Study The Awareness in the Farmers About the Agricultural Schemes Launched by the Government of Maharashtra

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Abstract:

Agriculture is the backbone of India's economy, and the government has launched many schemes to support farmers and boost agricultural growth. However, despite these efforts, many farmers remain unaware of these schemes and are unable to benefit from them. To bridge this knowledge gap, a study was conducted to investigate the level of awareness among farmers about government schemes and to identify the sources of their information. The study revealed that only 81.6 % of farmers are aware of the available schemes. Social media is the most popular source for farmers to learn about new agricultural schemes, reflecting its importance in spreading awareness and providing timely information to the farming community. The study highlighted the need for proper education and training to empower farmers to take full advantage of these schemes and improve their lifestyle. By addressing the awareness gap and providing farmers with the necessary knowledge and skills, the government can ensure that its schemes are effective in promoting agricultural growth and development.

Keywords: Agriculture, Government, Schemes, Farmers, Awareness, Knowledge, Social Media, Information Sources, Education and Training, Agricultural Growth, Lifestyle Improvement, Government Support.

Introduction

Agriculture is very important for the people of Maharashtra, as many depend on farming for their income and livelihood. To help farmers, the Government of Maharashtra has introduced various agricultural schemes. These schemes aim to improve crop production, provide financial support, give access to modern technology, offer insurance, and promote sustainable farming practices. However, the success of these schemes depends on how well farmers understand and benefit from them. Farmers' views and experiences with these schemes are important because they determine whether or not they will use them. Their perception is shaped by factors such as their knowledge about the schemes, past experiences, and the challenges they face in their farming activities. By looking at their opinions and experiences, this research will help identify what is working well and what needs improvement. The findings will provide useful insights for the government to create better policies and programs that truly help farmers.

Objectives

➢ To find out how much farmers know about the government's agricultural schemes.

➢ To learn where farmers get their information about these schemes.

➢ To identify problems to farmers to accessing into this schemes

➢ To find out what percentage of farmers satisfied with the government's agricultural schemes.

Literature Review

1. Kumar S. (2018) this study assessed the awareness and adoption of agricultural schemes among farmers in Maharashtra. The results showed that 70% of farmers were aware of the schemes, but only 40% had adopted them.

2. **Sharma A. (2020)** a study conducted in Madhya Pradesh found that 60% of farmers were aware of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), but only 30% had enrolled in the scheme.

3. Rao K. V. (2019) this study evaluated the impact of agricultural schemes on farmers' livelihoods in Telangana. The results showed that awareness and adoption of schemes were higher among farmers who had received training and extension services.

4. Singh (2019) this study examined the awareness and adoption of government schemes among farmers in Punjab, India. The results showed that 55% of farmers were aware of the schemes, but only 25% had adopted them.

5. Kumar (2020) a study conducted in Bihar, India, found that 50% of farmers were aware of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, but only 20% had received the benefits.

6. Rathod (2018) this study evaluated the impact of government schemes on farmers' livelihoods in Gujarat, India. The results showed that awareness and adoption of schemes were higher among farmers who had received training and extension services.

7. Chavan (2019) the sustainability of agricultural schemes is a critical issue that needs to be addressed (Deshpande et al., 2018). Studies have shown that agricultural schemes that are sustainable, scalable, and replicable are more likely to have a lasting impact on farmers' livelihoods (Chavan et al., 2019).

8. R. S. Deshpande and S. S. Kulkarni Evaluating the Effectiveness of Agricultural Schemes in Maharashtra" by R. S. Deshpande and S. S. Kulkarni.

9. Rao and Reddy (2013) Awareness is the first step toward the effective utilization of any government initiative. According to lack of awareness is one of the main reasons why rural welfare schemes fail to achieve intended outcomes. This is especially true in the agricultural sector, where **literacy levels**, **language barriers**, and **poor communication channels** further complicate awareness dissemination.

Statement of the problem

The farming sector is still growing and needs help, and to support this growth, the government has created various programs to assist farmers, but unfortunately, many farmers are not aware of these programs or are not satisfied with them, which is a major concern. This research aims to understand the awareness of farmers to the government programs, how satisfied they are with these programs, and what their opinions and problems are with these programs.

By gathering this information, the goal is to identify the issues and challenges faced by farmers in accessing and benefiting from government programs, and to find solutions to address these problems, ultimately helping farmers to better utilize these programs and improve their overall well-being. This study specifically focuses on farmers in Maharashtra with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of their needs and concerns, and identifying ways to support them more effectively.

Research Methodology

1) Descriptive Research

Descriptive research design is a type of research method that is used when one wants to get information on the current status of an object. It is used to describe what is in existence in respect to conditions of variables that are found in a given situation.

Methods: Surveys, observations.

2) Quantitative Research

Gathering numerical data through surveys or statistical tools to analyze patterns in process and the effectiveness of recruitment and selection

SAMPLE SIZE Sample size is 103 respondents

SOURCE OF DATA:

The collection of data is considered to be one of the important aspects in the research methodology. There are two types of data that exists one is primary data and the other is secondary data.

Primary Data

The primary data has been collected from the farmers of their village. It is well structured questionnaire has been used for the collection of primary data from the respondents. For the purpose of knowing about usage of the agricultural schemes.

Secondary Data

It has been collected from the various magazines, journals and various websites

STRUCTURE OF QUESTIONNAIRE

A well-structured questionnaire was used for this study. The types of questions used in the questionnaire were multiple-choice and Dichotomous questions. Multiple-choice questions, which contains a list of answer and permit the subject to select the best answer. Dichotomous questions are questions that only have two possible answers that is 'yes' or 'no'.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Sillod taluka of Chh. Sambhajinagar District (Maharashtra) by interviewing 103 farmers spread in villages in taluka. The stratified random sampling method was used for data collection. The sampled farmers were from the categories of marginal to large farms cultivating all important crops .The data is shown with the help of graphs and charts. We also used software's like MS Excel.

Data Analysis & Interpretation:

1. Farmers awareness about the government schemes

PARTICULARS	NO OF RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
YES	84	81.6
NO	19	18.4
TOTAL	103	100
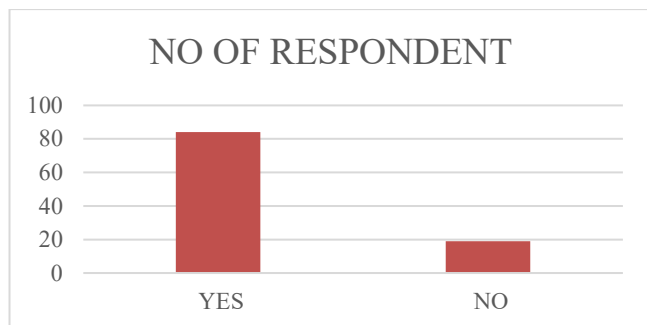
NO OF RESPONDENT

The above table shows the generally most of the farmers are aware about the government schemes .81% farmers are aware about government schemes.

## 2. Farmers learn about new agricultural schemes sources

SOURCES	NO OF RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
Agriculture Department	15	14.6
Social Media	49	47.6
Family members	21	20.4
Advertisements	18	17.5
Other (please specify)	0	0
Total	103	100
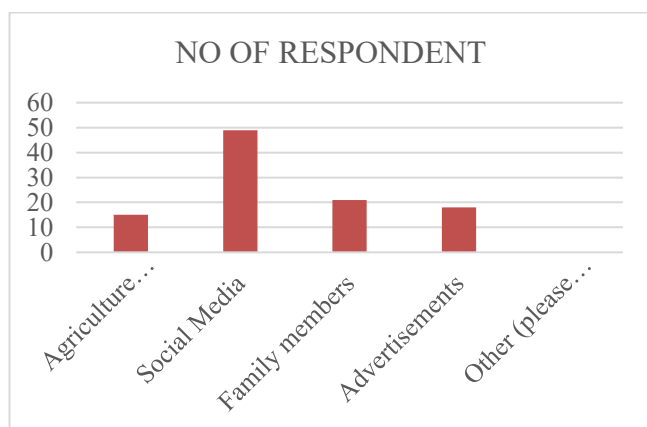
NO OF RESPONDENT

The table shows that social media is the most common source of information for farmers about new agriculture schemes, with 47.6% of respondents citing it as their primary source.

3. Challenges face by the farmers to accessing government schemes

CHALLENGES	NO OF RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
Lack of awareness	22	21.4
Complicated application process	29	28.2
Incomplete documentation	21	20.4
Corruption	30	29.1
Other (please specify)	1	1
TOTAL	103	100

NO OF RESPONDENT
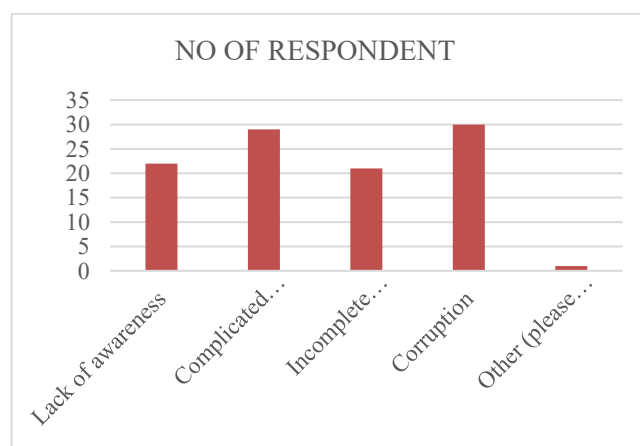
The major challenges for the farmers to accessing the government schemes is corruption & complicated application process .lack of awareness is another major challenge for farmers.

4. Satisfaction towards the Agricultural Schemes

PARTICULARS	NO OF RESPONDENT	PERCENTAGE
Very satisfied	14	13.6
Satisfied	48	46.6
Neutral	19	18.4
Dissatisfied	18	17.5
Very dissatisfied	4	3.9
TOTAL	103	100

The survey results indicate that a majority of farmers in Maharashtra are satisfied with government schemes, with 46.6% expressing satisfaction and 13.6% highly satisfied. Farmers are satisfied from the schemes launched by the government.

Findings:

In the research with the help of questionnaires we found corruption and the complexity of the application process are identified as the primary challenges for farmers in accessing government schemes.

Social media is the most popular source for farmers to learn about new agricultural schemes, reflecting its importance in spreading awareness and providing timely information to the farming community.

Many farmers face challenges when trying to access agricultural schemes. These difficulties related to lack of awareness, or complicated application processes.

A large majority of farmers are aware of government schemes, a significant number of farmers are benefiting from the government schemes, indicating that these programs are having a positive impact and reaching a substantial portion of the farming community.

The majority of farmers in Maharashtra express satisfaction with the government schemes. This indicates that the schemes are generally meeting the needs of farmers

Suggestions:

To improve the accessibility of government schemes for farmers, the application process should be simplified and made more transparent to reduce corruption. Social media platforms should be leveraged to spread awareness about new agricultural schemes and provide timely information to farmers. Additionally, workshops, training programs, and awareness campaigns should be organized to educate farmers about the available schemes and how to access them. Furthermore, the implementation of schemes should be improved to ensure that more farmers can benefit from them. Regular feedback from farmers should be collected to identify areas for improvement, and successful schemes should be scaled up and adjusted according to farmer feedback.

Conclusion:

Agriculture is a major occupation in India. Most farmers in India spend more time in agriculture than learning from childhood. Due to this, they face problems later. The government implements various

schemes for farmers. But due to lack of awareness among farmers, they stay away from these schemes. From this survey I conducted, I realized that the government has launched many schemes for farmers, but the farmers are not aware of those schemes. From the survey, it is understood that the young farmers have knowledge about these schemes. The young farmers are more interested in take a knowledge about schemes related to agriculture

Future Scope:

1. Farmers who have availed or are eligible for agricultural schemes introduced by the Government of Maharashtra. 2. The study includes both small-scale and large-scale farmers to analyze varying impacts. 3. Government initiatives such as crop insurance (e.g., Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana), subsidies for seeds and fertilizers, irrigation support, farm mechanization schemes, and other welfare programs. 4. Understanding farmers' awareness of the schemes. 5. Evaluating their satisfaction level with the benefits received. 6. Identifying challenges in accessing the schemes. 7. Assessing whether the schemes have improved agricultural productivity, income, and quality of life. 8. Effectiveness of schemes in addressing farmers' needs. 9. Suggesting improvements to increase accessibility and effectiveness of the schemes.Helping farmers understand how to leverage government schemes effectively.

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