

Research
Paper

Impact of watershed development on equitable distribution of income and employment – A study in drought prone district of Kadapa in Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted on water-shed development on equitable distribution of income and employment in district Kadapa of Andhra Pradesh. The study revealed that farmers of Kadapa district got a lot of benefits from the water shed programme in terms of cropping pattern, employment and income generation. It was observed that before implementing the programme, farmers had single crop in a year while after the implementing the water-shed, they were able to produce two crops in a year. Hence, the farm community may be uplifted. Self-employment schemes such as village level small scale industries, post-harvest technologies and value addition and livestock and poultry etc. need to be development.

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Key words : Watershed, Soil conservation, Income, Employment

INTRODUCTION

According to the Commission, sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs (WCED, 1987). The integrated watershed development approach is an effective mechanism for efficient management of local resources and the key for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, livelihood security and equitable access to resources in the region. These micro-level projects have seen visible impacts in terms of increase in farmers' income, employment, introduction of new crops and soil conservation (Seth, 2000).

Programmes to make better use of land and water resources (known as watershed development programmes) have been introduced to many parts of rural India in recent years. These often improve natural resources management, but the extent to which they benefit poor people is doubtful. For example, improvements to land quality only help poor people with access to land.

Well managed watershed development programmes have clearly been an important intervention, and have

helped to restore natural resources in many places. However, the assumption that they will always improve the sustainability of rural livelihoods is not always true. Additional pro-poor policy measures are greater impact on poverty (Palanisami *et al.*, 2002).

Need of the present study:

Since the watershed programme completed its 15 years of implementation, it becomes pertinent to examine its impact at the community and household level in terms of achievement of its objectives. Few studies have been conducted in this sphere, which point to the need for a greater number of micro-level studies. The present study is a modest attempt in this direction.

Kadapa is a hot arid district falling under rain-shadow tone. The district was covered under the Drought Prone Area Programme for two decades from 1975 to 1995. The geographical position of the peninsular renders it to the driest part of the state and hence agricultural conditions are more often precarious in Kadapa district. Monsoons also evade the district due to its disadvantageous location. Being far from East Coast, it does not enjoy the full benefits of North East Monsoon and being cut off by the high Western Ghats and the South West Monsoons are also