



Change in Socio economic status of SWC, LEISA and organic farming beneficiaries of Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra Programme in Distress Prone District

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out on change in socio-economic status of beneficiaries of soil and water conservation, LEISA and organic farming of Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra programme during the year 2017-2018. Data of 100 respondent's from 12 villages were collected and the interpretation and analysis was done. The findings of the study revealed that, the change in socio economic status of beneficiaries of soil and water conservation, LIESA and organic farming activity by CAIM programme has been studied in terms of with its eight parameters viz; change in occupation, land holding, education, annual income, socio political participation, household and material possession.it was observed that there was 28.03 per cent change in socio economic status of beneficiaries after participation in the CAIM programme.

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INTRODUCTION

Now a day, due to climatic condition, agrarian distress in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra for the last decade has been the key reason for farmer's suicide and various other issues. Distress is a complex issue and it is difficult to arrive at an operational definition of distress [2]. The roots of the word "Distress" has been derived from the Latin word "Districtus" and has been used to imply a range of meanings like psychological suffering, a state of adversity, anxiety or mental suffering, to be disturbed, designed by problem or upset etc. In view of this the Government of Maharashtra initiated a programme "Convergence of Agriculture Interventions In Maharashtra" (CAIM) with the support of IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture Development) and Sir Ratan Tata Trust, IFAD undertook a detailed analysis of situation and come up with a comprehensive approach for working in the region [1]. This is an exclusive programme for the poor farmers of the Vidarbha region. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the development of resilient production, sustainable and diversified households, on-farm and off-farm livelihoods, allowing households to face production and market risks without falling back into poverty and distress [2].

There are no universal conservation practices that work everywhere. Planning soil conservation is like having a large array of techniques and practices set out each in a separate pigeonhole. There are always strong links between measures for soil conservation and measures for water conservation and this applies equally in semi-arid areas [3]. The project ensures various gap filling achievements in the area of watershed development with the principle of ridge to valley. The object of planning soil conservation is to make up a system by selecting a set of individual items which each relevant to the conditions and

which can be combined into a workable system and the main objectives are to modify the soil slope, to reduce surface runoff and to facilitate sowing across the slope. It also promotes In-situ water conservation works to reduce soil erosion through graded bonding, sowing across the slope and broad bed furrow (BBF) method of crop cultivation [5].

The soil and water conservation have been fast tracked and SWC coverage has increased to 913 villages (76% of the target), CAIM has identified 694 villages and plan to implement soil and water conservation works in 127 villages have been finalized.

CAIM interventions in project area: Since its inception, project has focused on creation of water structures for storage of water viz. farm ponds, cement nala bandh, graded bonding, well recharge etc. along with ridge to valley concept which is helping project beneficiaries to avail protective irrigation facilities to harvest assured maximum quality yields. The overall impact of the same through observation is of 40% increase in cropping intensity as well as assurity of the resultant yields per unit area under cultivation.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Akola and Amravati were observed as distress prone district from Vidarbha region were selected purposively for the study. Beneficiary respondents in 12 villages were contacted at their places of residence and data were collected by personal interview. From 12 villages 100 beneficiaries of soil and water conservation, LIESA and organic farming were selected randomly. The interview schedule was constructed by formulating relevant questions in accordance with objectives of the study. The schedule included questions pertaining to change in socio economic status. The information from respondents was collected by personal interview methods and their responses were considered for the purpose of the present study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The change in socio economic status of beneficiaries of soil and water conservation, LIESA and organic farming activity by CAIM programme has been studied in terms of with its eight parameters viz; change in occupation, land holding, education, annual income, socio political participation, household and material possession. The data thus obtained have been furnished in above Table 01.

Table 1: Distribution of the beneficiaries of soil and water conservation, LEISA and organic farming activity according to per cent change in SES and total impact of CAIM programme on beneficiaries

Sr. No.	SES parameter	Mean score			'z' value
		Before (n=100)	After (n=100)	% Change	
1	Occupation	25.26	34.44	36.34	8.96*
2	Land holding	35.24	51.27	45.48	8.74*
3	Education	42.85	47.54	10.94	12.36*
4	Annual income	15.72	19.31	22.83	14.68*
5	Socio political participation	05.86	08.14	38.90	07.36*
6	House hold	36.02	43.13	19.73	11.70*
7	Material possession	67.36	75.66	12.32	14.97*
8	Other attributes	02.25	03.10	37.77	9.91*
	Total (Average)			28.03	

%= Percentage

A cursory look at Table 1 , reveal that mean score of occupation (34.44), land holding (51.27), education (47.54), annual income (19.31), socio political participation (08.14), household (43.13), material possession (75.66) and other attributes (03.10) were higher than the mean score of beneficiaries before participation in CAIM programme for occupation (25.26), land holding (35.24), education (42.85), annual income (15.72), socio political participation (05.86), household (36.20), material possession (67.36) and other attributes (02.25) of beneficiary respondents in SWC, LEISA and organic farming activity of CAIM programme.

It was also found that, there was change in occupation, land holding, education, annual income, socio political participation, household, material possession and other attributes to the tune of 36.34, 45.48, 10.94, 22.83, 38.90, 19.73, 12.72 and 37.77 per cent over that before participation of respondents in SWC,

LEISA and organic farming activity of CAIM programme. When impact as whole was considered it is seen from the table, that there was impact of 28.03 per cent of CAIM programme on the respondents. It could, therefore there was definite positive impact of SWC, LEISA and organic farming activity of CAIM programme on the beneficiaries in terms of change in occupation, land holding, education, annual income, socio political participation, household, material possession and other attributes to the extent of 28.03 per cent over and above as a whole [5-6]. In order to test variability of mean of all eight parameters of socio economic status of beneficiaries of SWC, LEISA and organic farming activity of CAIM programme before and after participation in the programme, the data were subjected to 'z' test and the result thus obtained have been presented in table 1.

The 'z' value of occupation (8.96), land holding (8.74), education (12.36), annual income (14.68), socio political participation (07.36), household (11.70), material possession (14.97) and other attributes (09.91) found to be significant at 0.05 level of probability. The result is supported by [4]. It could be therefore inferred that, the beneficiaries of SWC, LEISA and organic farming activity of CAIM programme differs significantly after participation in the programme. It could, therefore, be explicitly stated that, there was definite change in socio economic status of beneficiaries of CAIM programme. By and large, it could be definitely inferred that, SWC, LEISA and organic farming activity of CAIM programme had significant impact on the beneficiaries.

CONCLUSION

The finding reveals that, there were changes observed in socio economic status of beneficiaries of SWC, LEISA and organic farming of CAIM programme with respect to changes in occupation, land holding, family education, annual income, socio political participation, household, material possession and other attributes, in total it was observed that there was 28.03 per cent change in socio economic status of beneficiaries after participation in the CAIM programme.

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