

Income and employment generation activities among farmer beneficiaries through crop based module of Farmer First Programme

Abstract

This paper is concerned with analysis the impact of Farmer First Programme in generating the income and employment of the farmers through crop based module of farmer first programme in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh State, the Farmer First Programme (FFP) is a concept of ICAR where the farmer plays a centric role for research problem identification, prioritization and conduct of experiments and its management at farmer's conditions. It's focus on Farmer's Farm, Innovations, Resources, Science and Technology (FIRST). A sample of 129 farmers from Lalbarra block of Balaghat district was purposively selected, because its having maximum area under Farmer First Programme. Total five modules are going on in Lalbarra block. out of which only Crop Based Module was selected because it consists of high number of Beneficiaries. The purpose of this research was to determine the impact of the Farmer FIRST programme on the farming community in terms of income and employment generation during 2020-21, for finding the research issue, Ex- post facto research design was used. We employed absolute changes for assessing the Impact of Crop Based Module of Farmer First Programme by gaining the additional income of individuals which were computed by ascertaining pre and post income and employment generation of individuals through FFP. It may be concluded that there is a significant and positive difference found in income and employment generation among the farmers through Farmer First Programme.

Keywords:- Farmer First Programme, impact, income generation, employment generation, crop based module

Introduction:-

Agriculture is India's most common occupation and primary source of income for the majority of the population in India. India continuous to be predominantly an agrarian rural economy, with around 69 percent of its population living in rural areas (Anonymous;2011), agricultural policies play an important role in pro-poor growth. They could support increases in productivity and profitability in a number of ways. Farmers are frequently confront productivity and natural resource management issues, but they may not have found answers to any issues, for this purpose Farmer First Programme (FFP) give the ways to the solve their problems by provides them a opportunity to connect with researchers, extension experts and farmers they can collaborate, and develop acceptable solutions by evaluating several options.

Farmer FIRST Programme is an ICAR innovative approach to move beyond the production and productivity, to privilege the small holder agriculture and complex, diverse and risk-

prone realities of the majority of farmers through enhancing farmers-scientists interface, While the natural resource base upon which agriculture depends will become increasingly stressed (ICAR, 2016). Farmer FIRST involves establishing connections between farmers, researchers, and extensionists in order to assist farmers in doing experiments that they have chosen. Farmers frequently develop new ideas to better their agriculture and natural resource management activities during the production process. Researchers, extensionists and farmers will be able to develop, arrange new studies as a result of this. Farmers frequently confront productivity and natural resource management issues, but they may not have found answers to these issues. In such cases, Farmer FIRST provides an opportunity for researchers, extension experts, and farmers to collaborate and develop acceptable solutions by evaluating several options. Farmer First can be used as a communal experiment not only at the family level, but also at the village and community level. Keeping in the mind of all this, our main objectives for current paper is to find out the impact of Farmer First Programme in generating the income and employment through Crop Based Module in Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh. The result of the investigation will shed light on the impact of FFP on income and employment generation.

Material and Method:-

The study was conducted in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh during 2020-2021. The Balaghat district is located in the south eastern part of M.P. at 21.19 to 22.24 North latitude and west longitude of 79.39 to 81.3 with altitude of 303 meters above mean sea level. It is surrounded by Mandla district in north, Gondia district (Maharashtra) in south, Seoni district in west and Rajnandgaon (Chhattishgarh) in the east. The district has 10 blocks, out of which Lalbarra block was selected purposively for the study, Lalbarra block comprises of 107 villages, out of which cluster of three villages were selected namely Chillod, Koppe, and Lendejhari purposely, for present investigation.

Ex- post facto research design was used in the study. In order to evaluated the impact of Farmer First Programme, Crop Based Module was selected out of five module, because it consists of high number of Beneficiaries in the Lalbarra block. From each village, 35 per cent of beneficiaries were selected from total number of beneficiaries with proportionate random sampling method. The primary data pertains to the year 2020-2021 were collected from FFP beneficiaries through Personal Interview.

In present study, efforts were made to evaluate the Impact of Farmer First programme in income and employment generation of the farmer beneficiaries .The distribution of the beneficiaries according to their income and employment generation level before FFP intervention and after FFP intervention then we finded out the absolute changes between them which shows the additional income and employment generation through crop module of FFP. Income is an end result of work

and employment. The changes in income and employment of individuals were computed by ascertaining pre and post income and employment generation through crop based module of farmer first programme.

From each selected village, 35 per cent of beneficiaries were selected from total number of beneficiaries with proportionate random sampling method.

Table 1:-Village wise distribution of beneficiaries in Lalbarra block of Balaghat district

Module	Selected villages	Total number of Beneficiaries	Selected Beneficiaries
Crop Based Module	Chillod	178	62
	Koppe	110	39
	Lendejhari	80	28
	Total	368	129

Source: College of Agriculture, Balaghat (M.P)

Result:

Deals with the analysis and interpretation of collected data, which were collected from the sample of 129 farmer beneficiaries, through the pre- tested structured schedule. Calculations were made through absolute changes in pre and post income and employment generation of individuals of FFP beneficiaries.

Table 2: Absolute changes in income of farmer beneficiaries through farmer first programme

S.No	Categories	Beneficiaries before FFP		Beneficiaries after FFP	
		Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low income	66	51.17	19	14.72
2.	Medium income	52	40.31	77	59.70
3.	High income	11	8.52	33	25.58
	Total	129	100.00	129	100.00

The data shows that, frequency and percentages change in income generation of individual farmer beneficiaries through crop module of farmer first programme. out of the total beneficiaries, 51.17 percent belonged to low level of income generation, 40.31 percent were found in medium level of income generation and 8.52 percentage belonged to high level of income generation before crop based module.

Further, in case of after farmer first programme intervention, 22 farmers were change increased their income (25.58%) in high level of income. It is clear from the above Table 2 that there is clear variation on the frequency of FFP beneficiaries distributed as per their extent of income generation, after FFP intervention, the results are consistent with some of the findings of FFP's that, farmer first programme is good influence attracts individuals to farming. The findings are supported by Idris *et al.* (2012) and Nirmala *et al.* (2016).

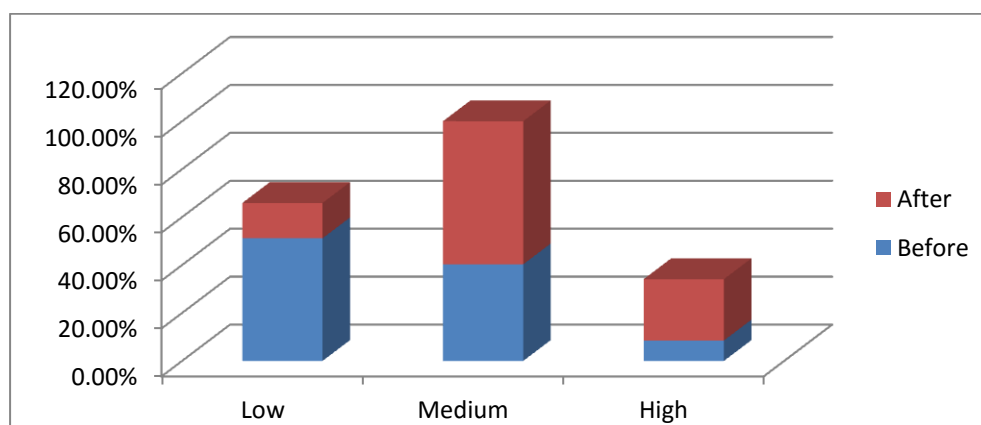
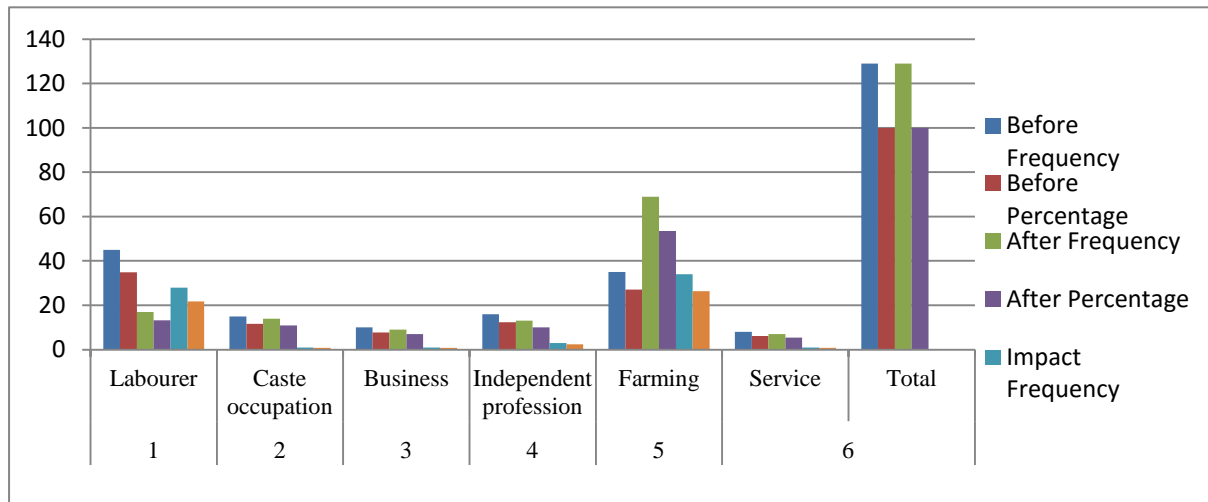


Table 3: Absolute changes in employment generation of farmer beneficiaries through farmer first programme

S.No	Categories	Before		After		Impact	
		Frequenc y	Percentage	Frequenc y	Percentage	Frequen cy	Percenta ge
1.	Labourer	45	34.90	17	13.19	28	21.71
2.	Caste occupation	15	11.63	14	10.85	1	0.78
3.	Business	10	7.75	9	6.97	1	0.78
4.	Independent profession	16	12.40	13	10.07	3	2.33
5.	Farming	35	27.12	69	53.49	34	26.34
6.	Service	8	6.20	7	5.42	1	0.78
	Total	129	100.00	129	100.00		

Table 3 reveal the, frequency and percentage change in employment generation of farmer beneficiaries of farmer first programme, before beneficiaries farmer were more engaged in labour work, caste occupation and their subsidiary occupation as source of employment activities and after farmer first intervention, beneficiaries were more engaged in crop based module as additional employment generation activity. here 34 beneficiaries (26.35%) changed their occupation as farming.

As a result, FFP's good influence attracts individuals to farming, the findings are supported by Panda and Majundar (2013) and Pandey et al. (2015).



It is clear from the above both the Table 2 and 3, that there is clear variation on the frequency of farmer beneficiaries distributed as per their extent of income and employment generation in the period of after the FFP intervention and before the FFP intervention.

Conclusion

Farmer First Programme is a concept of ICAR, where farmer plays a centric role for research problem identification, prioritization and conduct of experiments and its management at farmers' conditions with specific objectives and aim to increase the productivity of the farmers. It is concluded that. In case of Income generation It is concluded that, in case of employment generation of the farmer beneficiaries after Farmer First intervention, 34 beneficiaries changed (increased) in Farming occupation, or in case of income generation, 42 beneficiaries changed (Increased) in high and medium income generation group after Farmer First intervention. It may be concluded that in both cases there is a significantly difference found in employment and income generation before and after FFP intervention among farmer beneficiaries.

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