

FARMER'S SUICIDES IN KARNATKA -CAUSES AND REMEDIES

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ABSTRACT:

The vicious circle of farmers suicide starts from inefficiencies occurred in agriculture sector. These inefficiencies are institutional inefficiencies, market inefficiencies, inefficiency while making proper crop planning and so on. These inefficiencies leads instabilities in agriculture sector like instabilities in productivity, prices, income, and availability of crop loans and so on. And these instabilities leads to insecurity in agriculture, these are poverty, debt and so on. Study also reveals that how to break this vicious circle by practicing agriculture allied activities adopted by the farmers themselves. The present study obtained the data from 50 formers who are practicing allied activities like Cattle, Goat and Sheep rearing with agriculture. And they get a stable income from these activities. Out of 50 respondents one who have at least 10 goats or sheep they get minimum income Rs. 30,000 per year and one who have at least one cattle they get minimum income of Rs 1,400 R per week. Another remedy is achieving by creating the awareness among the public to changing their consuming patterns. Means consuming agro based goods like coconut, lussy, cotton and khadi cloths and consuming local liquor' NEERA 'which is originating by the coconut palms rather than consuming soft drinks which are made by MNC's like Coca cola and PepsiCo, using polyester and Nylon clothes and consuming modern liquor like beer, Vicky respectively. When the public consuming agro based goods, the expenditure which is spend on these goods will go to the farmers as their income. These types of changing consumption pattern are indirectly helps to stabilize income of our farmers.

KEY WORDS: *vicious circle, agriculture sector, farmers suiced institutional inefficiencies.*

"The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways." - John. F. Kennedy.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture sector is the primary sector for all the economy. But Indians see the agriculture sector in a different manner; it means agriculture is art, culture and life for Indians. But now the scenario is changing, we look it in a business or profit making way. We are changing our sustainable agriculture system into modern agriculture system. With this change new problems are also arises like increasing in the cost of agriculture by increasing in the use of pesticides and fertilizers, facing unhealthy competition or a glut in production, soil pollution, price instability and so on. These are making the agriculture sector as a non-profitable sector.

Even today more than 60 % of people are depending on the agriculture for their livelihood. So every government aims at agricultural development, which is justified because to achieve the growth rates that the economy aims at, it is important to first address the growth rate of the major sector of the economy. Even though agriculture sector is not converting into a profitable sector. This is creating the insecurity in this sector finally it forcing to farmers to committing suicides. There are so many ways are there to eradicating this insecurity, for example organic forming, practicing allied activities with agriculture, practicing diversified agriculture and so on.

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To analyze the trends and reason for farmer suicides in Karnataka.
- (2) To examine whether agriculture allied activities are remedial measure for farmer suicides.
- (3) To analyze whether changing consumption pattern of public's from modern industrial based good to agro based goods as a remedial measure for farmer suicides.

METHODOLOGY

The study area: The location chosen for the study was Malavalli taluk Mandya district.

Sampling procedure: Simple random sampling procedure was applied in this study. The total number of respondents is 100. Out of 100 responds 50 are one who is rearing goats and sheep, another 50 are one who is rearing cattles.

Data collection and analysis: For evaluating specific objectives of the study, primary data were obtained from the farmers who are practicing both agriculture and allied activities through the personal interview with the help of comprehensive questioner.

Secondary data have been collected from report of Karnataka state ministry of agriculture, Newspapers, articles and internet sources.

FARMER SUICIDES IN KARNATAKA

The map below shows the number of farmer who were committed to suicide in Karnataka from April 1 2015 to Oct 3 2015. The Karnataka state Agricultural Department recently submitted a report to the chief secretary on the number of farmer suicides in the state.



Source; Karnataka state Ministry of Agriculture

Figures submitted to the state government on the number of farmers suicides raises more questions than answer. From April 1 to Oct 3 2015 a total of 516 farmers were committed suicides in the state. With suicides being reported from each district with Bangalore urban reporting the lowest one. According to figure from the department 4 district Mandya(56), Haveri(44), Tumakuru(36), Mysuru(33) have the highest number of suicides. These districts have a well irrigated facilities compare to other districts of Karnataka, but here the contradictory is, with these well facilities why the more farmers committing suicide in this districts. We can get the answer by the vicious circle of agriculture.

CAUSES FOR FARMER SUICIDES

We can analyze the main causes for the farmer suicide by the following vicious circle of farmer suicides.

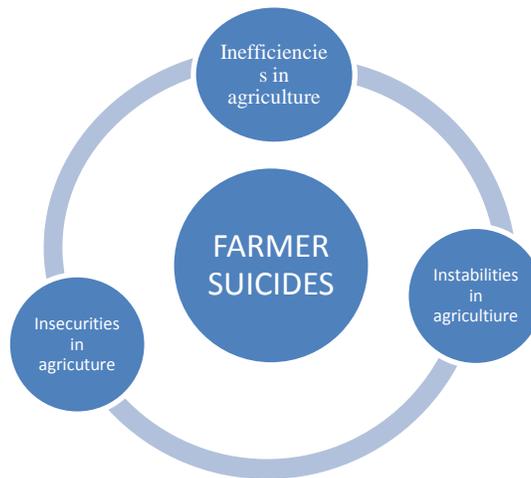


Fig.1.1 Vicious circle of farmer suicide

Inefficiencies can occur by the following reasons

(a) Institutional inefficiency: It means institutions such as government is failing to identify the problems and failing to remedies those problems. On the other hand banks not provide the financial support to the farmer, it is difficult to get crop loans, but loans for consumption goods like car loans, etc... are easily available in our banks.

(b) Market inefficiency: Market is failing to coordinate the supply and demand of the agriculture goods. So it creates the gluts in agriculture products.

(c) Inefficiency in making proper crop plane: Most of the farmers adopting their conventional or mono crop plane. From this farmers are not able to utilize their lands properly.

(d) Inefficiency in water management: Farmers are failing to adopt the new irrigation methods like drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation these leads makes inefficiency in water management.

(e) Technological inefficiency

(f) Information asymmetry

(h) Inefficiency in debt management

These inefficiencies leads to following instabilities in agriculture, these are

(a) Instability in production and productivity

(b) Instability in prices of agriculture goods

(c) Instability in income of the farmers

(d) Instability in getting crop loans

These instabilities creates the following insecurities in agriculture, these are

(a) Poverty: Instabilities in production, prices and income of the farmers push them into poverty line.

(b) Debt crisis: When the farmers are not getting a stable income simply they are struck in the debt crisis.

Finally these vicious circle forcing the farmers to committed suicide.

Agriculture- Allied Activities as Remedial measures for farmer Suicides

Agriculture allied activities means rearing of Cattles, Goats, and Sheep and so on. Rearing of these livestock may give a stable income to their owners or farmers. One of the major reasons for the farmer suicide is that instability in their income. The farmers can able to get a stable income from by practicing agriculture allied activities

The table 1.1 shows the number of goats, sheep and average annual income from them to the respondents farmers by rearing cattle, goats, sheep as their allied activities in study area. Out of 50 respondents 22 have 10 to 20 sheep, 19 have 20 to 30 sheep, 5 have 30 to 40 sheep and 5 have 40 to 50 sheep. One who have at least 10 sheep they get an average income of Rs 30,000 and one who have maximum 50 sheep they get an average income of Rs 1,50,0000.

Table.1.1 Number of Goats and Sheep rearing by the respondents

No.of Goats or Sheep	No. of sheep owners	No. of Goats owners	Average annual income from sheep or Goats(in Rs)
0-10	0	22	30,000
10-20	22	20	60,000
20-30	19	6	90,000
30-40	5	2	1,20,000
40-50	5	0	1,50,000

Out of 50 respondents 22 have 0 to 10 Goats, 20 have 10 to 20 Goats, 6 have 20 to 30 Goats and 2 have 30 to 40 sheep. One who have at least 10 sheep they get an average income of Rs 30,000 and one who have maximum 40 sheep they get an average income of Rs 1,20,0000.

Table 1.2 shows the number of cattle and average annual income from them to the respondent farmers.

Table.1.2 Number of Cattle rearing by the respondents

No. of cattle rearing by the farmer	No. of Cattle owners	Average milk yield per day(in liters)	Average weekly income from cattle rearing(in Rs)
1-2	30	20	2,800
3-4	17	40	5,600
5-6	3	60	8,400

Out of 50 farmers 30 have 1 to 2 cattle and they get an average Rs 2800 of income per week, 17 have 3 to 4 cattle and they get an average Rs 5600 of income per week and 3 have 5 to 6 cattle and they get an average Rs 8400 of income per week.

By this analysis we can conclude that if the farmers will practice these allied activities with agriculture they can be able to get a sure income from them and this will stabilize their income and help to come out from the poverty and debt crisis.

Changing Consumption pattern and Remedy for Farmers Suicide

The modern generation people consuming more and more industry based goods compare to agro based goods, for example they are consuming industry based goods like soft drinks like Coca-Cola and Pepsi than the agro based goods like coconut, lussy and so on. Instead of consuming Coca-Cola and Pepsi if we changing our consuming pattern to agro based goods it will generate the more income to the farmer, this strategy may help to farmers to come out from the poverty and debt crisis.

We can examine this strategy with following examples;

We know the soft drink company Coca-Cola India. India which is the second most populous country in the world for soft drink. It is a top market for Coca-Cola. Coca-Cola has got 56 to 57% market share of the RS 14,000 crore Indian soft drinks market share according to a data released by Nielson in July 4, 2014. Instead of consuming this much of amount of MNC'S goods if we change our consuming pattern towards our domestic agro based goods this much of amount will go to the farmer and make them economically stable.

Another example is that in April 2016 India was imported 54617.79 USD (38716.86) volume of Polyester-Fabric from China according to Global Export Import market intelligence. Instead of using this much of volume

of Polyester-Fabric, if we use cotton and khadi these income will go to the farmers and they get a stable income for their livelihood.

According to the NSSO (The Hindu News report) in 2011-2012 alcohol (beer, imported alcohol, wine) consumption per capita per week were 2.49 liters. Instead of using these imported alcohol they are consuming local liquor NEERA which is originated by coconut trees it help to the farmer to increase their income and it is healthier than this imported alcohol.

All the above changing consuming patterns will help to increase the income of the farmers as well as income of the nation. It means when we will use domestic agro based goods we can able to save the money which will go to the foreign countries while consuming imported goods in the form of profit.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals how the vicious circle of farmer suicide forcing the farmers to committing suicides and it also examines how to break this vicious circle by practicing agriculture allied activities and creates the awareness among the public to change their consumption pattern to avoid the farmer suicides for their instable income, because if the farmer smile only then India will smile.

“There seem to be but three ways for a nation to acquire wealth. The first is by war, as the Romans did, in plundering their conquer neighbors. This is robbery. The second by commerce, this is generally cheating. The third by agriculture, the only honest way, Wright by the hands of god in his favor, as a reward for his innocent life and his virtuous industry”. - **Benjamin Franklin**

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