

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

Abstract

This paper is concerned with analyzing the impact of the Farmer First Programme in generating the income and employment of the farmers through a crop-based module of the farmer first Programme in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh State, the Farmer First Programme (FFP) is a concept of **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** where the farmer plays a centric role for research problem identification, prioritization, and conduct of experiments and its management at farmer's conditions. Its focus is on Farmer's Farm, Innovations, Resources, Science, and Technology (FIRST). A sample of 129 farmers from the Lalbarra block of Balaghat district was purposively selected because it's having a maximum area under Farmer First Programme. A total of five modules are going on in the Lalbarra block. out of which only Crop Based Module was selected because it consists of a 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 the Crop Based Module of the 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, income generation, beneficiaries, 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 continues 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 have frequently confronted productivity and natural resource management issues, but they may not have found answers to any issues, for this purpose Farmer First Programme (FFP) gives the ways to the solve their problems by providing them an 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 smallholder agriculture and complex, diverse, and risk-prone realities of the majority of farmers through enhancing the 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 and 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 mind all this, our main objective for the current paper is to find out the impact of the Farmer First Programme in generating income and employment through the Crop Based Module in the 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 the Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh from 2020 to 2021. The Balaghat district is located in the southeastern part of M.P. at 21.19 to 22.24 North latitude and west longitude of 79.39 to 81.3 with an altitude of 303 meters above mean sea level. It is surrounded by Mandla district in the north, Gondia district (Maharashtra) in the south, Seoni district in the 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 107 villages, out of which a cluster of three villages was selected namely Chillod, Koppe, and Lendejhari purposely, for the present investigation.

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

In the present study, efforts were made to evaluate the Impact of the Farmer First programme on the 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 found out the absolute changes between them which show the additional income and employment generation through the 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 the crop-based module of the farmer first programme.

From each selected village, 35 percent of beneficiaries were selected from a total number of beneficiaries with a 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
	Lendjhari	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 the crop module of the farmer first programme. out of the total beneficiaries, 51.17 percent belonged to a low level of income generation, 40.31 percent were found

in a medium level of income generation and 8.52 percent belonged to a high level of income generation before the crop-based module.

Further, in the case of after farmer first programme intervention, 22 farmers were change increased their income (25.58%) to a high level of income. It is clear from the above Table 2 that there is a clear variation in 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 FFPs that, the farmer first programme is good influence attracts individuals to farming. The findings are supported by Idris *et al.* (2012) and Nirmala *et al.* (2016).

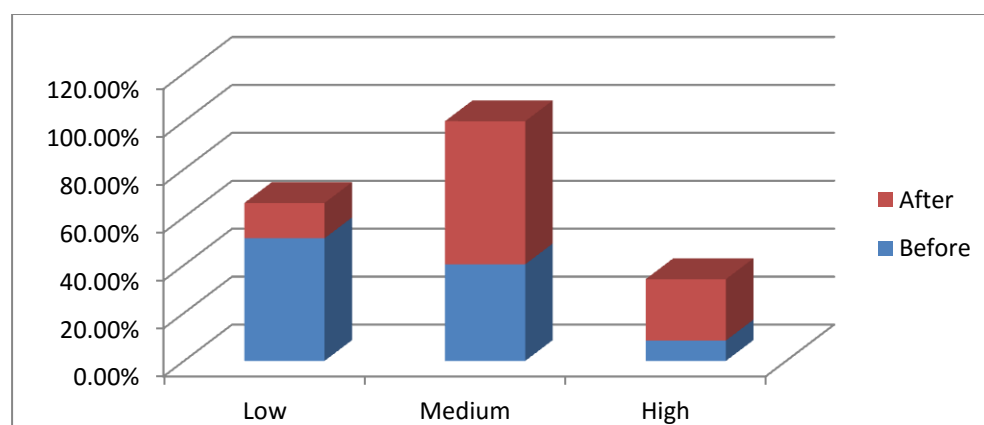
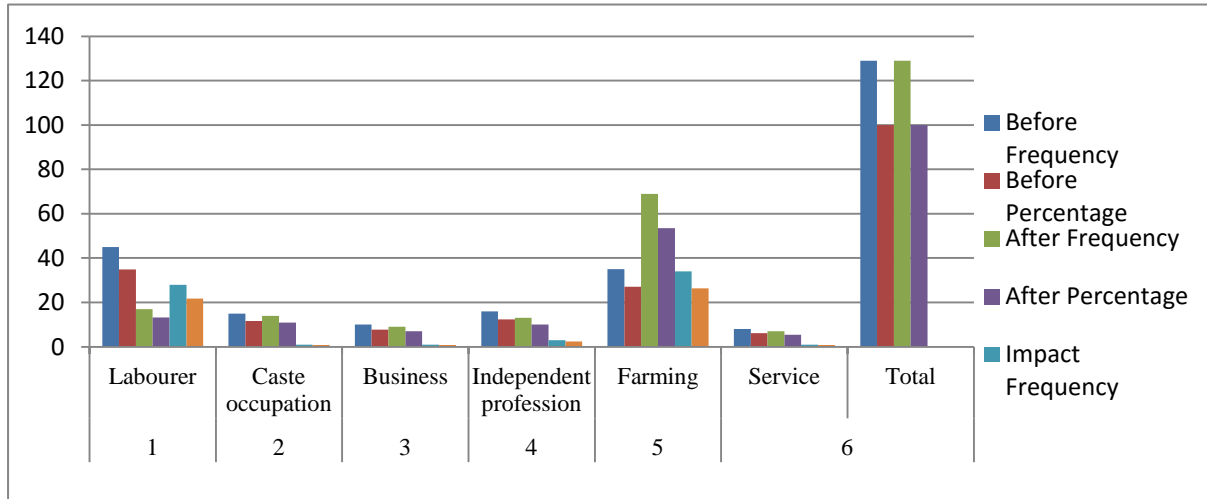


Table 3: Absolute changes in employment generation of farmer beneficiaries through farmer first programme

S.No	Categories	Before		After		Impact	
		Frequenc y	Percentage	Frequenc y	Percentage	Frequen cy	Percenta ge
1.	Laborer	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 labor work, caste occupation, and their subsidiary occupation as a source of employment activities,

and after farmer first intervention, beneficiaries were more engaged in the crop-based module as additional employment generation activity. here 34 beneficiaries (26.35%) changed their occupation to 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 Tables 2 and 3, that there is a clear variation in the frequency of farmer beneficiaries distributed as per their extent of income and employment generation in the period after the FFP intervention and before the FFP intervention.

Conclusion

Farmer First Programme is a concept of ICAR, where the farmer plays a centric role in research problem identification, prioritization, and conduct of experiments and its management of farmers" conditions with specific objectives and aim to increase the productivity of the farmers. It is concluded that. In the case of Income generation, It is concluded that in the case of employment generation of the farmer beneficiaries after Farmer First intervention, 34 beneficiaries changed (increased) in Farming occupation, or in the 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 significant difference found in employment and income generation before and after FFP intervention among farmer beneficiaries.

Consent

As per international standard or university standard, Participants' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

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