



MODERNITY IN TRIBAL AGRICULTURE

A STUDY IN THE AGENCY AREA OF WARANGAL DISTRICT

Dr. B. BONDYALU

Lecturer in Economics, S.S.R.Jyothi Arts & Science College
Khammam

ABSTRACT

Tribal population in India is 10.43 crores as per 2011 census and it is larger than any other community in the world. Tribal population in India is more than the total population of France and Britain and four times that of Australia. If all the tribals in India were to live in a single state it would be the Fifth largest state in Indian. India constitution has provided different protective measures for their development and the government has introduced different measures for their advancement. Even then tribals remain the most backward group in India on the three most indicators of development viz., education, health and income.

Introduction

Tribal population in India is 10.43 crores as per 2011 census and it is larger than any other community in the world. Tribal population in India is more than the total population of France and Britain and four times that of Australia. If all the tribals in India were to live in a single state it would be the Fifth largest state in Indian. India constitution has provided different protective measures for their development and the government has introduced different measures for their advancement. Even then tribals remain the most backward group in India on the three most indicators of development viz., education, health and income. Tribals are more backward, not only when compared to the general population but also in



comparison to the scheduled castes, the other acknowledged backward social group.

Tribals live in about 15 percent of the geographical area scattered over all the states and union territories except Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and the Union territories of Pondicherry and Chandigarh. They are mostly rural as more than 90 percent live in the villages / thandas. More than 80 percent of the tribal population depends on agriculture with limited modern technology. Podu cultivation or shifting cultivation is practiced still by some tribal groups. Agriculture is mostly through traditional methods, depending on monsoons and meant for domestic consumption. They collect NTFP for domestic use and sell a part for monetary consideration. Socio-economic patterns are near stagnant and changes are slow as they stick on to traditions and customs to a large extent.

Objectives:-

The Primary objective of this paper is to examine the economics of Tribal Agriculture Socio-Economic and living patterns are also analysed along with the primary objective.

Methodology:-

The study is based on Primary data collected through a structured questionnaire. Data is collected from two mandals, Chennaraopeta and Kothaguda mandals of Warangal district. 150 respondents each from two villages, Ameenabad and Bathipalli have been selected randomly to represent Lambada and Koya tribes. So the total respondents in the sample are 300 and they represent two different tribal groups. Simple tools of analysis like averages and percentages are used.



Socio-Economic Conditions:-

Majority of the respondents (66 percent) are illiterate and in nuclear families. Family members are 1365 of which males are 696 and females 669 resulting in average size of family at 4.65 and sex ratio of 961. Illiteracy of the family members is relatively low (52 percent) implying the impact of educational facilities to children. Of the 254 cultivators in the study 48 (19 percent) have been under Podu cultivation while the remaining are in settled cultivation. Some of the respondents have taken land on lease basis (29 percent) for the purpose of Cultivation. Kacha houses are to an extent of 23 percent despite the housing programmes of the government over the years. 77 (20 percent) Children in the school going age are out of the schools as dropouts. Possession of durable consumption goods like TVs, Cell phones and bicycles is in the range of 23-40 percent of the households. Non-institutional credit at higher rates of interest is to an extent of 40 percent. Health awareness is limited in the study villages.

Agriculture in the Study Villages:-

All the 254 land holding cultivators are growing food crops in 498 acres. Commercial crops are cultivated by 109 respondents in 272 acres. Mixed crop are cultivated by 108 respondents in 242 acres and in addition to this 48 respondents take up Podu cultivation in 85 acres. It implies that tribal farmers are slowly shifting to commercial crops and marketable products. Majority of them (96 percent) use HYV seeds in the process of cultivation. Under food crops paddy is more important followed by maize pulses. However, more than 50 percent of land in the study area is under mixed crops. Average yield per acre is more in paddy followed by mixed



crops maize and pulses. Cotton is more important among the commercial crops followed by chilly. Oil seeds and Turmeric. Per acre yield of Turmeric is more and per acer yield of cotton is relatively low. Farmers are interested in cotton as it brings stable income and can be marketed through the CCI. They use DAP, Urea, NPK and Bio-Manures.

Average income per acre and average expenditure are taken to fined out Net Economic efficiency of different crops. Net income from paddy is relatively more followed by mixed crops, maize and pulses. Among the commercial crops net incomes from chilly is more followed by oil seeds, turmeric and cotton.

Efficiency indicators are worked out to present a clear picture of Agricultural effectiveness by using a simple formula-value of output ÷ value of input. It is like output generated with input cost of one Rupee. Efficiency Indicator (EI) is the highest for mixed crops at 2.24. The next beneficial crops is maize followed by paddy and pulses, with regard to commercial crops, E.I is the highest (3.18) for chillies followed by oil seeds turmeric and cotton.

Land allocation for different crops in relation to efficiency indicator is analysed 72 percent of the land is allocated to cotton crop due to the role of CCI and Marketability, even though, EI is the lowest with regard to other commercial crops land allocation is in accordance with the indicators. Food crops are also analysed on the same lines. Mixed crops with the highest indicator have been allocated more than 50 percent of the land. Paddy has been allocated more than 25 percent of land with low indicator since it is required for domestic consumption. The other two food



crops have land allocations closely to the indicators. The analyses reveals the awareness of the tribal farmers in opting for different crops in a rational way. Crop patterns and land allocations depend on so many factor including the net income.

Conclusion:

Modern trends in Tribal Agricultural in the form of tractors, Fertilizers, Pesticides, Bore wells and the like have been noted in the study. Tribal Agriculture has transformed from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture. Tribal formers are cost conscious, market conscious and are aware of the income concepts. Progressive changes in the Tribal agriculture is noted in the study. The pace of the progress, no doubt is slow.

The study however, has the limitations of taking two upcoming tribal groups (Koya and Lambada), Income- cost calculations in a particular year and the regional variations.

ANNEXURES

Table -1

Socio Economic Conditions

1	Respondents	66%
2	Family Members	52%
1	Size of the Family	4.65
2	Sex Ratio	961
3	Podu Cultivators	48 (19 %)
4	Respondents with leased land	29 %
5	Kuchcha houses	23 %
6	School Dropouts	77 (20 %)
7	Non-Institutional Credit	40 %
8	Awareness of Child Immunization	44 %

**Table -2****Particulars of type of agriculture of the respondent farmers**

Both Villages	Permanent Agriculture	Shifting Agriculture	Total
	206 (81.10)	48 (18.90)	254 (100.0)

Table -3**Particulars of Yield and Crop-Wise of Food Crops**

Crops	Area in acres	Total Yield Quintals	Average Yield Quintals
Paddy	127 (25.50)	3055 (36.46)	24.05
Maize	51 (10.24)	818 (9.76)	16.03
Pulses	68 (13.65)	172 (2.05)	2.52
Mixed Crops	252 (50.60)	4334 (51.72)	17.19
Total	498 (100.0)	8379 (100.0)	16.82



Table -4

Particulars of Yield and Crop-Wise Commercial Crops

Crops	Area in acres	Total Yield	Average Yield
Cotton	196 (72.05)	1678 (58.14)	8.56
Chilly	34 (12.50)	524 (18.15)	15.41
Turmeric	14 (5.14)	339 (11.74)	24.21
Oil Seeds	27 (9.92)	345 (11.95)	12.77
Total	272 (100.0)	2886 (100.0)	10.61

Table -5

Crop-Wise Efficiency Indicators (food crops)

Crops under cultivate	Output value (Rs)	Input Value (Rs)	Efficiency Indicator
Paddy	20442	12351	1.65
Maize	10740	6349	1.69
Pulses	6048	4698	1.28
Mixed Crops	13408	5974	2.24
Total	20857	7464	1.72



Table -6
Crop-Wise Efficiency Indicators (Commercial crops)

Crops under Cultivate	Output value (Rs)	Input Value (Rs)	Efficiency Indicator
Cotton	21831	13165	1.65
Chilly	59643	18740	3.18
Turmeric	29052	16530	1.75
Oil-Seeds	28750	15357	1.87
Total	26175	14204	2.18

Table -7
Land allocation in relation to efficiency indicators

Commercial Crops	Efficiency Indicators	Land allocated
Cotton	1.65	196 (72.0)
Chilly	3.18	34 (12.5)
Turmeric	1.75	14 (5.1)
Oil-Seeds	1.87	27 (9.9)
Total	2.18	272 (100.0)



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