

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE FARM BASED AGRI-INPUT ENTREPRENEURS IN CENTRAL TELANGANA REGION

ABSTRACT

In a situation when farmers' suicide and distress sell still remain the key issues in India's Agricultural scenario, we are dreaming of achieving a double income for the farming community. This gap in the income level of farmers can only be bridged by adopting newer income generating opportunities like establishing Farm based enterprises. Farm based enterprises are the vehicles for transforming rural India, these enterprises are maintained by the agripreneurs this are the people enthusiastically more interestedly established units in agriculture especially in rural areas. Main aim of my research is to knowing about the constraints faced by the farm based agri input entrepreneurs and their impact on rural people especially on farmers of the area. The research investigation was conducted in Central Telangana region of Sanga Reddy district it consists of three revenue divisions namely Zahirabad, Narayanakhed and Sanga Reddy. From each revenue division Nine blocks were selected purposively using simple random sampling method thus making up a total of 27 blocks. From out of 27 Blocks each block 7-8 respondents interviewed and collected data with help of specially designed interview schedule it constitutes a total of 200 farm based agri-input entrepreneurs. The exploratory research design was used for the study. with the objective to know the problems experienced by the Farm based Agripreneurs to start and run the farm-based enterprises. Constraints of agripreneurs stated that inadequate field diagnostic skills, lack of seed availability and storage facilities, high transportation costs, lack of financial facilities etc. are major Constraints faced by the farm based agri input entrepreneurs.

Key words: Constraints experienced, farm based agripreneurs, Inadequate field diagnostic skills, lack of financial facilities, farm based enterprises.

INTRODUCTION

India, in order to remain a front-runner needs to primarily focus on agricultural sector, the back bone of the economy. This specialization will develop Agri-preneurs with distinct traits and skills to explore opportunities galore in the field of agriculture. Among the various strategies to promote planned growth in this sector, focus on promoting viable farm-based enterprises will certainly help exploit its operational efficiency to handle.

It is a long held view that innovation in the farming sector in India has progressed since the green revolution of the 60s and 70s , the drastic change in that period brought high yielding varieties of seeds , along with major improvement in irrigation methods and soil nutrition , it is a

common argument that farmers in India continue to follow the paradigm established by the green revolution even today, despite the fact that natural and economic factors demand revolutionary changes in the agricultural sector once again.

Farm based enterprises are important vehicle for imparting sustainability in farmer's income, in a situation when farmer's suicide and distress sell still remain the key issues in India's Agricultural scenario, we are dreaming of achieving a double income for the farming community. This gap in the income levels of farmers can only be bridged by adopting newer income generating opportunities like establishment of Farm based enterprises. Agriculture and industry both are miles apart from each other but there are definite enterprises which are dependent on agriculture and these types of enterprises are known as farm-based enterprises.

A farm-based enterprise is one which produces the finished goods by using agricultural raw materials or producing required inputs for farm or producing economic agricultural produce or rendering services for the farm. Ex; Biofertilizers, Livestock, Agro-processing, Agri clinic etc. (Source: vikaspedia.in/agriculture/farm-based enterprises)

The farm-based enterprises depend upon agriculture for raw materials. Farm based enterprises are the major market of agricultural commodities. Main farm-based enterprises in India are the sugar industry, the cotton textile industry, jute industry, food processing, paper industry and agricultural inputs like seed fertilizer pesticides industries. Employment opportunities in the rural region of the country are increasing due to the establishment of more and more farm-based enterprises. Farm based enterprises playing a significant role in agricultural development. Farm based enterprises are the future of Indian agriculture. Farmers get reasonable cost of the farm-based product by interlinking of farm-based enterprise and farmers.

Increasing population growth in the country places pressure on agricultural production. The miss uses of agrochemicals, pesticides increasing rapidly, the harmful effects of the pesticides are now established worldwide. Farmers are the direct users of pesticides and more like to get acute toxicity of pesticides. The chronic toxicity effect whole population. Farmers were unaware of correct usage of such agro chemicals, they are guided by Agri input dealers and retail outlets of Agri inputs. Today the average age of the farmer increasing globally and encouraging new generation of farmer, farm-based enterprises are crucial because the quality supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. ensure the quality production and productivity of agricultural products.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ex Post Facto research design was adopted for the study as the event was already occurred and the researcher has no opportunity to influence the independent variables. To place it in Kerlinger (1968) words, ex-post facto research is an orderly experimental enquiry wherein the researchers don't have direct control of impacting (independent) factors. Since their appearances

have just happened or on the grounds that they are characteristically not manipulatable. Impact about relations among factors are made without direct intercession, however from corresponding variety of free (influencing) and subordinate (consequent) factors.

The study was conducted at Sangareddy district which lies in the northern region of Telangana, India. The method adopted for selection of taluk and enterprises are presented here along with the description of study area.

Sangareddy district of Telangana was selected purposively for the study. Since the researcher is well-conversant with the dialect, geography and people as the study area was purposively selected

In Sangareddy district, there were three revenue divisions namely Narayankhed, Sangareddy and Zaheerabad which were sub-divided into 27 mandals. All the 27 Mandal were selected for the study (Complete enumeration). The list of mandals. Thus, total number of selected respondents was 200. The collected data was processed and tabulated manually. Simple frequency and percentage were calculated to analyze the data.

List 1: Number of farm-based enterprises in study area

S.NO	Revenue Divisions	Mandals	No of FBEs
1	Narayankhed revenue	1. Kalher	08
		2. Kangti	18
		3. Manor	10
		4. Nagilgidda	06
		5. Narayankhed	32
		6. Sirgapoor	05
2	Sangareddy revenue	7. Ameenpur	03
		8. Andole	11
		9. Gummadidala	09
		10. Hathnoora	09
		11. Jinnaram	06
		12. Kandi	0
		13. Kondapur	02
		14. Munipally	13
		15. Patancheru	06
		16. Pulkal	09
		17. Ramchandrapuram	03
		18. Sadasivapet	35
		19. Sangareddy	10
		20. Vatpally	14
3	Zaheerabab revenue	21. Jharasangam	11
		22. Kohir	14

		23. Mogudampally	03
		24. Nyalkal	14
		25. Raikode	24
		26. Zahirabad	22

Problems experienced by the agripreneur

From the previous studies, literatures available and expert's opinion, the various difficulties encountered by the agripreneur were documented under five categories viz., family related Problems, marketing related Problems, credit and finance Problems, social/personal Problems and technical and other Problems. Based on the experience of the agripreneur, they were asked to provide their response against the constraint encountered by them. Based on the frequency and percentage analysis, the difficulties encountered by them can be learnt.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Difficulties experienced by the respondents

Table.1. Distribution of respondents based on their family related problems

(n=200)

S. No	Family related Problems experienced by the respondent	Response	
		Frequency	Percent
1	Lack of sufficient support from family members	4	2
2	Multiple role conflict	9	4.5
3	Disturbance in general family life/ relations	42	21
4	Dissatisfaction for not being able to give desired time/ attention to children/family	111	55.5
5	Strain having to manage home and unit	21	10.5
6	Limit of property	11	5.5
7	Least interest of family	2	1

The family related Problems experienced by the respondents can be understood from table 1, which revealed that more than half of the respondents (55.5%) experienced that ‘dissatisfaction for not being able to give desired time/attention to children /family’, followed by 21 per cent of them felt ‘disturbance in general family life/ relations’, ‘strain having to manage home and unit’ (10.5%), ‘limit of property’ (5.5%), ‘multiple role conflict’ (4.5%), ‘lack of sufficient support from family members’ (2%) and only 1 per cent of them felt ‘least interest of family’.

Since the family is the most important part in which the respondents live in, the family related Problems affect their individual and enterprise related growth. Similar findings were reported by Madhumitha and Karthikeyan (2020).

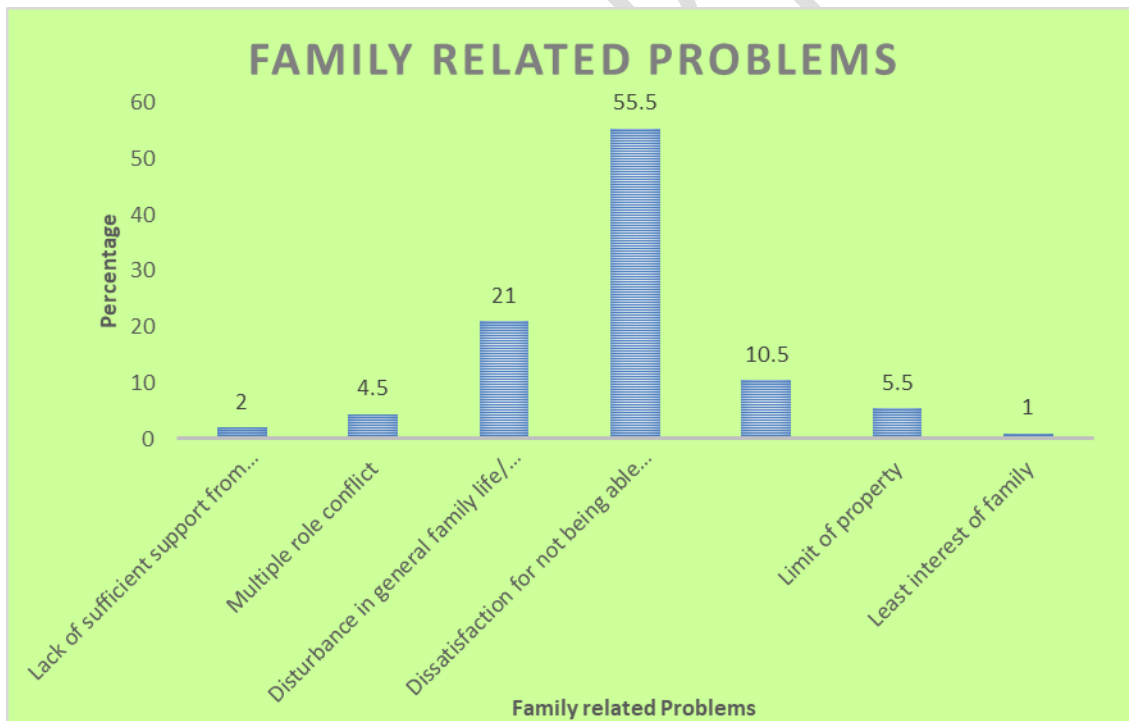


Fig..1. Distribution of respondents based on their family related Problems

Table.2. Distribution of respondents based on their technical and other Problems

(n=200)

S. No	Technical and other Problems experienced by the respondent	Response	
		Frequency	Percent
1	Inadequate training in skills	2	1
2	Lack of consultancy and counseling services	1	0.5
3	Low knowledge on disease control	3	1.5
4	Less /non availability of health care facilities	70	35
5	Lack of suitable technology	44	22
6	More no. of villages under one extension officer	42	21
7	Lack of technical knowledge	38	19

The technical and other Problems experienced by the respondents can be understood from table.2, which revealed that most of the respondents (35%) experienced 'Less/non-availability of health care facilities', followed by 'lack of suitable technology' (22%), 'more number of villages under one livestock extension officer' (21%), 'lack of technical knowledge' (19%), low knowledge on disease control' (1.5%), 'inadequate training skills' (1%) and only 0.5 per cent experience 'lack of consultancy and counselling services'. Similar findings were reported by Sangamesh (2012), Ram et.al., (2014), Singh et.al., (2015).

The reason for more number of villages under one livestock extension officer was unavailability of trained professionals for provision clinical services.

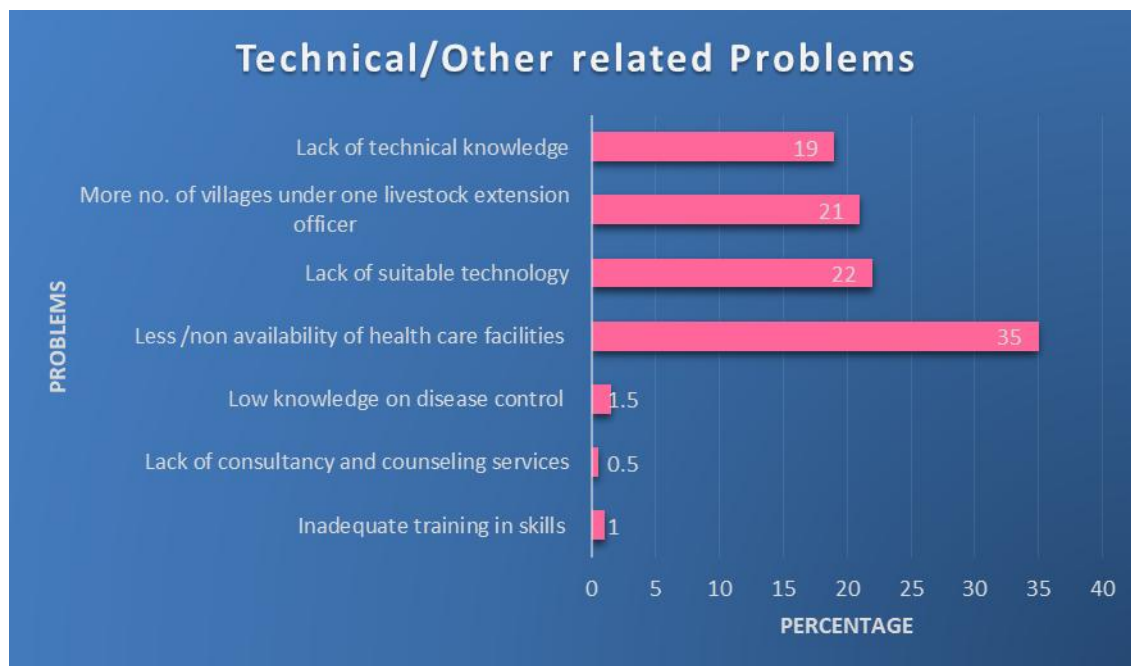


Fig.2. Distribution of respondents based on their technical/ other related Problems

Table 3. Distribution of respondents based on their market related Problems

(n=200)

S. No	Market related Problems experienced by the respondent	Response	
		Frequency	Percent
1	Difficulty in competing with improved products	0	0
2	Lack of knowledge of diversification of products	0	0
3	Competition with other micro-enterprises for limited local markets	11	5.5

4	Bad marketing facilities	19	9.5
5	Lack of local demand	55	27.5
6	Low/ uncertainty of prices	55	27.5
7	Lack of preservation facilities	28	14
8	Less orientation towards processing and other value adding activities	32	16

The marketing related Problems experienced by the respondents can be understood from table 3., majority of the respondents had equal percentage of Problems, 'lack of local demand' (27.5%), 'low/uncertainty of prices' (27.5%), followed by 'less orientation towards processing and other value adding activities' (16%), 'lack of preservation facilities' (14%), 'bad marketing facilities' (9.5%) and 'competition with other micro-enterprises for limited local markets' (5.5%).

The findings were in confirmatory with the studies of Sangamesh (2012), Ram et.al., (2014), Wagmode et.al., (2015).

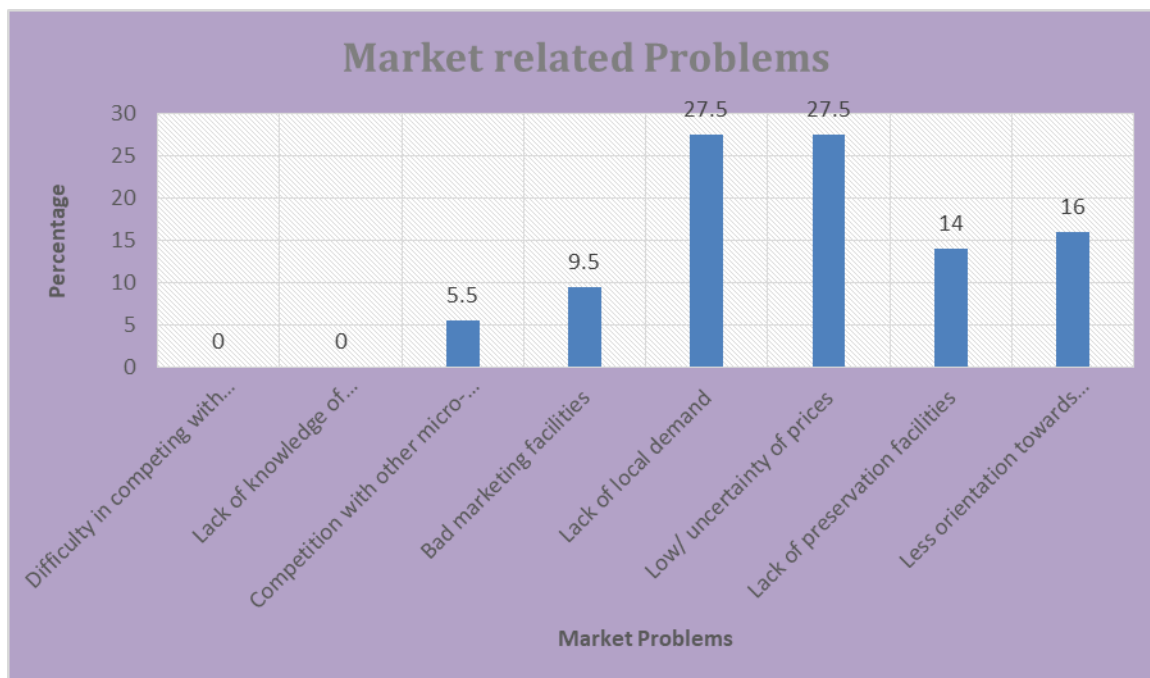


Fig.3. Distribution of respondents based on their market related Problems

Table 4. Distribution of respondents based on their credit and finance related Problems (n=200)

S. No	Credit and finance Problems experienced by the respondent	Response	
		Frequency	Percent
1	Hurdles in getting credit due to unnecessary and irrelevant stipulations of conditions	5	2.5
2	High rate of interest	18	9
3	Lack of awareness of different funding schemes and their procedures	87	43.5
4	Lack of surety for getting loans	89	44.5
5	Delay in sanction of loan	1	0.5

The credit and finance Problems experienced by the respondents can be understood from table 4, that majority of the respondents (44.5%) experienced ‘lack of security for getting loans’, followed by ‘lack of awareness of different funding schemes and their procedures’ (43.5%), ‘high rate of interest’ (9%), ‘hurdles in getting credit due to unnecessary and irrelevant stipulation of conditions’ (2.5%) and ‘delay in sanction of loan’ (0.5%).

The findings were in accordance with the studies of Sangamesh (2012), Ram et.al., (2014), Shilake et.al., (2015), Singh et.al., (2015), Wagmode et.al., (2015).

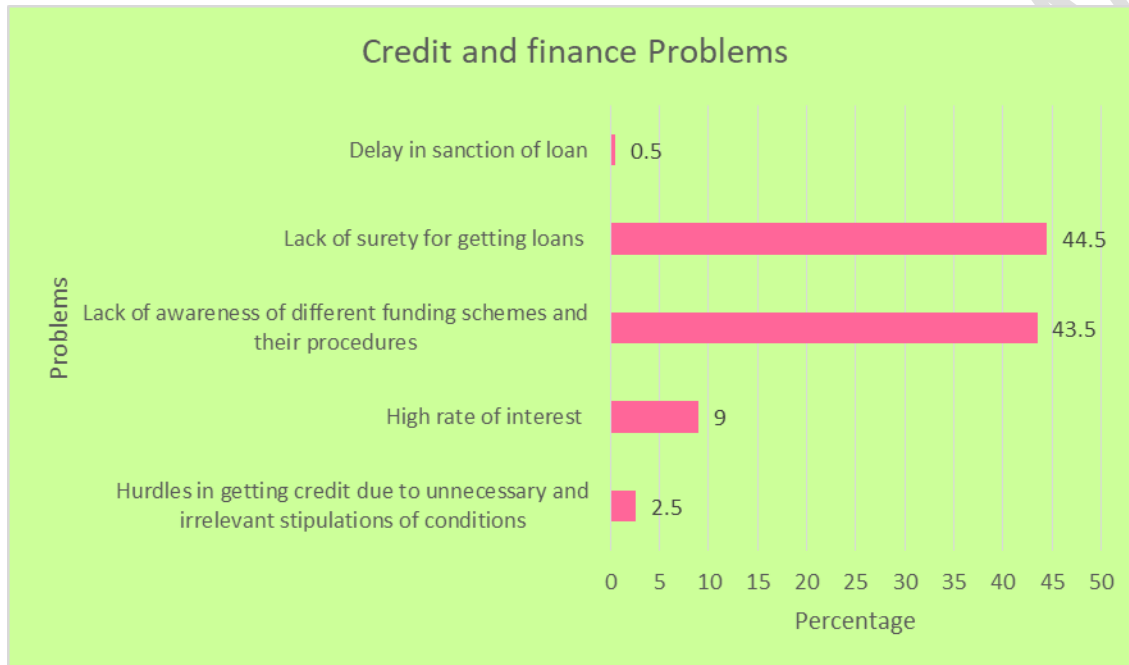


Fig.4. Distribution of respondents based on their credit and finance related problems

Table 5. Distribution of respondents based on their social / personal related Problems (n=200)

S. No	Social / Personal Problems experienced by the respondent	Response	
		Frequency	Percent
1	Social pressures and taboos	12	6
2	Fear of failure because of more risks and uncertainties	83	41.5

3	Increased stress due to the dual responsibilities	105	52.5
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The social / personal Problems experienced by the respondents can be understood from Table.5, more than half of the respondents (52.5%) experienced ‘increased stress due to the dual responsibilities’, followed by ‘fear of failure because of more risks and uncertainties’ (41.5%) and ‘social pressure and taboos’ (6%).

The society where the respondents live in pose such threats to them. Meanwhile, similar findings were reported by Madhumitha and Karthikeyan (2020).



Fig 5. Distribution of respondents based on their social / personal related problems

CONCLUSION

The variables that identified to have positive and significant relationship with the constraints experienced by the respondents were value orientation, extension agency contact and risk-taking behaviour at 1 per cent level of significance. Simultaneously, trainings received, mass media exposure, experience and achievement motivation had positive and significant relationship at 5 percent level of significance, while, education and sources of information utilization had positive and significant relationship at 10 per cent level of significance. On the other hand, the variables socio-economic status, ability to co-ordinate the farming activities, and innovativeness had no significant relationship with the difficulties experienced by the respondents.

Limitations of the study

Though, all possible efforts were made to make the study objective and precise, certain limitations did remain. The present study, being part of the Master's programme, has the normal limitations of time, funds and other facilities commonly faced by single student researcher. These limitations led to the purposive selection of only one district as the locale of the study. Generalizations made based on the findings of the study may not be directly applicable to other areas and need to be substantiated with other studies.

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