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# Constraints of farmers affecting their entrepreneurial behaviour in eastern Uttar Pradesh

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### Abstract

This study investigates the constraints faced by farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh that affect their ability to engage in entrepreneurial behavior. The entrepreneurial behavior of farmers can play a crucial role in driving economic growth and development in rural areas. However, farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh face several constraints that can limit their ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities. Through a survey of 240 farmers in the region, most important constraints affecting the entrepreneurial behavior of farmers which includes high input costs, price fluctuation in the market, inadequate extension services, exploitation by middlemen, lack of cooperatives, decreasing water table, lack of cold storage and processing facility, insufficient and untimely credit facility, non-availability of labour, insufficient electricity, lack of technical knowledge, lack of transport facility, and non-availability of quality planting material. The most significant constraint affecting the entrepreneurial behavior of farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh is "high input costs," which is assigned a score of 78.18 and given a rank of 1. The next most significant constraint is "data price fluctuation in the market," with a score of 68.63 and a ranked 2. These constraints can make it difficult for farmers to take risks and invest in new business ventures, which can limit their ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities and grow their businesses.

**Keywords:** Infrastructure, entrepreneurial behavior, risks, volatile market

### Introduction

Entrepreneurial behavior refers to the mindset, skills and activities that are characteristics of entrepreneurs. It involves identifying and pursuing business opportunities, taking calculated risks and being innovative in developing new products or services. Entrepreneurs are known for their ability to create value in the economy, generate jobs, and drive economic growth.

In recent years, there has been growing interest in promoting entrepreneurial behavior among farmers as a means of boosting rural development and reducing poverty. Entrepreneurial farmers are those who are willing to take risks and innovate in their agricultural practices, marketing strategies, and value chain development. They are also characterized by their ability to identify and pursue business opportunities beyond traditional farming activities, such as agro-processing, tourism, and other non-farm activities.

In the context of agriculture, entrepreneurial behavior can play a critical role in enhancing productivity, increasing profitability, and promoting sustainable agriculture. By adopting innovative technologies, improving market access, and developing new products or services, farmers can enhance their competitiveness and generate new sources of income. However, as mentioned earlier, farmers may face a range of constraints that can limit their ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities. Identifying and addressing these

constraints is critical to promoting greater entrepreneurial behavior among farmers and enhancing rural development.

### Materials and Methods

The study was conducted using a sample of 240 farmers from the region who were surveyed using a structured interview schedule. The farmers were asked to rank the constraints that they perceived as most important in limiting their ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities. The data collected from the survey was analyzed using the Garrett Ranking technique.

### Application of the Garret's Ranking Technique

An attempt is made to recognize the constraints faced by farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh that affect their ability to engage in entrepreneurial behavior. The identified problems are ranked by making use of Garrett's Ranking Technique. The technique was used to rank the preference mentioned by the respondents. Founded on the Garret's Ranking technique, the study had the respondents rank different problems and outcome based on their impact thereby converting into score value and rank with the help of the following formula:

$$\text{Percent position} = \frac{100(R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where,

R<sub>ij</sub> = Rank given for the i<sup>th</sup> variable by j<sup>th</sup> respondents,

N<sub>j</sub> = Number of variable ranked by j<sup>th</sup> respondents

With the help of Garret’s Table, the percent position estimated is converted into scores by referring to the table given by Garret and Woodworth (1969) [2]. Then for each factor, the scores of each individual are added and then total value of scores and mean values of score is calculated. The factors having highest mean value is considered to be the

most important factor. Below is the tabular representation of the problems faced by the farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The table is a random categorization of the problems found during personal interviewing and with the help of interview schedule. The table shows the preference and ranking of problems faced by farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh that affect their ability to engage in entrepreneurial behavior.

**Results and Discussion**

**Table 1:** Garret table of the constraints faced by farmers

Rank	Frequency factor														Total
	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11	F12	F13	F14	
1	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	208	0	0	0	0	0	0	240
2	85	0	9	0	17	0	14	2	39	4	0	32	20	18	240
3	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	26	0	101	22	6	0	240
4	54	0	20	4	33	6	0	0	0	44	37	42	0	0	240
5	14	0	0	2	0	34	6	0	46	26	44	36	32	0	240
6	0	14	20	6	30	58	0	0	2	4	0	50	22	34	240
7	0	52	35	14	18	6	49	0	26	32	6	2	0	0	240
8	0	32	8	20	10	22	44	0	34	52	0	18	0	0	240
9	0	74	0	24	34	36	0	0	19	0	4	0	47	2	240
10	0	2	67	44	2	0	30	0	0	30	2	0	37	26	240
11	0	0	53	8	48	32	18	0	14	2	0	0	44	21	240
12	0	66	6	20	2	0	22	0	32	6	20	0	20	46	240
13	0	0	22	49	2	44	4	0	2	22	0	0	4	91	240
14	0	0	0	49	44	2	53	0	0	18	26	38	8	2	240
Total	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	240	

Source: Field Survey 2022-23

**The Percent Positions and Garret Scores**

The Garret ranks were calculated by using appropriate Garret Ranking formula on the basis of Garret ranks, the garret value was calculated. The Garret tables and scores of each problems in the above table, and multiplied to records scores in next table, finally by adding each row, the total Garret score were obtained.

$$\text{Percent position} = \frac{100(R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_j}$$

The result is provided in the following table

**Table 2:** Percent Positions and Garret Values

Rank	Percent Positions	Garret Values
1	6.785714	80
2	13.92857	72
3	21.07143	66
4	28.21429	62
5	35.35714	58
6	42.5	54
7	49.64286	51
8	56.78571	47
9	63.92857	43
10	71.07143	40
11	78.21429	35
12	85.35714	30
13	92.5	23
14	99.64286	4

**Calculation of Garret Value and Ranking**

The calculation of Garret value and ranking of problems faced by farmers are shown below.

**Table 3:** Factors

Factors	Mean Score	Rank
Price fluctuation in the market	68.63	II
Non availability of labor	42.31	X
Exploitation by middleman	43.13	IX
No provision of crop/allied insurance	30.57	XIV
Inadequate extension services	40.76	XI
Decreasing water table	43.77	VIII
Insufficient electricity	36.32	XII
High input costs	78.18	I
Lack of cooperatives	52.24	IV
Insufficient and untimely credit facility	45.18	VI
Lack of cold storage and processing facility	53.23	III
Lack of technical knowledge	51.03	V
Lack of transport facility	44.35	VII
Non availability of quality planting material	35.31	XIII

The results of the study show that the most significant constraint affecting the entrepreneurial behavior of farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh is "high input costs," which is assigned a score of 78.18 and given a ranked 1. The next most significant constraint is "data price fluctuation in the market," with a score of 68.63 and a ranked 2.

Other constraints, in descending order of importance, include "lack of cold storage and processing facility" (score: 53.23, rank: 3), "lack of cooperatives" (score: 52.24, rank: 4), "lack of technical knowledge" (score: 51.03, rank: 5), "Insufficient and untimely credit facility" (score: 45.18, rank: 6), "Lack of transport facility" (score: 44.35, rank: 7), "Decreasing water table" (score: 43.77, rank: 8), "Exploitation by middleman" (score: 43.13, rank: 9), "non availability of labour" (score: 42.74167, rank: 10), "Inadequate extension services" (score: 40.76, rank: 11),

"insufficient electricity" (score: 36.32, rank: 12), "non availability of quality planting material" (score: 35.31, rank: 13), and "no provision of crop/allied insurance" (score: 30.57, rank: 14). This finding is in conformity with the findings of Sindhu and Geethakutty (2003) <sup>[5]</sup>, Kumar *et al.* (2013) <sup>[14]</sup> and Devadas and Ushadevi (2018) <sup>[11]</sup>.

### Conclusion

Based on the results presented, it can be concluded that there are various constraints that are affecting the entrepreneurial behavior of farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. These constraints include high input costs, price fluctuation in the market, inadequate extension services, exploitation by middlemen, lack of cooperatives, decreasing water table, lack of cold storage and processing facility, insufficient and untimely credit facility, non-availability of labour, insufficient electricity, lack of technical knowledge, lack of transport facility, and non-availability of quality planting material. These constraints are affecting the ability of farmers to operate as entrepreneurs and are limiting their potential for growth and profitability. Addressing these constraints will require a coordinated effort from various stakeholders including government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. This may involve providing better access to credit, improving extension services, promoting cooperatives, building cold storage and processing facilities, and investing in infrastructure such as transport and electricity. By addressing these constraints, farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh will be better positioned to operate as entrepreneurs and contribute to the economic development of the region.

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