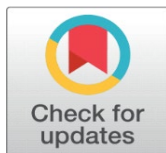
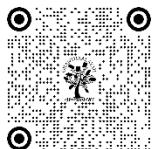


CRITICAL STUDY OF THE CONTRIBUTION OF MARKFED IN AGRICULTURAL STABILITY OF CHHATTISGARH STATE (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BILASPUR DIVISION)

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ABSTRACT

Indian economy is an agriculture based economy. 50% of the population of India still depends on agriculture activities for their livelihood and survival. Agriculture has an important place in the economy as it provides employment to about 54.5% of the population and is also a means of earning valuable foreign exchange. Therefore, the prosperity and development of the state lies in the increase in agricultural productivity. Markfed has been established by the Chhattisgarh government for the overall development of agriculture. Through this research paper, an attempt has been made to analyze the contribution of Markfed to the stability and potential profit in the agricultural sector in Chhattisgarh.

Keywords: MARKFED, Agriculture stability, Contribution, Chhattisgarh, Paddy

1. INTRODUCTION

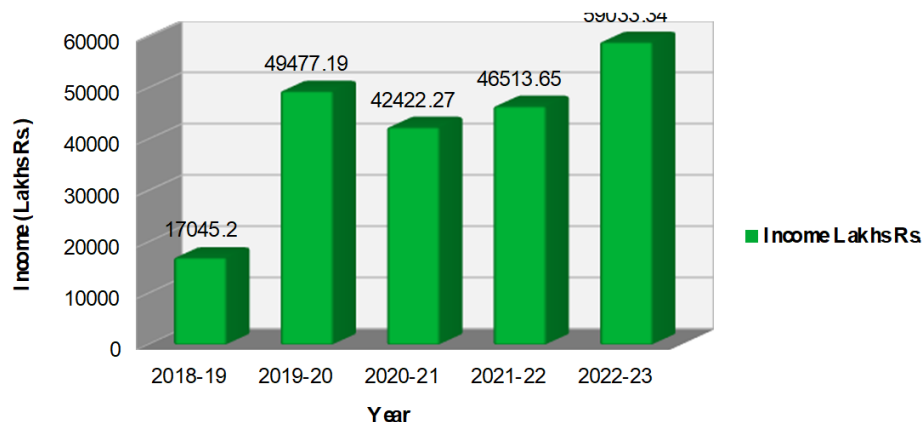
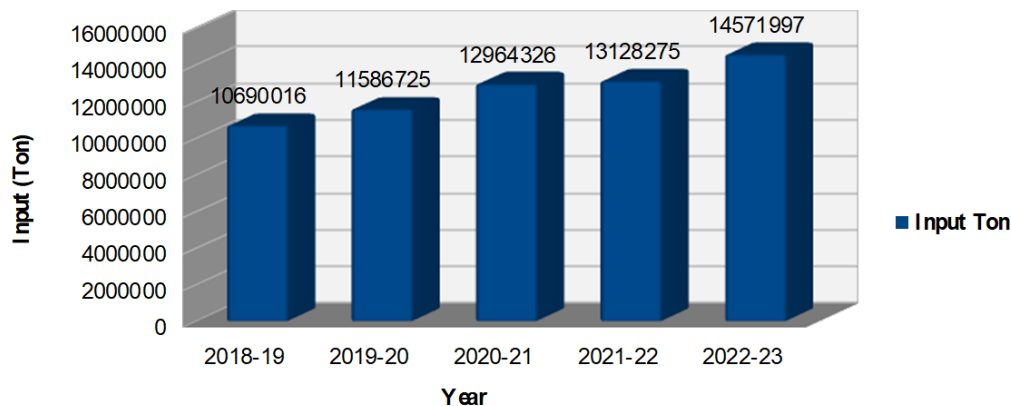
Agriculture sector plays an important role in the development of Indian economy. Cooperative marketing federation of each state has a special contribution in the procurement of production in the agricultural sector. Cooperative marketing federation (Markfed) located in each state does the work of planned marketing of agricultural products. The main objective of these cooperative marketing federations is to protect the farmers from exploitation, to get a fixed price for their produce and to provide marketing facilities.

The state of Chhattisgarh is also called the "Rice Bowl of India". The main reason for this is that a large variety of rice is produced here in comparison to the area, more than 20,000 varieties of rice are produced in Chhattisgarh state alone. Due to favorable climate and soil, it mainly produces rice, maize, sorghum, groundnut, gram and wheat. In the year 2004, the state first reached a remarkable gross state production of more than 12 billion US dollars.

The state of Chhattisgarh is an agriculture-based economy and due to its huge contribution in the agricultural sector, it has become the backbone of the country's food production. Various central and state government corporations are playing a vital role in the development of agriculture sector by performing various functions. Chhattisgarh State

Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, commonly known as CG Markfed, is one of them which came into existence in 2000 with the formation of the newly developed state. At present, 69 Krishi Upaj Mandis and 121 Sub-Mandis are functioning in Chhattisgarh State. In the past years, the arrival and income in the Krishi Upaj Mandis operated by Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation (Markfed) have been as follows-

Particulars	Unit	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Input	Ton	10690016	11586725	12964326	13128275	14571997
Income	Lakhs Rs.	17045.20	49477.19	42422.27	46513.65	59033.34



2. RESEARCH REVIEWS

1) (Reddy and Dutta 2018) In this research paper, the researcher has focused on the study of the progress of the agricultural sector of the Indian economy in comparison to other economies. In this, the impact of various agricultural inputs on agricultural GDP growth rate was analyzed.

2) (Soni and Singh, 2013) The presented research study was done in Raipur district of Chhattisgarh state. The objective of this research was to study the functions of the cooperative marketing federation in the produce. The conclusion of the appropriate research reveals the working system of the agricultural marketing cooperative society and the challenges faced by it.

2.1. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

- 1) To know the Contribution of CG MARKFED in growth of agriculture in Chhattisgarh State.
- 2) To know the various difficulty face by the farmers under bilaspur division of Chhattisgarh.
- 3) To study the various challenges face by CG MARKFED.

Hypothesis: In this research the null hypothesis has been tested:-

CG MARKFED is not an excellent agency for farmers for agricultural sustainability in Chhattisgarh state.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Analytical and quantitative method has been used in this research paper. For this research, primary data has been collected from agricultural marketing committees under Bilaspur division of Chhattisgarh state and a sample of 100 farmers has been prepared by selecting 10-10 farmers from each committee. In this research study, (chi-square test) test has been used to test the hypothesis. Mathematical and statistical tools have been used to prove the results of hypothesis tests. Primary and secondary data have been used for the presented research paper. Questionnaire has been used for collection of primary data and secondary data has been collected from government records, magazines and various publications.

4. ANALYSIS OF DATA

01	Techniques used by farmers	62 (New)	38 (Old)	***	***	***	100
02	Number of crops per year	32 (1 Crops)	68 (2 Crops)	***	***	***	100
03	Cost of Chemical Fertilizers	69 (Positive)	31 (Negative)	***	***	***	100
04	Dissemination of information related to government schemes	89 (Positive)	11 (Negative)	***	***	***	100
05	Paddy Procurement	76 (Timely)	18 (Delayed)	04 (Can't say)	***	***	100
06	Minimum support price for paddy procurement	95 (Yes)	03 (No)	02 (Can't say)	***	***	100
07	Marketing Related Services	19 (Very Good)	41 (Good)	32 (Satisfactory)	5 (Poor)	3 (Very Poor)	100
08	Payment of Paddy Production	77 (Timely)	19 (Delayed)	04 (Can't say)	***	***	100
09	Category given by farmers to Markfed	15 (Very Good)	35 (Good)	32 (Satisfactory)	10 (Poor)	08 (Very Poor)	100
10	Requirements of Markfed for agricultural stability in the state	25 (Strongly Agreed)	38 (Agreed)	26 (Disagreed)	11 (Strongly Disagreed)	***	100

Source Primary Data Collected Through Interview

5. INDICTOR ANALYSIS

1) Among the respondents interviewed from Bilaspur division of Chhattisgarh State 62% of farmers are using modern technique while 38% still with the traditional technique of farming.

2) 68 farmers take 2 crops a year while 32 farmers take only 1 crop a year.

3) 69% of farmers have a positive approach towards getting assistance from CG Markfed at the time of purchase of fertilizers While 31% don't have the same.

4) 89% of the total respondents surveyed were Strongly agreed that CG Markfed circulates each and every Scheme declared by the government timely while 11% have a negative approach towards this.

5) From the field survey it is found that 76% Respondents believes that CG MARKFED procures the paddy on time, 18% farmers feel that procurement got delayed by CG MARKFED While 4% farmers couldn't respond.

6) During the survey it is found that 95% of the respondents believes that CG MARKFED procures paddy from them on minimum support price only, 3% farmers do not agree upon this while 2% farmers not ready to respond.

7) 19% farmers are highly appreciated the marketing related services provided by the CG MARKFED, 41% appreciated, 32% satisfied while the rest of the responded were disappointed.

8) 77% farmers are getting payment for their produces on time, 19% farmers said that there is always a delayed payment while 4% said can't say.

6. APPLICATION OF STATISTICAL TOOL

Chi-Square test is applied to the hypothesis formed for this study, hypothesis from the questionnaire have been taken to apply the test upon.

Need of Markfed for Agricultural Stability in the State.			
Strongly Agreed	Agreed	Disagreed	Strongly Disagreed
25	38	26	11

From the above table we can form the hypothesis as

H0 - C.G. Markfed is not the best agency for farmers for Agricultural Stability in Chhattisgarh State.

H1 - C.G. Markfed is the best agency for farmers for Agricultural Stability in Chhattisgarh State.

Application of Chi-Square Test

The Calculated Value of $\chi^2 = 14.64$. The degree of freedom given in the above table is 3. The Chi-Square distribution table value of χ^2 for 3 degrees of freedom at 95% confidence level is 7.81. Here the calculated value is greater than the table value therefore H0 will fall under rejection region. Therefore we reject H0 and accept H1. Thus we can conclude that there is a Chhattisgarh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd. is the best agency for farmers for Agricultural Stability in Chhattisgarh State.

7. CHALLENGES

1) Lack of fertilizers :- Various problems still persist in the state regarding the distribution of fertilizers. Issues related to fertilizer distribution are worrisome. The main function of Chhattisgarh State Cooperative Marketing Federation is to provide high quality chemical fertilizers to farmers at reasonable prices so that black marketing to chemical fertilizers can be stopped. But farmers are not able to get chemical fertilizers in sufficient quantity as per their requirement.

2) Inappropriate agricultural practices :- Even now rural farmers are dependent on old agricultural practices due to which the productivity of their crops is getting affected.

3) Lack of storage capacity :- Due to lack of proper and adequate storage houses and warehouses by the mandis, the crops of farmers get spoiled in large quantities.

4) Lack of marketing facilities :- Agricultural activities slow down due to lack of marketing facilities such as transportation, warehouse, grading etc. services.

5) Exploitation by middlemen :- Due to lack of adequate information about the programs run by the committees, farmers come in contact with the agents and taking advantage of the lack of proper information of the farmers, they are exploited by the agents.

8. SUGGESTION

Agriculture is an important driver of India's economy. It employs a large part of the population and contributes significantly to the country's GDP. Government-run Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited is playing an important role in the development of Chhattisgarh's agriculture sector. Comprehensive and sustainable solutions are needed to improve the challenges faced by Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited and the livelihood of farmers. These include providing financial assistance through loans and subsidies, promoting education and training in collaboration with agricultural universities, research institutes, developing infrastructure such as connectivity in rural areas, encouraging public and private partnerships to promote innovation, implementing policy changes, increasing storage capacity by State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited (Markfed) as well as developing warehouse and transportation facilities, increasing the number of agricultural produce markets by Markfed, maintaining digital records of accounts, making farmers aware of new and advanced agricultural methods, managing chemical fertilizers in adequate quantities as well as increasing its reach in more and more rural areas. These solutions aim to increase the participation of farmers by Markfed to bring stability in agriculture in Chhattisgarh state.

9. CONCLUSION

For the sustainability of agriculture in Chhattisgarh state, the state needs to prioritize several factors such as increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing infrastructure, facilitating market access for farmers, increasing agricultural markets and promoting agricultural exports. Undoubtedly, agriculture in Chhattisgarh state remains a critical sector for the Indian economy and its performance will have a substantial impact on the country's economic development efforts. These findings indicate that there is scope for improvement in the current paddy procurement system which requires the implementation of comprehensive reforms and strategies that will increase transparency and sustainability of paddy procurement activities for all, including farmers.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

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None.

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