

# Livelihood opportunities of small and marginal farm families in Haryana state

■ Raman Jodha and Manju Dahiya

Received: 06.06.2019; Revised: 10.10.2019; Accepted: 24.10.2019

■ **ABSTRACT** : India is facing now-a-days is achieving inclusive growth and proper strategy to revive Indian agriculture. The farm population has been waiting patiently year after year for a 'new deal' for agriculture. Doubling agricultural growth is the immediate challenge. However, the package of the recent strategy and efforts seems to be incremental, rather than a holistic for reviving agriculture. Present study was conducted in Gurgaon division of Haryana state and two districts from Gurgaon division *i.e.* Rewari and Mahendragarh were selected randomly. From selected two blocks Jatusana and Kanina, four villages (two from each block) Dahina and Maseet from Jatusana and Kakrala and Rambas from Kanina were selected randomly. From the selected villages a sample of 75 small and marginal farm families from was drawn randomly to make the total sample size of 300 farm families. The results depicted that in Mahendergarh district main opportunity available to the farm families 'Related to household' was in the form of livestock husbandry, educated family members and skill enhancement with highest average weighted mean score 1.79, rank I followed by 'Provided by the government' (Rank II, WMS 1.71), respectively.

■ **KEY WORDS**: Livelihood, Small and marginal farm

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Jodha, Raman and Dahiya, Manju (2019). Livelihood opportunities of small and marginal farm families in Haryana state. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 14 (2) : 309-312, DOI: 10.15740/HAS/AJHS/14.2/309-312. Copyright@ 2019: Hind Agri-Horticultural Society.

See end of the paper for authors' affiliations →

**Raman Jodha**

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GVM),  
Sardarshahar, Churu -1

(Rajasthan) India

Email : ramanjodha29@gmail.  
com

**A**griculture being the main source of rural employment for small and marginal farmers, it is necessary to develop a suitable farming system which can generate year-round employment and substantial income to sustain their livelihood. However, increasing agricultural production on small farms is a challenge because even under well established irrigated conditions, the growth of the agriculture sector itself has been almost stagnant for the last 8-10 years. Therefore, we need to take a fresh look at the present scenario and

plan for another Green Revolution with a new focus. On the contrary, there are many voluntary organisations working at regional and national levels who have dedicated their services for the welfare and development of the community. These voluntary agencies have necessary skills and capable human resources to assess the problems of the poor and identify suitable interventions to solve their problems. Proper planning is essential right from the inception of the programme to build strong grassroot level people's organisations to

manage the programme with least dependence on outsiders. The next step is to shift from the role of a development organisation to a service provider, where the participants demand various services on payment of reasonable fees, instead of accepting whatever is given to them. This helps in sustainability of the programme, beyond the project period. To insure the sustainable viability of marginal and small farmers, the creation of new job opportunities in rural areas along with suitable policy support for development of livestock sector and allied activities would be panacea for resource poor farming community in future. Hence, in this study, an attempt was made to delineate the livelihood opportunities of small and marginal farm families in Gurgaon division Haryana state

### ■ RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in Haryana state and it has been divided into four division- Hisar division, Rohtak division, Ambala division and Gurgaon division. The present study was conducted in Gurgaon division which comprises Faridabad, Gurgaon, Mahendragarh, Mewat, Palwal, Rewari district. Out of five districts, two districts from Gurgaon division *i.e.* Rewari and Mahendragarh were selected randomly. One block from each district *viz.*, Jatusana block from Rewari district and Kanina block from Mahendragarh district, were selected randomly. From selected two blocks Jatusana and Kanina, four villages (two from each block) Dahina and Maset from Jatusana and Kakrala and Rambas from Kanina were selected randomly.

From the selected villages a sample of 75 small and marginal farm families from was drawn randomly. Thus a total of 300 respondents were selected randomly. For the measurement of this variable a schedule was developed by the researcher. Opportunities related to livelihood were divided into different categories considers all the factors effecting farm families most probably all these factors are taken according to their suitable priority. Opportunities were divided in four categories provide by government, related to farm practices, related to household, and related to community resources. Responses were obtained on three point continuum *i.e.* mostly, sometimes, never with scores 3, 2 and 1, respectively. Data was collected with the help of pre-structured interview schedule by the investigator from head of household of farm families. Statistical tools

frequency, percentages, weighted mean scores and ranking were applied for data analysis.

### ■ RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads :

#### **Livelihood opportunities perceived by farm families in Rewari district:**

There are many government and institutional opportunities which enable small and marginal farmers to raise agricultural productivity and increase their income to sustain livelihood. It was evident from Table 1 that in Rewari district main opportunity available to the farm families 'Related to household' was in the form of livestock husbandry, educated family members and skill enhancement with highest average weighted mean score 1.74, rank I followed by opportunities 'Related to community resources' (Rank II, WMS1.66) with an availability of efficient management of water resources, community land and development of wastelands, 'Related to farm practices' (Rank III, WMS1.64) having enhancement of soil quality, use of organic farming, diversification of agriculture, food processing, cultivation of medicinal herb and vermicomposting its sub aspects.

The opportunities provided by the government ranked IV with WMS 1.63, respectively along with accessibility of subsidies on agri-machinery, compensation provided by government for economic losses, opportunities related to vocational training, good extension services by Department of Agriculture/Agri. Universities and technological innovations to raise agricultural productivity as its sub components. The present findings are in accordance with Singh (2012) who revealed that main opportunities for the marginal farmers were highest share of land (68.81%) to dairy activities, crop cultivation (14.25%), farming of goat and sheep (9.98%) and farming of other animals (1.94%). Similar findings were also examined by Singh *et al.* (2009) who revealed that the contribution of various factors in viability of marginal and small farmers in state Punjab and suggested that creation of off farm employment opportunities, public investment to remove regional productivity gap, assuring remunerative prices of output and up scaling of input supply to promote dairy and other allied activities should be made helpful viable to farmers.

Table 1 : Livelihood opportunities perceived by farm families in Rewari district		(n=150)						
Sr. No.	Category	Rewari					Rank	Average weighted mean
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Weighted frequency score	Weighted mean		
1.	<b>Provided by government</b>							
	Good extension services by Deptt of agriculture/ Agril universities	20 (13.33)	61 (40.67)	69 (46.00)	251	1.67	III	1.63
	Vocational training opportunities	13 (8.67)	70 (46.67)	67 (44.67)	246	1.64	IV	
	Technological innovations to raise agricultural productivity	3 (2.00)	22 (14.67)	125 (83.33)	178	1.19	VI	
	Subsidies on agri-machinery	53 (35.33)	82 (54.67)	15 (10.00)	338	2.25	I	
	Compensation for economic losses provided by government	22 (14.67)	62 (41.33)	66 (44.00)	256	1.70	II	
	Provide better market facilities	10 (6.67)	29 (19.33)	111 (74.00)	199	1.33	V	
2.	<b>Related to farm practices</b>							
	Farmers should be enhanced to use the Organic Farming	31 (20.67)	59 (39.33)	60 (40.00)	271	1.80	II	1.64
	Diversification of agriculture	11 (7.33)	58 (38.67)	81 (54.00)	230	1.53	V	
	Food processing	17 (11.33)	49 (32.67)	84 (56.00)	233	1.55	IV	
	Cultivation of medicinal herbs	-	28 (18.67)	122 (81.33)	178	1.18	VI	
	Vermicomposting	25 (16.67)	47 (31.33)	78 (52.00)	247	1.65	III	
	Enhancement of soil quality	52 (34.67)	68(45.33)	30 (20.00)	322	2.14	I	
3.	<b>Related to household</b>							
	Skill enhancement	27 (18.00)	59 (39.33)	64 (42.67)	263	1.75	II	1.74
	Educated family members	13 (8.67)	65 (43.33)	72 (48.00)	241	1.60	III	
	Livestock husbandry	34 (22.67)	63 (42.00)	53 (35.33)	281	1.87	I	
4.	<b>Related to community resources</b>							
	Community land	39 (26.00)	88 (58.67)	23 (15.33)	316	2.11	I	1.66
	Efficient management of water resources	7 (4.67)	29 (19.33)	114 (76.00)	193	1.29	III	
	Development of wastelands	3 (2.00)	80 (53.33)	67 (44.67)	236	1.57	II	

### Livelihood opportunities perceived by farm families in Mahendergarh district:

The data in Table 2 indicates that in Mahendergarh district main opportunity available to the farm families 'Related to household' was in the form of livestock husbandry, educated family members and skill enhancement with highest average weighted mean score 1.79, rank I followed by 'Provided by the government' (Rank II, WMS 1.71), respectively as having accessibility of subsidies on agri-machinery, compensation provided by government for economic losses, opportunities related to vocational training, good extension services by Department of Agriculture/Agril. Universities and technological innovations to raise agricultural productivity. And opportunity 'Related to community resources' (Rank III, WMS 1.66) as availability of efficient management of water resources, community land and development of wastelands, 'Related to farm practices' followed by opportunity 'Related to farm practices' (Rank IV,

WMS 1.62), respectively along with enhancement of soil quality, use of organic farming, diversification of agriculture, food processing and cultivation of medicinal herbs and vermicomposting. The most of the families were utilizing different opportunities like related to government like subsidies on agri machinery, household opportunities, and farm practices in the form of diversification, vermicomposting and community resources directly or indirectly. The findings are in line with the study of Bhargava (2015) who concluded that Indian government had an important role in the growth and development of agriculture sector in the means of agricultural input subsidies such as seeds, fertilizers, electricity, irrigation and credit. Venkatesh *et al.* (2017) also revealed that 71.25 per cent of respondent farmers view the level of benefits of agricultural input subsidies at moderate level followed by high level (19.25%) and low level (9.50%).

Table 2 : Livelihood opportunities perceived by farm families in Mahendergarh district (n=150)								
Sr. No.	Category	Mahendergarh						
		High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	Weighted frequency score	Weighted mean	Rank	Average weighted mean
<b>1.</b>	<b>Provided by government</b>							
	Good extension services by Deptt of agriculture/ Agril universities	28 (18.67)	72 (48.00)	50(33.33)	278	1.85	III	1.71
	Vocational training opportunities	27 (18.00)	79 (52.67)	44 (29.33)	283	1.89	II	
	Technological innovations to raise agricultural productivity	7 (4.67)	28 (18.67)	115 (76.67)	192	1.28	VI	
	Subsidies on agri-machinery	59 (39.33)	61 (40.67)	30 (20.00)	329	2.19	I	
	Compensation for economic losses provided by government	21 (14.00)	52 (34.67)	77 (51.33)	244	1.63	IV	
	Provide better market facilities	12 (8.00)	39 (26.00)	99 (66.00)	213	1.42	V	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Related to farm practices</b>							
	Farmers should be enhanced to use the Organic Farming	38 (25.33)	62 (41.33)	50 (33.33)	288	1.92	II	1.62
	Diversification of agriculture	7 (4.67)	48 (32.00)	95 (63.33)	212	1.41	V	
	Food processing	18 (12.00)	77 (51.33)	55 (36.67)	263	1.75	III	
	Cultivation of medicinal herbs	-	22 (14.67)	128 (85.33)	172	1.15	VI	
	Vermi-composting	13 (8.67)	52 (34.67)	85 (56.67)	228	1.52	IV	
	Enhancement of soil quality	40 (26.67)	62 (41.33)	48 (32.00)	292	1.95	I	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Related to household</b>							
	Skilled enhancement	18 (12.00)	49 (32.67)	83 (55.33)	235	1.57	III	1.79
	Educated family members	19 (12.67)	77 (51.33)	54 (36.00)	265	1.77	II	
	Livestock husbandry	49 (32.67)	55 (36.67)	46 (30.67)	360	2.02	I	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Related to community resources</b>							
	Community land	48 (32.00)	62(41.33)	40 (26.67)	308	2.05	I	1.66
	Efficient management of water resources	17 (11.33)	38 (25.33)	95 (63.33)	222	1.48	II	
	Development of wastelands	9 (6.00)	52 (54.67)	89 (59.33)	220	1.45	III	

### Conclusion:

In the present study different opportunities were measured in terms of availability and usefulness in the present condition. The most of the families were utilizing different opportunities like related to government like subsidies on agri machinery, household opportunities, and farm practices in the form of diversification, vermincomposting and community resources directly or indirectly. Investment in agriculture and its allied areas, including irrigation, electricity, transport, communication, rural market, rural infrastructure, storage, processing, and farm research, should be drastically increased, and the government should aim at the integrated development of the rural areas.

Authors' affiliations:

**Manju Dahiya**, Saina Nehwal Institute of Agricultural Technology Training and Education, C.C.S. Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Haryana) India

### REFERENCES

- Bhargava, M. (2015).** An overview of fertilizer subsidies in India. *ZENITH Internat. J. Business Economics & Mgmt. Res.*, **5** (5) : 138-147.
- Singh, M. (2012).** Challenges and opportunities for sustainable viability of marginal and small farmers in India. *Agric. Situ. India*, **59** (3) : 133-142.
- Singh, M., Bhullar, A.S. and Joshi, A.S. (2009).** Factors influencing economic viability of marginal and small farmers in Punjab. *Agric. Econ. Res. Review*, **22** (2) : 269-279.
- Swathi, G., Rambabu, P., Gopikrishna T. and Rao, D. (2017).** Livelihood systems of tribal farmers in Andhra Pradesh. *Andhra Agric. J.*, **64**(2):472-475.
- Venkatesh, M., Kamakodi, K. and Badrinath, V. (2017).** A study on benefits of agricultural input subsidies for farmers in south India. *Internat. J. Econ. Res.*, **14** (11) ISSN : 0972-9380.

12<sup>th</sup>  
Year  
★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★