

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Constraints faced by farm facilitators under Bhoochetana programme

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in Raichur district of Karnataka state during 2012-13. Total 120 farm facilitators were considered as respondents. To know the constraints faced by farm facilitators under Bhoochetana programme. It is also clear that the constraints are lower salary (88.00 %), lack of employment security throughout the year (78.00 %), lack of conveyance (76.00 %) and the least (27.00 %) inadequate allowance to farm facilitators to visit various field and villages. As regards suggestions given by farmer facilitators to overcome the constraints in Bhoochetana programme, awarded to provision of employment security on regular basis with sufficient salary (93.00 %), reduces the area coverage (76.00 %) and giving more trainings (57.00 %) to enhance their role performance.

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KEY WORDS :

Constraints, Farm Facilitators, Bhoochetana

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Agriculture is the main stay of Indian economy. Majority of cultivable area in the world and population is dependent on rainfed agriculture. It has been observed that the average yields of crops by and large in the State are less than the national average and also averages of other states. Further a wide gap exists in actual yield levels in the farmer's field and yields of field level demonstrations. There is an opportunity to enhance yield levels in the fields of farmers by two to three folds through adoption of suitable improved dryland technologies for various crops, based on the research findings of ICRISAT, Hyderabad and demonstrations conducted under Sujala watershed programme; a set of dryland

technologies have been identified by ICRISAT, Hyderabad for increasing yields to an extent of minimum 20 per cent. Encouraged by this and also with a view to enable farmers to get better yields in their fields, the government of Karnataka initiated a novel scheme called Bhoochetana during 2009-10. The overall goal of this mission project is to increase average productivity of selected crops in the selected 30 districts by 20 per cent in four years. The main responsibility of extension work lies with the Department of Agriculture. The department is striving hard to bridge the gap between the actual farmers yield and the potential yields of crops, through various extension methods. In India, the state Department of Agriculture

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charged with the responsibility of agricultural development has grown into mammoth service organization.

At the field level for effective transfer of technology and to achieve the objectives of Bhoochetana farm facilitators are appointed on contract basis, who have minimum S.S.L.C qualification. These farm facilitators serve as linking agents between the farmer and the Department of Agriculture, University of agricultural sciences and ICRISAT. They are given well defined roles and activities to be performed. The Bhoochetana programme is in operation since last three years (starting from 2009 March 23). The programme has completed three years, now it is necessary to study how the Bhoochetana programme has performed in achieving its objectives and the roles played by farmer facilitators in development programme. So in this context a study on role perception by farm facilitators under Bhoochetana programme was undertaken with the objectives to study the constraints faced by farm facilitators in Bhoochetana programme.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Raichur district of Karnataka which was purposively selected based on the highest number of farm facilitators. The district had highest number of farm facilitators taken on contract basis in *Rabi* and second position in *Kharif* during the year 2011-12 in Hyderabad Karnataka region. In addition, the convenience and familiarity of the researcher with the study area was considered in selection of district.

A list of farm facilitators in the all the talukas of the district was prepared. From out of five talukas three talukas were selected. From each of the taluka four hoblies and in each hobli 10 farm facilitators were selected

by using random sampling procedure. Thus, the total sample size constituted 120 farm facilitators. The data was collected from the farm facilitators using structured interview schedule personally. The data collected was analysed using appropriate statistical tools.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

Constraints expressed by the farm facilitators and suggestions for improving Bhoochetana programme :

A perusal of Table 1 brings to light the problems faced by the farm facilitators in doing their work. It could be observed from the table that most of the administrative problems refer to lower salary, lack of employment security throughout the year, lack of transportation and large area coverage, respectively.

Many other problems were non-availability of lead farmers during sowing time, lack of co-operation and passive participation of farmers in Bhoochetana programme, non-availability of technical guidance from the extension staff and finally the least one was inadequate allowance to farm facilitators to visit various fields and villages, which refer to situational conditions, as expressed by them for efficiently carrying out their work. This kind of situation is because farm facilitators are expecting better work environment in the villages and they perceive that the administration and situational factors are not very congenial for their performance. Although some facilities and incentives are needed to motivate the farm facilitators to be equal to the task assigned to them, no system of administration can provide all the facilities required.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Farm facilitators		
		Number	Percentage	Ranks
1.	Lower salary	106	88.00	I
2.	Lack of employment security throughout the year	94	78.00	II
3.	Lack of conveyance facility	92	76.00	III
4.	Large area coverage	72	60.00	IV
5.	Non-availability of lead farmers during sowing time	65	54.00	V
6.	Lack of cooperation and passive participation of farmers in Bhoochetana programme	55	46.00	VI
7.	Non-availability of technical guidance from the extension staff	48	40.00	VII
8.	Inadequate allowance to farm facilitators to visit various field and villages	32	27.00	VIII

Table 2: Suggestions given by farm facilitators for better performance under Bhoochetana programme (n=120)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Farm facilitators		
		Number	Percentage	Ranks
1.	Provision of employment security on regular basis with sufficient salary	112	93.00	I
2.	Reduce the area coverage	92	76.00	II
3.	Increase the allowances for farm facilitators	84	70.00	III
4.	Giving more trainings to enhance their role performance	68	57.00	IV
5.	Frequent visit of scientist/extension personnel to the field	47	39.00	V
6.	Increase the number of FFS	33	27.00	VI
7.	Provide teaching aids like slides, films	26	22.00	VIII
8.	Higher wage to lead farmers	22	18.00	VII

Suggestions given by farm facilitators under Bhoochetana programme :

A perusal of Table 2 brings to light the suggestions given by the farm facilitators in doing their work. It could be observed from the table that most of the suggestions refer to administrative field include provision of employment security on regular basis, reduces the area coverage, increase the allowances for farm facilitators and giving more trainings to enhance their role performance, respectively. The other suggestions made by the farm facilitators were frequent visit of scientist/extension person to the field, increase the number of FFS, provide teaching aids like slides, films and finally the least one was higher wage to lead farmers.

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