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A Study of Economic Condition of Small and Marginal Landholding Farmers in Koregaon Taluka

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Abstract:

Agriculture is the prime sector of livelihood for the Indian people. India's economy is known as agricultural economy. The dependence on agriculture during the pre-independence period has now decreased. However, the development of the agricultural sector is important for the overall economy of the country. Development in the agricultural sector helps in the development of the country's industrial and service sectors. Agricultural sector plays a vital role responsible for providing food to India's growing population. Indian agriculture is mainly dependent on monsoon and uncertainty in monsoon negatively impacts agricultural production. Indian agriculture and Agricultural Productivity are closely related. The productivity of Indian agriculture is very low due to the size of Indian agriculture is small. Due to the large population size the proportion of the population dependent on agriculture is high. A small holder is a farmer with a low agricultural holding capacity. The economic development of a country is seen to depend on the primary secondary and service sector. Due to the small size of the farm farmers are unable to improve their farming. Small and marginal farmers are unable to use modern technologies, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. Agricultural productivity remains low due to the fragmentation of land and also increasing population.

Key Words: Small Landholder, Marginal Landholder, agriculture, drought area, productivity of agriculture,

Introduction:

The agriculture sector plays a vital role in Indian economy. The industrial development of any country depends on the Agricultural sector. Indian economy is known as rural economy. To solve the problem of employment in the rural economy, localization of industry to the place where agricultural production takes place i.e. in rural areas is considered as an important solution. Even today in India agriculture sector is seen only as a means of livelihood. Indian economy is mainly known as agrarian as well as rural economy. The industrial development of any country depends on the agricultural sector. Agriculture is the main occupation of most of the people in the rural areas. The present research paper is related with economic condition of Small and Marginal Landholding Farmers in Koregaon Taluka.

Statement of Problem:

Indian agriculture is mainly dependent on nature and monsoon is unpredictable. Koregaon taluka is known as permanent drought area. Farmers of this area have been facing drought crisis. In rural areas, agriculture is still the primary source of livelihood. It is also important to get the proper price and market for the production. The present study covers production, income and problems and recommendations of small and Marginal landholding farmers.

Significance of the Study:

A small and Marginal landholding farmers is a farmer who has a small amount of land. As the size of the land is small, it is not possible to use new technology in agriculture as well as to improve agriculture. As a result, the productivity of agriculture is low and production is low and in turn the income is low and the standard of living remains low.

Objectives:

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

- 1) To study the economic condition of small and marginal landholding farmers.
- 2) To analysis the use of farming methods and market for production.

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3) To know the problems of small and marginal land holding farmers in Koregaon taluka and suggest recommendations.

Research Methodology:

Convenience sampling method has been used for the present study. The Primary and Secondary data sources used for this study. Primary data have been collected through questionnaires and interviews. Total 10 villages have been selected randomly in the northern and eastern parts of Koregaon taluka. Data has been collected from a total of 50 small and marginal land holders through questionnaires and interviews in this manner. Secondary information is collected from various books, magazines, newspapers, and Internet etc. Percentile is used as a statistical tool.

Scope & Limitations :

Only Koregaon Taluka of Satara District of Maharashtra State has been included for the present study. Various crops such as sugarcane, onion,

sorghum, soybean, wheat, ghewda are produced in Koregaon taluka. In Koregaon taluka there are landless farmers, small land holders medium farmers, zamindars in which the present study is only related to the economic study of small and marginal land holders and for that it is limited to the period from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

A Study of Economic Condition of Small and Marginal Landholding Farmers in Koregaon Taluka:

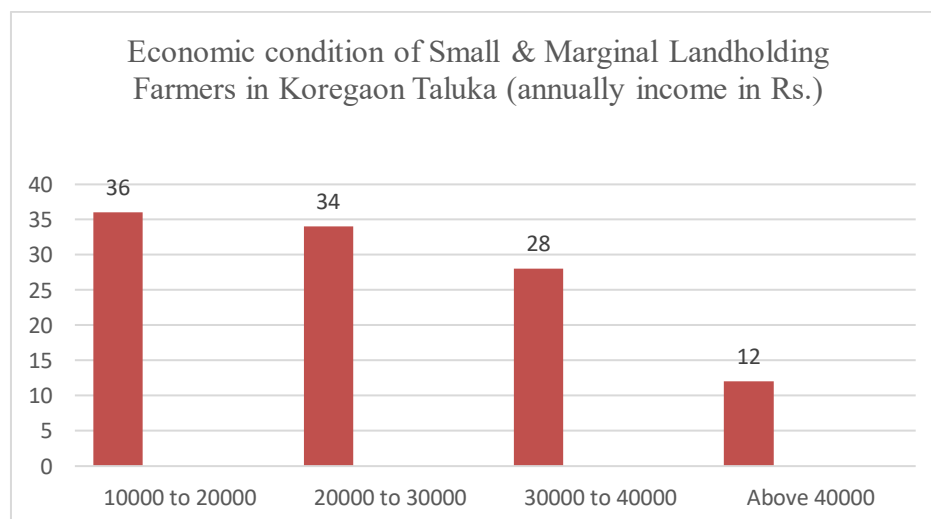
A study of the financial condition of small and marginal landholders in Koregaon taluka shows that the number of farmers with an income of annually Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 is 18 (36%) and the number of farmers with an income of Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 30,000 is 17 (34%). The number of farmers with income between Rs. 30000 to Rs. 40000 is 14 (28%) while the number of farmers with income above Rs. 40000 is 6 (12%).

Table No.1.1
Economic Condition of Small and Marginal Landholding Farmers

Sr. No.	Income Rs.(Annual)	No. of Landholders	Percentage (%)
1	10000 to 20000	18	36
2	20000 to 30000	17	34
3	30000 to 40000	14	28
4	Above 40000	6	12
	Total	50	100

Source: questionnaire

Graph No.1.1



Use of Farming Methods:

According to the farming methods of small and marginal farmers in Koregaon taluka, the number of farmers using traditional farming is 3 (06%) and the number of farmers prefer modern farming is 47 (94%).

Table No.1.2
Use of Farming Methods

Sr. No	Farming methods	No. of landholders	Percentage (%)
1	Modern	47	94
2	Traditional	03	06
	Total	50	100

Source: by questionnaire

Graph No.1.2



Use of Market for Agricultural Production:

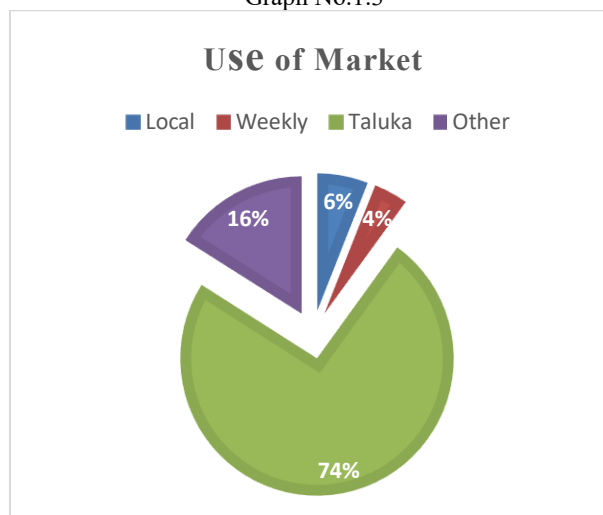
From the study of Market usage of small and marginal landholding farmers in Koregaon taluka (Table 1.5), it is seen that the maximum number of farmers prefers to taluka market for selling their production is 37 (74%). Local and Weekly markets are given very low preference by small and marginal landholding farmers, i.e.6 and 4 percentage.

Table No.1.3
Use of Market for Agricultural Production

Sr. No.	Market	No. of landholders	Percentage %
1	Local	03	06
2	Weekly	02	04
3	Taluka	37	74
4	Other	08	16
	Total	50	100

Source: by questionnaire

Graph No.1.3



Conclusion

- Highest number of farmers with an income of annually Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 is 18 (36%)
- Modern farming methods are used most (94%) among small and marginal farmer landholders.
- Maximum landholders use the taluka market (74%) to sell their production.

Problems:

- Climate change
- Unseasonal rains
- Ignorance of the producer about the market
- Guaranteed price
- Lack of capital
- Lack of credit facilities
- Market problems

Recommendations:

- In case of damage due to climate change, producers should be compensated as per the norms.
- Creating awareness among producers about the market.
- Promoting business by providing training to agro-complementary industries.
- Prioritizing group farming through the integration of smallholders.
- Providing loans at low interest rates.

Conclusion:

It is necessary to provide marketing system and storage facilities to the small landholder farmers in Koregaon taluka. Small landholders should not depend on agriculture but should turn to agriculture-related industries. Providing loans to small landholders at low interest rates will improve the agricultural sector. Also, promote agro-processing industries. So that employment will be created in rural areas through processing industries and in turn, rural areas will develop. It is necessary to implement various schemes for small landholders from the government level.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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