



Functioning of a rural labour institution in central Kerala

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ABSTRACT

Farmers are seen abandoning rice farming and younger generation are not attracted to farming sector mainly due to drudgery in farming, labour scarcity and high cost, and non- remunerative returns. Labourers are shifting from agriculture to other sectors due to better job opportunities, less drudgery and comparatively higher wages. Though the wages increased over time the gross income of the farm labourers declined as the labour days fell faster than rise in wages. The Kerala People's Plan initiated during 9th plan addressed the situation by forming labour banks to protect the interest of both the farmers and labourers and to enhance agricultural productivity. Green Army Labour Bank, Wadakkanchery, Kerala has emerged as a replicable model in addressing issues of labour scarcity and low income faced by farmers and unsure job opportunity and low wages faced by labourers.

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