

## Availment of benefits of integrated rural development programme by beneficiaries

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present study was conducted in Parbhani district of Maharashtra state. Twenty five villages were selected on the basis of highest recovery under IRDP. Most of the IRDP beneficiaries were young, able to read and write only, belonged to Special backward class caste, having small family size and engaged in occupation of cultivation. Majority of them had annual income from rupees 4001 to 6000, land in between 1.1 to 2.00 ha., high use of sources of information and low level of social participation. Most of the IRDP beneficiaries availed medium benefits from IRDP. Cent per cent IRDP beneficiaries faced the constraint of delay in getting the benefits.

### **INTRODUCTION**

In developing countries like India, the level and rate of national development is directly determined by the rural development as most of the population lives in villages. Therefore, many efforts have been made so far, for development of rural sector. But the results of these efforts are not satisfactory. Unless the weaker sections which form large proportion of the farming community are developed, the impact of overall development in agriculture will not be appreciable. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was conceived and covered of 350 million (29.90 per cent) people below the poverty line in the country out of which around 300 millions were from small and marginal farmers, rural artisans and other workers. The implementation of IRDP was effectively made in Maharashtra since its inception *i.e.* 1978. Parbhani district is having 77.49 per cent rural population and 257469 below poverty line families which were selected for implementing IRDP at initial stage. In the present study, attempt has been made to study the personal and socio- economic characteristics of IRDP beneficiaries, to assess the availment of benefits from IRDP by beneficiaries and to study the problems encountered by them in availment of benefits.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The present investigation was conducted in Parbhani district as it has highest number of below poverty line families (67.75 per cent) in Marathwada *i.e.* 2, 57,464 families. Five blocks from the district namely, Gangakhed, Pathri, Sailu, Purna and Parbhani were selected for study after consulting DRDA officials and Panchayat Samiti reports and blockwise records. Out of 130 villages from selected blocks, where maximum recovery was made under IRDP scheme, 25 villages were selected randomly by following lottery method. From selected 25 villages the list of beneficiaries was obtained from Panchayat Samiti. Out of 796 beneficiaries, 25.12 per cent (*i.e.* 200) beneficiaries were selected randomly, which formed the study sample. The data were collected from the IRDP beneficiaries with the help of personal interview method at their homesteads or on their farm and carefully edited and statistically analysed the data with the help of frequency, percentage mean and standard deviation.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The findings of the present study have been discussed under following sub heads:

### **Key words :**

Integrated rural development programme, Benefit availment, Beneficiaries

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