



**FARMERS AWARENESS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH A STUDY OF JUBBAL AND KOTKHAI BLOCK OF DISTRICT SHIMLA**

**C.Vishal**

Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla

**ARTICLE INFO**

**Article History:**

Received 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Received in revised form 25<sup>th</sup>

January, 2020

Accepted 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020

Published online 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

**Key words:**

Farmers Awareness, Govt Schemes, Agri Infrastructure, Subsidies, Benefits.

**ABSTRACT**

Agriculture plays a very big role in Indian economic growth and development therefore comes under the priority sector where govt provides certain financial and non-financial support to enhance the production. The study was conducted to understand the farmer's awareness about the different schemes which have been started by the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the development and growth of the Horticulture sector. The research was conducted in Jubbal and Kotkhai Block of District Shimla which reveals the picture that most of the farmers are aware of different schemes of Government but only very few are taking advantage of all these schemes. It has been observed that most of the farmers are taking benefits of fundamental schemes (subsidies medicines, fertilizers) but when it comes to other schemes which are related to Government support for farm mechanization or Agriculture infrastructure development the benefits claim of farmers is very less.

*Copyright©2020 C.Vishal. This is an open access article distributed under the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Himachal Pradesh has been endowed with a wide range of Agroclimatic conditions due to which a large number of horticulture commodities like fruit crops (from temperate to sub-tropical), flowers, vegetables, mushrooms, hops, tea, medicinal & aromatic plants, etc. are successfully grown here. Amongst the fruit crops, perhaps all kinds of fruits grown in the country, except those which are grown in the warm humid coastal regions, can be produced in the State.

Depending upon the Agro-climatic conditions and the suitability of a particular area for the growing of specific fruit crops in that area, the State is broadly divided into different Agro-climatic zones and district Shimla comes under a zone of a high hill which is suitable for the production of several temperate fruits (Pears, Plum, Cheery, Almonds, Kiwi, Apples, Apricot, Walnut, Strawberry). Government has started different schemes and program for the growth and development of fruit production so that farmers could take benefits of such schemes which not only reduces the cost but also prove enhancement in the output. Such schemes are wide in scope which covers every area whether it is basic inputs or it is a modern machine and agriculture infrastructure.

Several studies were conducted by *Suresh Kumar et al. (2011)*, *Singh Harjwant (2017)*, *Kumar et al. M.S. Nain (2017)*, *Shashi Prabha (2018)* regarding the farmer' sawareness of different Government schemes whether it is of Crops insurance, Agriculture insurance, Financial Support or

Minimum support price which however reveals the knowledge level of the farmers and becomes base to measuring the successful implementation of the government schemes on the ground level. Therefore, the objective of the current research is to understand the Farmer' sawareness level of the Area for the different Government schemes and to reveal the actual picture of the benefits claimed by different farm size of such schemes which therefore will become a base for the government to frame the policies and to make practical recommendations for planning aimed at better allocation of existing resources.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

To found the answers of the framed objectives the present study was conducted in Jubbal& Kotkhai Block of district Shimla which was divided into 10 different panchayats and thereafter two villages from every panchayat with 10 farming households of different categories (Marginal, Small & Medium) from each village has been randomly selected. However, the study is primarily based on primary data hence personal interview, face-to-face association with farmer respondents and observation method has been adopted to collect the relevant information and therefore analyze with the help of the simple tabular analysis based on means, percentage, and frequency, etc.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Farmers General Awareness**

It is important for us to first understand the general awareness level of the farmers which can put a light on the information, knowledge, consciousness and perception level of the area and the people, therefore Table 1.1 reveals the farmer's awareness

\*Corresponding author: **C.Vishal**

Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla.

about different Government schemes. One can observe from the Table that 98.00 percent of overall farmers are generally aware of the schemes with only exceptions to 2.00 percent.

**Table 1.1** Different Farm Size General Awareness about Govt Support

Sr. No.	Particulars	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Overall Farmers
1	Are you aware of the different Govt schemes started for the benefits of Horticulture?				
I	Yes	37 (92.5)	59 (98.33)	100 (100.00)	196 (98.00)
II	No	3 (7.5)	1 (1.67)	0 (0.00)	4 (2.00)
2	Total Farmers	40 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	200 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the table are the percentage analysis of the column total.

When one tries to understand from a farm size point of view it has been found that farmer awareness is increasing with the farmer size hence it is 100.00 percent for medium farmers as compared to 92.5 percent and 98.33 percent for marginal and small farmers.

Therefore, one can observe that awareness in marginal farmers is comparatively less than comparing to others however, the overall point of view it has been revealed that most of the farmers of the area are generally aware about such schemes which have been started by the government for their benefits.

**Farm Inputs support Awareness**

Farm inputs are considered to be main in fruit production as it not only influence production but also cost of production, hence determines farms resource efficiency and profits, therefore, government support of such farm inputs can bring the economics of scale in the farm business. For calming the benefits of government schemes, it is necessary that whether the farmers are aware of such schemes therefore, from the given Table 1.2 one will try to understand the awareness of farmers regarding different inputs that have been provided by the Government subsidized rate. Table reveals that 98.5 percent of overall farms are aware that the inputs (machines, medicines, fertilizers) are provided by the Government in subsidized rate.

**Table 1.2** Farmers Awareness of Subsidized Farm Inputs

Sr. No.	Particulars	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Overall Farmers
1.	Are you aware that fertilizer, sprays medicines, machines, apple netting is supplied by Govt. to farmers at the subsidies rate?				
I	Yes	38 (95.00)	59 (98.33)	100 (100.00)	197 (98.5)
II	No	2 (5.00)	1 (1.67)	0 (0.00)	3 (1.5)
2.	Total Farmers	40 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	200 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the table are the percentage analysis of the column total.

When one tries to analyze from a farm size point of view it has been observed that 95.00 percent of marginal farms followed by 98.33 and 100.00 percent of small and medium farms are aware of government subsidies hence revealing an increasing trend with increasing farm size.

Therefore, one can conclude from the above analyses that most of the farmers across all farm sizes of the area are aware of the

government's support for farm inputs which are basic inputs in crop production and also influence their cost and production. Agri Infrastructure Support Awareness:

Farming not only requires the direct farm inputs but also quality infrastructure which is important for farming and not directly but indirectly influencing the production, therefore, Government provides financial help to the farmer to improve their infrastructure as it is a very costly affair and becomes very important for the farmers to be aware of such government support, therefore, Table 1.3 reveals the farmer's awareness picture about financial support for Agri infrastructure. When one observed it from the overall farmer's point of view it has been found that 91.5 percent of farmers are aware of such support whereas 8.5 percent of the farmers are unaware of such Government support.

**Table 1.3** Different Farm Size Awareness about Govt. Agri Infrastructure Development Support

Sr. No.	Particulars	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Overall Farmers
1.	Do you know Govt. provides financial support for making godown and water tanks				
I	Yes	34 (85.00)	53 (88.33)	96 (96.00)	183 (91.5)
II	No	6 (15.00)	7 (11.67)	4 (4.00)	17 (8.5)
2.	Total Farmers	40 (100.00)	60 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	200 (100.00)

Note: Figures in the table are the percentage analysis of the column total.

However, when one looks at it from a farm size point of view, it has been revealed that 85.00, 88.33, 96.00 percent of marginal, small and medium farms are aware of such support which is showing increasing trend with farm size.

Therefore, one can observe from the above analysis that awareness among medium farms is more than comparing to small and marginal farms however overall picture also reveals that more than 90 percent farmers of the area are aware that government is providing financial support for developing the Agri infrastructure which is required in crop production.

**Different Farm Schemes Utilization:**

From the above analysis, one comes to learn that farmer's awareness level for different govt schemes of the area looks good however the success of such schemes depends upon its ground utilization, therefore, it becomes important for one to understand that how much of the farmers are taking benefits of these different Government schemes. Table 1.4 reveals the status of actual utilization of different Government schemes by the farmers and from the overall point of view it can be observed that 96.5 percent of all farmers have taken some benefits of the Govt. schemes.

**Table 1.4** Farm Size utilization of Government Schemes

Sr. No.	Particulars	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Overall Farmers
1.	Did you ever take the benefits of the above-mentioned schemes?				
I	Yes	36 (90.00)	57 (95.00)	100 (100.00)	193 (96.5)
II	No	4 (10.00)	3 (5.00)	0 (0.00)	7 (3.50)
1.1	If Yes Kindly mention the Scheme/Benefit taken				
I	Fertilizers	21 (58.33)	57 (100.00)	99 (99.00)	177 (91.71)
II	Spraying Machines	2 (5.56)	15 (26.32)	44 (44.00)	61 (31.61)
III	Medicines	36	57	100	193

		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)
IV	Water Tank	0	3	18	21
		(0.00)	(5.26)	(18.00)	(10.88)
V	Godown	0	0	9	9
		(0.00)	(0.00)	(9.00)	(4.66)
VI	Apple Netting	0	0	0	0
		(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)
VII	Others	0	1	5	6
		(0.00)	(1.75)	(5.00)	(3.11)
2.	Total Farmers	40	60	100	200
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)

Note: Figures in the table are the percentage analysis of the column total.

**Others:** (Soil tiller, Grass cutting machines, grading machines) However, when one look it from different schemes benefits point it has been observed that medicines benefits are maximum followed by fertilizers, spraying machines, water tank, godown, and others. When one goes by farm size point it has been found that schemes benefits claim increase by increase in farm size with marginal farms (90.00), small farms (95.00) and maximum for medium farms with 100.00 percent. As far as benefits regarding different schemes are concern 100.00 percent of farmers across all farm size has taken a benefit of subsidized medicine followed by fertilizer and spraying machines with (58.3,100.00 & 99.00) percent and (5.56,26.32 & 44.00) percent by marginal, small and medium farms. Whereas when one look towards Agri infrastructure schemes like financial support for water tank and godowns making it has been revealed that marginal farmers with 0.00 percent didn't have taken any benefit of these schemes however small & medium farms with 5.26,18.00and 0.00,9.00 percent has taken a benefit of these schemes. When one looks towards the other schemes it is showing increasing trends with an increase in farm size with 0.00,1.75 and 5.00 percent for marginal, small and medium farms. As far as apple netting is concern farmers across all the farm size has not taken any benefits of such a scheme.

Therefore, from the above analysis it has been found that most of the farmers are taking benefits of subsidies medicine, fertilizers however when it comes to tanks, machines, godowns, grading machines the benefits claimed by marginal farmers are almost zero as compare to medium and small farmers.

**Government Schemes Influence**

The government introduces different schemes to make farm production very effective therefore Table 1.5 reveals the response of the farmers regarding the effectiveness of such schemes.

**Table 1.5** Farm Size Influence of Government Schemes

Sr. No.	Particulars	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Overall Farmers		
1.	Do you find that such schemes help farmers to bring more efficiency in production	I	Yes	36	59	100	195
				(90.00)	(98.33)	(100.00)	(97.5)
II	No			4	1	0	5
				(10.00)	(1.67)	(0.00)	(2.5)
2.	Total Farmers	40	60	100	200		
		(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)	(100.00)		

Note: Figures in the table are the percentage analysis of the column total.

When one looks from the overall point of view it has been revealed that 97.5 percent of farmers found it to be very effective and also from different farm size point it is showing increasing trends with an increase in farm size with

90.00,98.33and 100.00 percent for marginal, small and medium farms. Hence marginal farms are a little suspicious about the impact of such schemes.

**CONCLUSION**

The government is providing financial support to farmers so that the output and resource efficiency of the farm should increase. The success of the schemes depends upon its ground-level implementation which further depends on the farmer's awareness. Thus, it has been revealed from the study that the general awareness of farmers in a study area is very good and also most of the farmers are taking benefits of some of these schemes. However, when it comes to the farm modernization and Agri infrastructure development the farmer's benefits go to almost zero especially in the case of small & marginal farmers and the fact of the matter is that such up-gradation is more important for the farmers because it directly influences the resource's utilization which not only economizes the production but also increase the farm 'sprofits.

Therefore, one wants to make the following suggestions to the Government after identifying certain constraints which could be beneficial for the overall growth and development of the farmers of the Area:

- ✓ The government should conduct frequent workshops on the panchayat level to make farmers more aware of different government schemes.
- ✓ The government should also provide more rebates to Marginal Farmers as they are economically weak and could not avail of the benefits of Agri Infrastructure and Modern Agri equipment schemes of the government.

**References**

1. Department of Horticulture, Himachal Pradesh.
2. Heady, E.O. and Jensen, H.R. (1954). Farm Management Economics, *Prentice-Hall*, 1954.
3. Johl, S.S. and Kapur, T.R. (1987). Fundamentals of Farm Business Management, *Kalyani Publishers*, New Delhi,1987.
4. S.Harjwant. (2017). Farmers' opinion towards the Agriculture schemes: A case study of Sirsa District, *International Journal of Physical and Social Sciences*, Vol.7, No.5, pp. 69-75.
5. M.S. Nain, Rashmi Singh and J.R. Mishra. (2017). A Study of Farmers' Awareness on Agricultural Insurance Schemes in Southern Haryana, *Indian Journal of Extension Education*, Vol. 53, No. 4, 2017 (75-79)
6. D. Suresh Kumar, B.C. Barahb, C.R. Ranganathana, R. Venkatrama, S. Gurunathana and S. Thirumoorthya. (2011). An Analysis of Farmers' Perception and Awareness towards Crop Insurance as a Tool for Risk Management in Tamil Nadu, *Agricultural Economics Research Review*, Vol. 24, January-June 2011, pp 37-46.
7. Shashi Prabha. (2018).Awareness about Minimum Support Price among the farmers over the Agro-Ecological Zones of Jammu Province of Jammu & Kashmir state, INDIA, *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, Vol8, Issue 5, May 2018, pp 12-20.