



Problems Faced by Tribal Farmers in Creation Of Sustainable Livelihoods And Suggestions to Overcome Them

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Adilabad district of Telangana to study the profile and employment generation of tribal farmers. Total 120 respondents were randomly selected for the study and interviewed. Major constraints expressed by the tribal farmers included 'poor connectivity with nearby cities and lack of proper electrification' (81.66%), 'untimely supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc., from government agencies' (79.16%). The major suggestions expressed by the tribal farmers on in creation of sustainable livelihoods includes 'development of road, transport and electrification of remote villages' (80.83.00%), ensuring timely supply of agricultural inputs' (79.16%).

Keywords: Problems, suggestions, sustainable livelihoods and tribal farmers.

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INTRODUCTION

Economic and social empowerment and educational up-liftment of socially disadvantaged groups and marginalized sections of society is necessary for achieving faster and more inclusive development. There are twenty countries in the world with substantial tribal population. India has the largest tribal population in the world. The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6 per cent of the total population. Tribal groups are very heterogeneous. India's tribals are a diverse and heterogeneous group. Some are still in the food gathering stage, others practice shifting cultivation, yet others may be pursuing primitive forms of agriculture.

Telangana state is very rich in the variety of cultures that represent all stages of human progress. We have the Chenchus, as primitive as those who lived in stone age and at the same time tribes such as Gonds who are in no way inferior to their neighbours. Andhs and Bhils are backward and yet assimilated enough to be hardly distinguished. From the Gond settled cultivators to the Koyas and Konda Reddis who are still found inclined to indulge in shifting cultivation, we see the Chenchus who would not care to produce anything and prefer to live on the roots, tubers and other forest produce.

The sustainable livelihood approach enable development departments to improve the design and implementation of poverty alleviation efforts in tribal areas. It helps to analyze opportunities and constraints of the tribal poor, builds better understanding of multiple perspectives, identifies what options have better potential to reduce poverty and what enabling conditions, policies and incentives are needed for the poor to increase the range of better livelihood options.

Hence, "a study on sustainable livelihoods of tribal farmers of adilabad district in telangana state" would enable development agencies to design appropriate and suitable programmes to create and provide sustainable livelihood options to tribal farmers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For this study, *ex-post facto* research design was adopted. According to Kerlinger [1], *ex-post facto* research is a systematic empirical enquiry, in which the scientists do not have direct control on influencing (independent) variables because their manifestations have already occurred. Telangana was purposively selected for the study as the researcher is from this state. Adilabad district of

Telangana was purposively selected for the study as Adilabad district has a population of about 4,95,794 scheduled tribes and this district is ranked 3rd in scheduled tribes areas, after Khammam and Warangal in the state. Out of 53 mandals 35 mandals were having more tribal population. Out of 35 mandals two mandals were selected randomly. Three villages from each of the two mandals were selected by following simple random sampling method, thus making total of six villages. From each of the selected village twenty (20) respondents were selected by following random sampling procedure, thus making a total of 120 respondents.

Problems perceived by the tribal farmers in creation of sustainable livelihoods and their suggestions to overcome the problems were collected from the farmers and the results were expressed as such in the form of frequencies and percentages and rank ordering was done based on mean scores.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problems faced by tribal farmers in creation of sustainable livelihoods

From the table 4.23 it reveals that most of the tribal farmers 81.66 per cent facing the problem in agriculture was sucking pests in cotton which reducing high yields followed by, Irregular and Improper payments for their work (68.33%) in bund farming (upadhi hami) and indiscriminate deforestation by outsiders (59.16%) in NTFPs collection. These findings are in accordance with the results Krishnamoorthy *et al.* [2].

Table 1. Problems faced by tribal farmers in creation of sustainable livelihoods

| Sl. No. | Problems | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------|---|-----------|------------|
| | Problems in Agriculture | | |
| 1 | Sucking pests in cotton | 98 | 81.66 |
| 2 | Untimely heavy rains | 95 | 79.16 |
| 3 | Inadequate and untimely supply of inputs | 87 | 72.50 |
| | Problems in Bund farming (upadhi hami) | | |
| 4 | Irregular and Improper payments for their work . | 82 | 68.33 |
| 5 | It is difficult to work during hot summer days without drinking water facility. | 80 | 66.66 |
| 6 | Lack of awareness health insurance in case of any health hazard during work. | 78 | 65.00 |
| | Problems in NTFPs collection | | |
| 7 | Due to indiscriminate deforestation by outsiders (non-tribal). | 71 | 59.16 |
| 8 | Encroachments of forest by the non-tribal people for cultivation. | 68 | 56.66 |
| 9 | Illegal collection of NTFPs by non tribals. | 65 | 54.16 |
| 10 | Sudden rains reducing quality of non-timber forest produces like gum, beedi leaf and ippapuvu, resulting in low market price. | 62 | 51.66 |
| 11 | Traditional post harvest technologies for NTFPs by tribal farmers | 60 | 50.00 |
| 12 | Lack of market intelligence, interference from middlemen and lack of regulated market. | 58 | 48.33 |

Suggestion by tribal farmers to overcome problem faced by them in creation of sustainable livelihoods

From the table 4.24 it reveals that to overcome sucking pest problems in cotton most of the respondents (80.83%) suggest that government should supply pest resistant varieties and recommendation of ecofriendly control measures, followed by in bund farming about (68.33%) respondent suggested government should provide daily wages without delaying, for the problem of Irregular and Improper payments for their work.

Table 2 Suggestion by tribal farmers to overcome problem faced by them in creation of sustainable livelihoods.

| Sl. No | Suggestions | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|---|-----------|------------|
| | Suggestion to overcome agricultural problems | | |
| 1 | Government should supply pest resistant varieties and recommendation of ecofriendly control measures. | 97 | 80.83 |
| 2 | Resistance varieties for heavy rains should be ensured. | 95 | 79.16 |
| 3 | Timely supply of agricultural inputs should be ensured. | 90 | 75.00 |
| | Suggestion to overcome Bund farming (upadhi hami) | | |
| 4 | Government should provide daily wages without delaying | 82 | 68.33 |
| 5 | Water supply facility should provide during working hours | 80 | 66.66 |
| 6 | Health insurance should be give timely. | 78 | 65.00 |
| | Suggestion to overcome problems in NTFPs collection | | |
| 7 | Check on deforestation, encroachment of land by non-tribal people. | 70 | 58.33 |
| 8 | Monitor and check by forest department to stop illegal collection of NTFPs by non-tribal. | 64 | 53.33 |
| 9 | Common storage and drying facilities should be created in tribal villages. | 60 | 50.00 |
| 10 | Trainings should be conducted on collection, storage and management of NTFPs. | 57 | 47.50 |
| 11 | Create regulated markets for agricultural produce and NTFPs, in tribal areas. | 54 | 45.00 |
| 12 | On campaign mode awareness should be given on different schemes and benefits of government. | 50 | 41.66 |

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