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Empowering farmers: The socio-economic impact of paddy seed village programme in Sopore, Kashmir

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Abstract

Seed Village Programme is one of the dynamic concepts or projects which ensures the multiplication and supply of quality seed at appropriate time and affordable cost to the farmers. It is termed as "Compact Area Approach". Baramulla district has 6 SDAOs, out of which Sub-Division Agriculture, Sopore was selected purposively on the basis of maximum number of seed villages from the year 2019-2022. Sub-Division Agriculture, Sopore consists of 4 agricultural zones and all of the zones were selected for the study. A total of 120 respondents with the help of a pretested interview schedule were selected. The findings revealed that majority 67.50 percent of the beneficiaries had 30-60% impact, 20.00 percent of the beneficiaries had an impact of above 60%, followed by 12.50 percent which had had an impact up to 30% on the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries.

Keywords: Paddy seed village, socio-economic, impact, Kashmir

Introduction

The Government of India has implemented a number of programmes to increase the rate of agricultural development. The basic structure of rural development is made through the agriculture development programmes. In other words, agricultural programmes are so devised, as to provide maximum benefit to the rural people. These agricultural development programmes have maximum scope for the rural upliftment and are implemented taking into consideration even the tiniest details so that each and every person is able to progress through these programmes. Government of India has implemented these programmes in a very simplified way so that the rural people can take their maximum benefit. Among these programmes the department of Agriculture has started Seed Village Programme which is one of the dynamic concepts or projects which ensures the multiplication and supply of quality seed at appropriate time and affordable cost to the farmers. It is termed as "Compact Area Approach". The seed is the most important input in agriculture. Quality of seed is maintained by including various practices like proper winnowing, drying, storage etc. The quality seed availability at proper time determines the agriculture growth through accelerating productivity. The replacement of the farmer saved seed with the certified and high quality seed may

bring an enhancement in yield potential to the extent of 15-25 percent (Bordolui *et al.*, 2020)^[3].

Objective

In order to assess the impact on the social status of the beneficiaries of Paddy Seed Village programme in the region of Sopore, district Baramulla of Kashmir this study has been carried out with the following objective:
To study the impact of paddy seed village programme on the socio economic status of beneficiaries.

Methodology

This study employed an ex post facto research design because the events of interest had already occurred. Fig 1. Shows that the research was conducted in the Agricultural Sub-Division, Sopore, within Baramulla district, which was chosen due to its high number of seed villages from 2019 to 2022. The Sub-Division Agriculture, Sopore, includes four agricultural zones namely Dangerpora, Tujjar, Sopore, and Sangrama, all of which were included in the study. A total of 120 beneficiaries from the paddy seed village programme were selected for analysis. The impact was assessed using a three-point Likert scale, where responses (up to 30%) were scored as 1, (30-60%) as 2, and (above 60%) as 3.

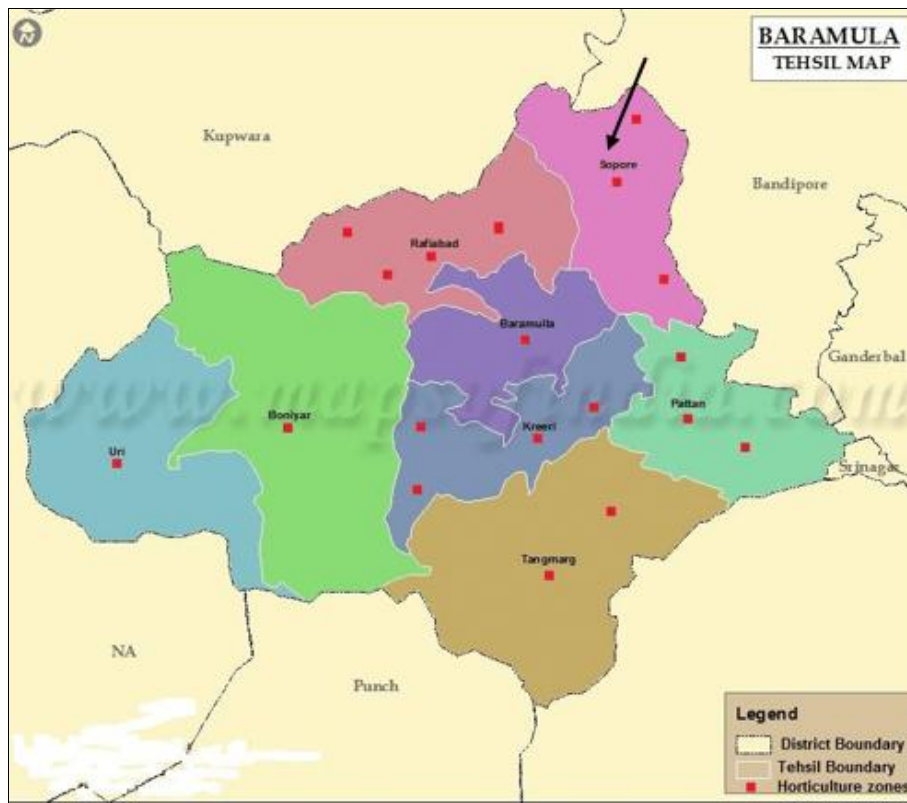


Fig 1: Map of district Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir

Results and Discussion

Impact of paddy seed village on the social status of the beneficiaries

From Table 1. it can be seen that half of the beneficiaries reported an impact between 30-60% in relations with friends and relatives. Similar to the previous category, 50% of beneficiaries had an impact between 30-60% in travelling to places outside the district/state. The majority (46.70%) experienced an impact between 30-60% or up to 30% regarding awareness about savings. Most beneficiaries (64.20%) had an impact of up to 30%, followed by 33.30% with an impact between 30-60% in awareness about investment. The majority (62.50%) experienced an impact between 30-60% in having better communication skills. A significant portion (66.70%) reported an impact between 30-60% in increase in leisure/spare time. Most beneficiaries (67.50%) had an impact between 30-60%, followed by 30.80% up to 30% regarding social functions of a family. The majority (70.80%) experienced an impact of up to 30% in the influence of social media. Half of the beneficiaries

had an impact up to 30% in relations with extended family/neighbours/progressive farmers. The data from Table 1. indicates that 46.70% of beneficiaries had an impact between 30-60% or up to 30% in SHG participation. Most beneficiaries (70%) reported an impact up to 30% regarding participation in NGOs. A large majority (78.30%) had an impact up to 30% for participating in village level religious functions. The majority (75%) experienced an impact up to 30% in cultural functions participation. Most beneficiaries (77.50%) reported an impact up to 30% regarding participation in panchayat. The majority (80.80%) had an impact up to 30% in participation at district level or above. A notable portion (41.70%) experienced an impact up to 30% in having better leadership skills. Half of the beneficiaries reported an impact between 30-60% regarding building self-esteem/self-confidence. The majority (53.30%) experienced an impact between 30-60% regarding increase in roles towards society. Most beneficiaries (59.20%) reported an impact between 30-60% in increase in responsibilities/self-reliance.

Table 1: Impact of paddy seed village programme on the social status of the beneficiaries

S. No	Statements	Frequency (%)		
		Up to 30%	30-60%	Above 60%
1	Relations with friends and relatives	39(32.50)	60(50.00)	21(17.50)
2	Travel to places outside the district/state	39(32.50)	60(50.00)	21(17.50)
3	Awareness about savings	56(46.70)	56(46.70)	8(6.60)
4	Awareness about investment	77(64.20)	40(33.30)	3(2.50)
5	Better communication skills	44(36.70)	75(62.50)	1(0.80)
6	Increase in leisure/spare time	38(31.70)	80(66.70)	2(1.60)
7	Social functions of a family	37(30.80)	81(67.50)	2(1.70)
8	Influence of social media	85(70.80)	30(25.00)	5(4.20)
9	Relations with extended family/neighbours/progressive farmers	60(50.00)	54(45.00)	6(5.00)
10	Participation in SHGs	56(46.70)	56(46.70)	8(6.60)

11	Participation in NGOs	84(70.00)	33(27.50)	3(2.50)
12	Village level religious functions	94(78.30)	23(19.20)	3(2.50)
13	Cultural functions	90(75.72)	25(20.08)	5(4.20)
14	Participation in panchayat	93(77.50)	25(20.80)	2(1.70)
15	Participation at district level or above	97(80.80)	22(18.40)	1(0.80)
16	Better leadership skills	50(41.70)	43(35.80)	27(22.50)
17	Building of self-esteem/self confidence	7(5.80)	60(50.00)	53(44.20)
18	Increase in roles towards society	11(9.20)	64(53.30)	45(37.50)
19	Increase in responsibilities/self reliance	10(8.30)	71(59.20)	39(32.50)

The overall data for impact of paddy seed village programme on social status of the beneficiaries in Table 2. revealed that majority (69.20%) of the beneficiaries had 30-60 percent impact on the social status, 19.10 percent of the beneficiaries had an impact of above 60 percent and 11.70 percent had an impact up to 30 percent on the social status of the beneficiaries.

Table 2: Overall impact of paddy seed village programme on social status of the beneficiaries.

S. No	Criterion	Frequency (%)
1	Up to 30%	14(11.70)
2	30-60%	83(69.20)
3	Above 60%	23(19.10)

Impact of paddy seed village programme on expenditure aspects of the beneficiaries

Impact of paddy seed village programme regarding expenditure on personal aspects of the beneficiaries

The majority experienced a moderate impact, with most beneficiaries reporting a change between 30-60% in food expenditure. Beneficiaries generally saw a smaller impact, with most experiencing changes up to 30% in relation to expenditure in clothing. A significant proportion of beneficiaries had a substantial impact, with many experiencing changes above 60% in their children’s education. Most beneficiaries reported a moderate impact, with changes mainly between 30-60% regarding transport related expenditure. The majority also experienced moderate changes between 30-60% in recreation related expenditure. Beneficiaries generally reported moderate impact of 30-60% regarding expenditure in marriage ceremonies. A significant proportion experienced substantial impacts above 60% for expenditure in family functions. The majority reported significant improvements, with most experiencing changes above 60% in relation to living standard expenditure. Beneficiaries generally experienced moderate impacts in between 30-60% for expenditure on home items.

Impact of paddy seed village programme regarding expenditure on farm aspects of the beneficiaries

The data from Table 3. shows varying impacts on different farm-related expenditures. For hiring labourers, most beneficiaries experienced a 30-60% impact, while a smaller group saw impacts above 60%. In contrast, expenditures on farm machinery were mostly affected in the 30-60% range, with fewer beneficiaries experiencing impacts above 60%. The impact on pesticide and herbicide expenditures was similar, with a majority in the 30-60% range and a significant portion above 60%. Fertilizer expenditures also followed this pattern, with a slight variation in the proportion above 60%. Overall, the majority of beneficiaries

consistently reported impacts within the 30-60% range across these categories.

Table 3: Impact of paddy seed village programme regarding expenditure on personal and farm aspects of the beneficiaries

S. No	Statements	Frequency (%)		
		Up to 30%	30-60%	Above 60%
1	Food	46(38.30)	52(43.30)	22(18.30)
2	Clothing	59(49.20)	46(38.30)	15(12.50)
3	Children’s education	44(36.70)	30(25.00)	46(38.30)
4	Transport	11(9.20)	93(77.50)	16(13.30)
5	Recreation	10(8.30)	101(84.20)	9(7.50)
6	Marriage	26(21.70)	77(64.20)	17(14.20)
7	Family functions	5(4.20)	69(57.50)	46(38.30)
8	Living standard	3(2.50)	23(19.20)	94(78.30)
9	Expenditure on home items	9(7.50)	77(64.20)	34(28.30)
Farm aspects				
10	Hiring labourers for performing field operations	1(0.80)	79(65.80)	40(33.30)
11	Farm machineries	2(1.70)	98(81.70)	20(16.70)
12	Pesticides	3(2.50)	72(60.00)	45(37.50)
13	Fertilizers	1(0.80)	75(62.50)	44(36.70)
14	Herbicides	3(2.50)	72(60.00)	45(37.50)

The overall data on impact of paddy seed village programme on expenditure aspects of the beneficiaries in Table 4. depicts that majority (66.70%) of the beneficiaries had 30-60 percent impact, 23.30 percent of the beneficiaries had an impact above 60 percent and 10.00 percent had an impact above 60 percent on the expenditure aspects of the beneficiaries.

Table 4: Overall impact of paddy seed village programme on expenditure aspects of the beneficiaries

S. No	Criterion	Frequency (%)
1	Up to 30%	12(10.00)
2	30-60%	80(66.70)
3	Above 60%	28(23.30)

Impact of paddy seed village programme on possession of durables and appliances of the beneficiaries

The data in Table 5. depicts that majority (66.67%) of the beneficiaries had an impact of 30-60 percent, 30.00 percent of the beneficiaries had an impact of above 60 percent and 3.33 percent had an impact up to 30 percent on possession of durables and appliances by the beneficiaries.

Table 5: Impact of paddy seed village programme on possession of durables and appliances of the beneficiaries

S. No.	Criterion	Frequency (%)
1	Up to 30%	4(3.33)
2	30-60%	80(66.67)
3	Above 60%	36(30.00)

Overall impact of paddy seed village programme on the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries

The data in Table 6. depicts that majority (67.50%) of the beneficiaries had an impact of (30-60%) on the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries followed by 20.00 percent of the beneficiaries had an impact of (above 60%) and 12.50 percent had an impact (up to 30%) on the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries. Babu *et al.* (2016) ^[2] depicted in their study that the programme interventions enhanced paddy productivity by 9.02 percent over non-NFSM (National Food Security Mission) paddy growers besides increasing net income and employment. Abraham *et al.* (2017) ^[1] in their study revealed that maheswari variety under improved practices recorded higher yield of 44 and 46.8 q/ha during 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 and the recommended practice gave higher net returns of Rs 38150 and 44360 per ha.

Table 6: Overall impact of paddy seed village programme on the socio- economic status of the beneficiaries

S. No	Criterion	Frequency (%)
1	Up to 30%	15(12.50)
2	30-60%	81(67.50)
3	Above 60%	24(20.00)

Conclusion

From the results it can be seen that the impact of paddy seed village on the beneficiaries was to a great extent (30-60%) which is enough to conclude that the interventions taken by the government regarding the improvement of the socio-economic status of the beneficiaries seems to be worthy. In order to make the people aware of the new interventions proper trainings should be conducted, new and advanced methods of communicating with the rural people should be implemented for the socio-economic upliftment of the communities.

Implications

The findings of this study on the paddy seed village programme promise to be transformative for rural farming communities. By showcasing evidence of increased paddy production, they will empower beneficiaries to embrace this initiative wholeheartedly. The results will illuminate the socio-economic upliftment brought about by the programme, encouraging stakeholders to invest further in research and development. Additionally, these insights will drive the creation of targeted training programmes, equipping farmers with essential skills to maximize their yield. Extension policymakers will gain a deeper understanding of the programme's benefits, enabling them to craft impactful schemes tailored for small and marginal landholders. Finally, these findings will inspire widespread awareness and adoption of the paddy seed village programme, ensuring long-term profitability and sustainability for farmers while fostering community-led agricultural growth.

Recommendations

1. Ensure the timely supply of quality seeds and agricultural inputs like rodenticides, insecticides, and pesticides. Additionally, streamline payment processes by the Department of Agriculture to boost farmer

- confidence and productivity.
2. Conduct effective training sessions across districts and organize result demonstrations through Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). These initiatives will help beneficiaries understand the advantages of using high-quality seeds provided under the programme.
3. Impart knowledge on seed treatment techniques to farmers and ensure frequent visits to selected plots by Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs), Junior AEOs, and University Scientists to monitor progress and provide technical guidance.

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