



## Problems faced by the farmers in availing subsidies under National Food Security Mission

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**Key Words :** Available subsidies, National food security mission

**View Point Article :** Kakkar, Navdeep, Kaur, Prabhjot and Dhaliwal, R.K. (2014). Problems faced by the farmers in availing subsidies under National Food Security Mission. *Internat. J. agric. Sci.*, **10** (1): 469-473.

**Article History :** Received : 18.10.2013; Accepted : 19.12.2013

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy and over two third of population is dependent upon agriculture in a direct way for its subsistence. Indian economy is predominantly an agrarian economy and its prosperity depends upon the progress of agriculture. The cost of production is increasing day by day and as such agriculture is becoming an unprofitable business. To get more yields the farmers are investing more and more to carry out their agricultural operations and to purchase the costly machinery. The subsidy is usually given to remove some burden and is often considered to be in the interest of the people. Incentives and subsidies are considered to be the most powerful instrument for accelerating the growth of agricultural production. The social justification of the subsidies lies in the fact that they should be equally distributed among the regions and groups of society for achieving the goal of rapid growth in agricultural development. During the last two decades, agricultural subsidies in India have increased tremendously. Some of the subsidies being given to farmers are subsidy on pesticides, subsidy on herbicides, subsidy on fertilizers, subsidy on purchase of pest-control equipment, subsidy on improved agricultural implements, subsidy on improved seeds. It plays a vital role in facilitating development of indigenous production capabilities and in turn ensuring the required low cost food supplies on a sustained basis. The National Food Security Mission launched during October, 2007 has begun

well in its initial phase of implementation. The experiences of administering this scheme during the first year of its implementation was very satisfying in terms of ensuring quality of delivery of agricultural services to the farmers and good outcome achieved in the process. The present study was conducted to know the problems faced by the farmers in availing the subsidies under the mission.

A list of farmers who had availed subsidies under National Food Security Mission was collected from the office of Chief Agriculture Officer, Ludhiana. All the 12 blocks of Ludhiana district were taken and from every block ten farmers who had availed the subsidies were selected randomly. So the total sample size was consisting of 120 farmers. Data were collected using interview schedule.

Results of the study have been discussed under the following headings

### **Profile of the farmers:**

It relates to the information regarding socio-personal characteristics of respondents which included age, education, operational land holding, mass media exposure, extension contacts and social participation. Data pertaining to profile of the farmers according to their socio-personal characteristics have been presented in Table 1. The details of each of these characteristics have been described as under: