration by the government for benefitting the farmers.

Research Methodology

The sample size for the study is 150 farmers residing in Ujjain and Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh. A pilot testing of questionnaire was done and reliability was also examined using Cronbach's Alfa. Data was collected through questionnaire. One field investigator was appointed and it was trained. It was asked to be present at the time of filling of questionnaire. Monitoring of investigator was done asking for live location and posting of photos with respondents. The data was also collected from the Department of farmer welfare and agriculture development Bhopal.

Table 1: Information Regarding the Sample

S. No.	Name of District	Tehsil	No. of Farmers
1.	Bhopal	Huzur	50
2.	Ujjain	Mahidpur/Tarana/Nagda/ khachrod/Ghatiya	100

Limitation of the Study

This study has been carried out only in Ujjain and Bhopal district of Madhya Pradesh. So, limited geographical area is covered under this study. Doing this research with large sample size might have generated more accurate results. The data pertaining to research is from 2012-13 to 2018-19. In this study we have discussed about very few challenges faced by farmers but there are lots of problems left for further studies.

Data Analysis and Findings

Analysis 1

To study about agricultural status and socio economic condition of farmers in Madhya Pradesh.

Agriculture sector in Madhya Pradesh forms the backbone of its economy. It contributes almost one-fourth of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) and is the main source of employment for over 65 percent of the population and constitutes about 60- 75 percent of the rural income. The state is a large producer of soybean and wheat.

Position of Madhya Pradesh in All India crop production

Table 2: Position of MP in all India Crop Production

S. No.	List of Crops	State Production in Million Tons.	%of share of All India Production	Rank
1.	Total Food grains	33	12	2
2.	Total Pulses	6.3	27.2	1
3.	Total Oil seeds	8.7	27	1

Source: Economic Survey, 2017-18

According to the table mentioned above, M.P. is ranked 2nd by having a 12% share of all India production in total food grains. It is ranked 1st by having a 27.2% share of India's produce in total pulses. It is also ranked 1st in production of oil seeds by having produced 27%.

Sources of Irrigation in Madhya Pradesh

Table 3: Sources of irrigation in MP

S. No.	Source	Area (in lakh hectare)		
		Government	Private	Total
1.	Canal	19.15	0	19.15
2.	Pond	2.93	0.05	2.98
3.	Well/Tube well	1.38	70.30	71.69
4.	Other	0	12.88	12.88
Total		23.46	83.23	106.7

Department of farmer welfare and agriculture development

The above table depicts the sources of irrigation in M.P. Irrigation from government based canals covers a total area of 19.15 lakh hectare. Irrigation from ponds covers a total area of 2.98 lakh hectare of which 2.93 is government based and 0.05 is private based. Wells and tube wells constitute a total of 71.69 lakh hectare of which 1.38 is government based and 70.30 is private based. Others contribute to 12.88 which is solely private based. While the total government based irrigation is 23.46 lakh hectare and 83.23 is private based.

Table 4: Number of Farmers on the basis of Agricultural Land Holding in MP

Category	No. of Farmers	% of Farmers	Area (in Hectare)	Area % of total operational holding
Marginal (0.5 to 1 hectare)	3891016	43.8	19,15,352	12.1
Small (1 to 2 hectare)	2448652	27.6	34,66,141	21.9
Medium (2 to 4 hectare)	2443977	18.7	90,54,751	27.9
Large (above 4 hectare)	88732	9.1	13,99,633	38.1
Total	8872377	100	1,58,35,877	100
Average Size	1.79 (in Hectare)			

Department of farmer welfare and agriculture development

According to the above table 43.8% marginal farmers constitute about 12.1% area of total operational holding, 27.6% small farmers constitute about 21.9% area of total operational holding, 18.7% medium farmers constitute 27.9% area of total operational holding and 9.1% large farmers constitute 38.1% area of total operational holding. Average size of holdings in the state is 1.79ha, which is far better than that of country's average of 1.15ha. Nearly, one-third of the holdings in MP fall under the category of marginal and small holdings.

From this analysis we find out that the status of agriculture in Madhya Pradesh is good in terms of production. But there is inequality in land holding 9% of the farmers holds 38% of land. Economic condition of farmers is not satisfying because 33% farmer account for small and marginal which hold upto 2 acre of land. In terms of irrigation large area is irrigated through wells and tube wells. Madhya Pradesh is an agricultural rich state won Krishi kraman awards 5 times.

Analysis 2

To determine the awareness level among the farmers about different schemes of central and state Government:

Total Running Schemes of government for agriculture Development Central Government Schemes
Table 5: Data Regarding Cental Government Schemes

Schemes	Farmers Know about the schemes but don't get benefit	Farmers Don't know about the schemes	Farmers benefited from the schemes	Schemes is not useful for them	Total Reponses
Soil Health Card Scheme	33	117	8	7	165
Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme	105	48	12	6	171
Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme	36	113	5	11	165
Traditional Agricultural Development Plan	27	120	5	8	160
Sub-Mission on Agroforestry	13	139	6	2	160
National Agricultural Development Scheme	21	125	9	5	160
National Food Security Mission Scheme	36	109	11	6	162
National e-Governance Plan	26	122	14	6	168
National Oilseeds and Oil Palm Mission	7	137	3	10	157
National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology	13	136	2	6	157
National Biogas and Fertilizer Management Program	28	116	5	6	155
Total	345	1282	80	73	1780
Percent %	19.38%	74.10%	4.49%	4.10%	100%

According to the table mentioned above 4.49% farmers got benefitted from the schemes, 19.38% know about the schemes but don't get the benefit, for 4.10% farmers the scheme is not useful and 74.10% farmers don't know about the schemes ruined by central government.

State Government Schemes

Table 6: Information Regarding State Government Schemes

Schemes	Farmers Know about the schemes but don't get benefit	Farmers Don't know about the schemes	Farmers benefited from the schemes	Schemes is not useful from them	Total Reponses
Jai Kisan Crop Loan Waiver Scheme	79	73	6	9	167
MP Price Support Plan	78	63	20	8	169
Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Khet Tirth Yojana	24	125	3	9	161
Annapurna Yojana and Surajdhara Yojana	14	131	3	7	155
Madhya Pradesh tube well mining scheme	22	127	0	7	156
Chief Minister KrishakSamridhi Yojana	25	126	0	5	156
Madhya Pradesh Bhavantar Yojana	101	44	33	4	182
Chief Minister Solar Pump Scheme	39	107	1	7	154
Total	382	796	66	56	1300
Percent %	29.38%	61.23%	5.07%	4.30%	100%

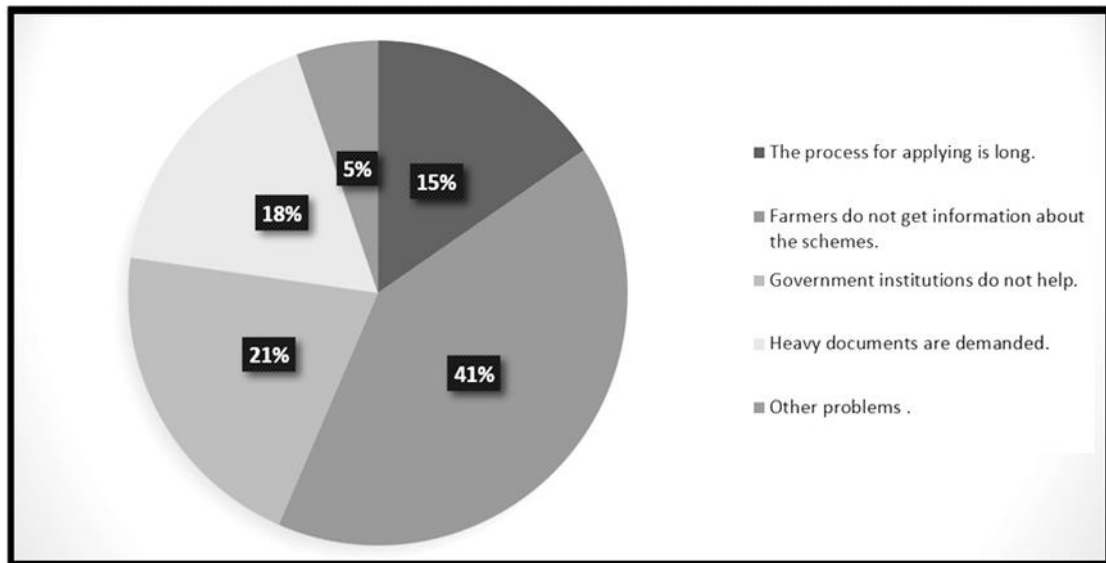
According to the table mentioned above 5.07% farmers got benefitted from the schemes, 29.38% know about the schemes but don't get the benefit, for 4.30% farmers the scheme is not useful and 61.23% farmers don't know about the schemes ruined by state government.

The data shows that the awareness among the farmers about the schemes is very low and few of them are taking benefits and irrespective of that there are various farmers who know about the schemes but don't get the benefit due to various reasons.

Analysis 3

To identify the reason for non availment of schemes by farmers

Figure 1



According to the figure mentioned above 41% of the farmers do not get information about the scheme, 21% farmers said that government institutions do not help, 18% farmers said that heavy documentation is required, 15% said that the process of applying is too long and for remaining there are other problems.

It is clear that the main reason behind non-availment of schemes by farmers is due to lack of information about the schemes prevailing. Farmers are not aware about the aid which is being provided by the government in the form of schemes to the farmers and then with second highest score non-availment of schemes by farmers was due to lack of sufficient help by the government institutions and then the next dominating reason behind farmers' ignorance regarding these facilities provided by the government is the loads of documents demanded by the government which is a burdensome task to fulfill every condition required by the government and then further reasons were long process time consuming and other problems.

Analysis 4

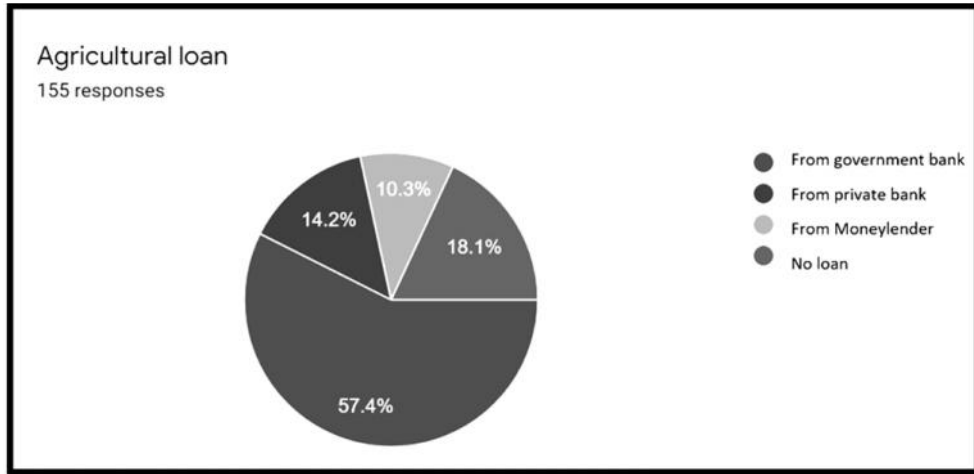
To know the challenges faced by the farmers regarding low productivity.

- **Electricity**

The study has found that there is 10 hours electricity's but electric polls are far from the agricultural field due to these small farmers are not able to take advantage of the electricity and they are not able to make irrigate their crop which will affect their production

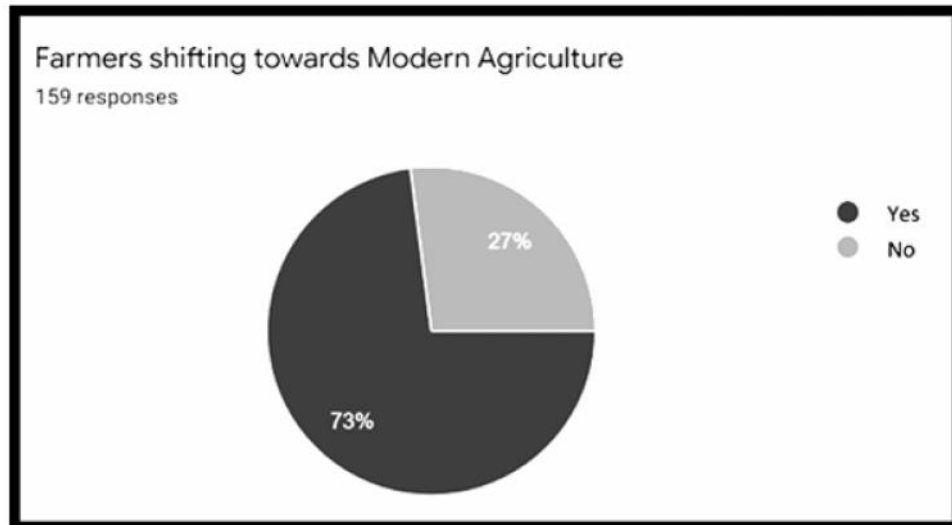
- **Finance**

The agricultural processes like irrigation, harvesting, threshing, tilling, these all operations require money, which every farmer cannot afford to pay. Most of the farmers in rural areas cannot afford to pay for the manpower to assist them in their field work. That is why they leave their land barren.

Figure 2

The study found that 81. % farmers took loans from the financial institutes for their operation 57.4% loan is from government bank, 14.2% are from private banks, 10.3% are from Moneylenders. Farmers highly depended on government institute because interest hire by government is low as compared to other institutes.

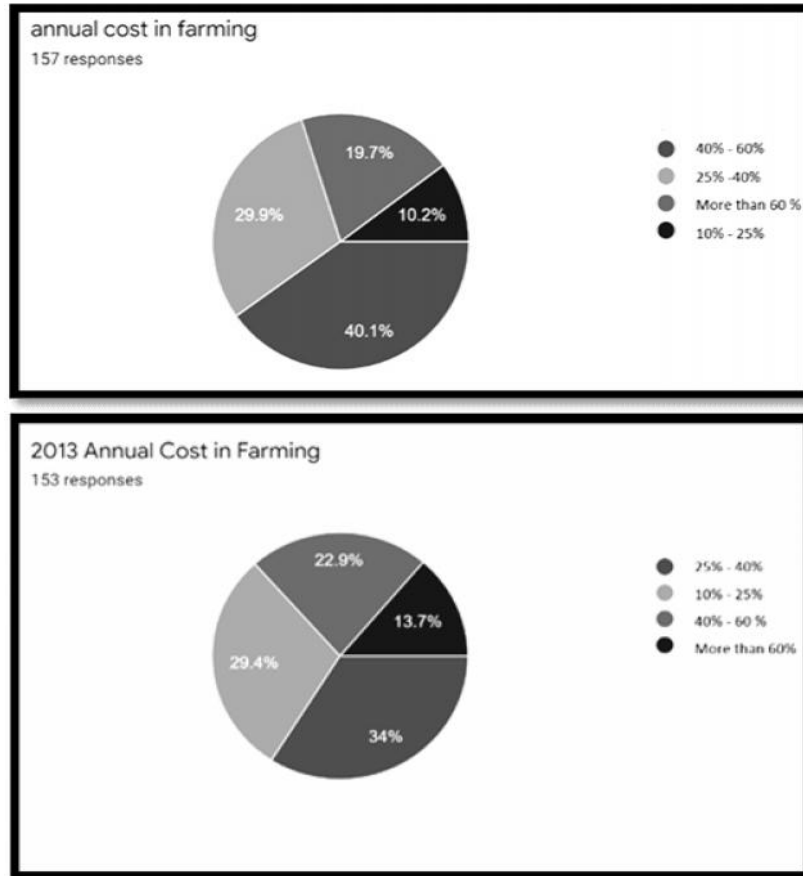
- **Irrigation**

Figure 3

The study found that 62.8 % crop of Madhya Pradesh is based on irrigation and 37.2% depend on rainfall. Most of the farmers face shortage of water, which affects their production. From the study it is clear that 27% of farmers are not shifted towards the modern agriculture, they are depend on ancient methods of irrigation which is surface irrigation. They are not adopting new methods of irrigation which is sprinklers, drip/trickle irrigation, subsurface irrigation.

- **Price Lower than MSP**

There are also no fixed price categories of the products. Farmers are forced to sell their agricultural products at a cheap and easy rate, which are later multiplied by the middle agents, which are then sold to the markets in an excessive price range. Small farmers sell their production at the lower price just after the harvest to meet their current expenses they will not wait for future rate and surplus.

Cost**Figure 4**

According to the farmers the cost of cultivation has increased and the rate at which price of the crop is increasing is lesser than the cost of the crop by this are margin percent on the crop will also decrease. 40.1% of the farmers required cost is 40 to 60 percent over an income depends on the types of crop during 2019. But in 2013, Required cost for cultivation is between 25%-40% depends on the type of the crop.

- **Shortage of Fertilizers**

According to the report of (Down-to-earth) the primary reason for the shortage of urea has been an increase in the acreage of wheat in the state due to the extended monsoon. The monsoon was delayed and stayed over most of Madhya Pradesh till early November, instead of September-end. It destroyed Kharif crops like Soybean in the state. Due to the availability of excess water, farmers were able to bring more land under wheat cultivation. Consequently, wheat acreage soared. By November-end, wheat sowing in MP shot up by 8.5 per cent in comparison to the previous year. Due to that requirement of fertilizer increases but supply is weak. Small farmers are unable to purchase fertilizer from the market because of high market price.

- **Poor Quality Seeds**

Most of the farmers are uneducated and are exploited by sellers which leads to vigor and poor growth. They are also prone to weeds, insects, and diseases. The problem also arises as most farmers keep their own seed and do not tend to do any seed processing to ensure varietal purity or seed quality. Most of the farmers are unable to purchase high breed seeds or quality seeds from the market because of high cost. As a result, they choose cheaper seeds which will result in low productivity.

Conclusion

This study analyzed various issues concerned with farmers of Madhya Pradesh. From the given objectives we concluded that the status of agriculture in terms of land holding is good and also average size of land holding is 1.79 hectare which is more than the national average but the low level of awareness among the farmers about schemes run by central and state government clearly implies that government should actively engage in public awareness campaign for farmers. This research report also shows the reason for the non availment of schemes by farmers and challenges faced by them in agriculture. This study gives a brief about the current situation of farmers and this will be helpful to government for framing various agricultural policies.

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