

**POSSIBILITIES AND CHALLENGES TO PRODUCE AGRICULTURAL BYPRODUCTS
TO STRENGTHEN THE LIVING STANDARD OF FARMERS**

RAVEESH S.

Research Scholar,
Department of Sociology,
Bangalore University,
Karnataka, India.

ABSTRACT

Indian villages are gradually connecting with transportation facility, electricity supply to the villages is improving, local bodies are taking care of drinking water supply to the villages, irrigation facilities are improving with the help of modern governments, communication network such as mobile with internet signals, television with various channels and newspapers in different languages are reaching the villages. Literacy rate is improving and a new class of educated and skilled young generation is emerging in rural India. Today's agricultural process ends with the production of primary products. Due to increased input cost and low market price, production of primary products is not profitable. Instead of focusing only on the production of primary products, there are possibilities to produce agricultural byproducts which have more demand in the market than the primary products. Even after all these possibilities, the willingness of rural community to produce the agricultural byproducts matters. This study is conducted in eight selected villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state located in southern part of India to know the possibilities to produce agricultural byproducts.

KEYWORDS: Agricultural Byproducts, Rural Livelihood

* * *

I. INTRODUCTION

Industry and service sectors are emerged as most profitable domains in Indian economy. Increase or decrease of gross domestic product of Indian economy is

depended on the performance of these two domains and they are mainly concentrated in urban area. Concentration of both industry and service sectors in urban area is the main reason behind rapid growth of urbanization in the country. Both central and state governments are extending their support to extend the border of industry and service sectors. India is land of villages and agriculture is not only considered as the heartbeat of village community but it is also a way of life. 'The 1872 censuses revealed that 99.3% of the population of the region constituting present-day India resided in villages' (Kumar 1982). The country has strong bondage between agriculture and human life. According to 2011 census report 68.84% of the Indian population is located in rural area (2011 census). In India 'peasants were believed to be attached to the land through the bonds of sentiments and emotions. Agriculture, for them, is 'a livelihood and a way of life, not a business for profit' (Redfield, 1965:17-18; Shanin, 1987).

Population is increasing and the demand for food, the basic need of citizens of the country is also increasing. Lifestyle of the people is changing and the consumption pattern is also transforming. To meet the increasing demand of the people who spread across the wide geographical area, the 'production-process-supply' has to change. Farmers in India are producing within their limits and western countries are eager to supply the agriculture and allied products due to the existence of wide market in India. Even after enormous support to the industrial sector, the domain is unable to process and fulfill the demand of citizens of India. Here, the process in the sense converting the agricultural raw material into consumable products.

There is no structured setup of agricultural allied industries in India. Even though there are some countable numbers, agriculture and agricultural allied industries don't have strong co-ordination in the country. The result of failure in co-ordination of these two links is western countries agri-products are travelling around the country. Majority of our agricultural system ends with production of primary agricultural goods. Instead of only concentrating on agricultural goods, we can also focus on the byproducts which have greater demand than the primary products. For example ghee has more value than milk in the market, sugar has greater demand than sugarcane and furniture's market value is higher compared to the raw wood. So it is very much clear that agricultural byproducts have higher value than the primary

agricultural output. The production of agricultural byproducts is not only enhances employment opportunities and living standard in rural area but also saves huge amount of foreign exchange.

The sugar industries starts working when the sugarcane crop gets reduce, the result ends with farmers' suicide and import of sugar from western countries with high price. "Sugar and cereals, each of which also accounted for 5 to 10 percent of country's agri-imports" (Economic Survey). Even though we have enough cotton production land, the country imports cloth, enough opportunities exists to boost sericulture industry but still we import silk from China, even though "India is one of the largest producers of oilseeds in the world, however, 50 per cent of its domestic requirements are met through imports. Edible oil, accounting for nearly 60 to 70 per cent of the value of total agri-imports, has become the single largest item of agri-imports" (Economic Survey 2012-13). There is enough geographical support to grow almonds, but we are importing it from America. It is unfortunate that even after 53% of human resource engaged in agriculture and agriculture allied activities, country is in the condition to import agricultural byproducts to meet the demands of its citizens.

The above lines indicate two things i.e. lack of agriculture allied industries and failure in linking agriculture with the existing agriculture allied industries. If we link these two production units in a systematic way, in one hand, the value of agricultural goods will increase, on the other hand, agricultural allied industries can take new shape and products will be available at low cost (if we can decrease the production cost) to each citizen and most importantly it saves the huge flow of Indian currency into the western countries.

Majority of the industrial plants are located in urban area and the logical reason behind this is, the proper execution of industries demands basic needs such as water, electricity, transportation, communication facility, raw materials and human resource. Since urban areas are enabled with good amenities, obviously the priority to establish industrial plants is urban area. The argument is acceptable, but the trend is transforming in the country. Villages of India are connected with transportation facility today, electricity supply to the villages is improved, local bodies are taking care of drinking water supply to the villages and irrigation facilities are improving

with help of modern governments, communication network such as mobile with internet signals, television with various channels and newspapers in different languages are reaching the villages. Literacy rate is improving and a new class of educated young generation is emerging in rural India. Today's agricultural process ends with the production of primary products. Due to increased input cost and low market price, production of primary products is not profitable. Instead of focusing only on the production of primary products, there are possibilities to produce agricultural byproducts which has more demand in the market than the primary products. Even after all these possibilities, the willingness of rural community to produce the agricultural byproducts matters. This study is conducted in eight selected villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state located in southern part of India to know the possibilities to produce agricultural byproducts.

II. METHODOLOGY

There are 823 villages spread across four taluks in Ramanagara district and two villages from each taluk are chosen for this study.

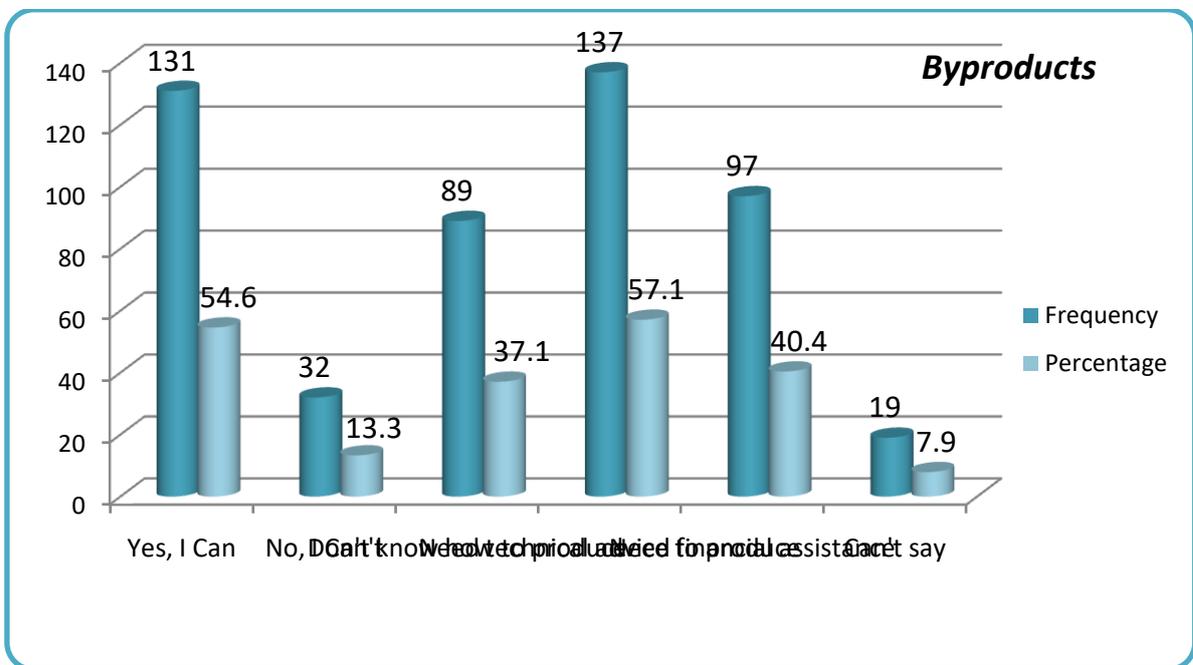
Sl No.	Taluk	Name of the Village
1	Magadi	Madigondanahalli
2		Belagavadi
3	Channapattana	Malurupattana
4		Nagavara
5	Ramanagara	Kenchanakuppe
6		Ramanahalli
7	Kanakapura	Yadamaranahalli
8		Keralalusandra

Random sampling method is followed in this study. The total sample size is 240 (30 samples from each village). The key parameters such as distance from urban area, population, caste structure, occupation, literacy rate, gender etc. are followed while choosing respondents of the villages. A structured interview schedule is used for this study. The schedule also prepared in bilingual (Kannada & English) mode for the better operation in rural area. Statistical software is used for data analysis. The collected data is re-checked thoroughly to ensure accuracy, completeness and relevance. Classification of data is made very carefully and statistical analytical

methods such as percentage, frequency and average etc were used in calculation of primary data. The primary data is collected from the field between the months of May to July of 2016. Even though the primary data is collected with intensive care but the reliability of primary data depends on the accuracy and loyalty of the respondents.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

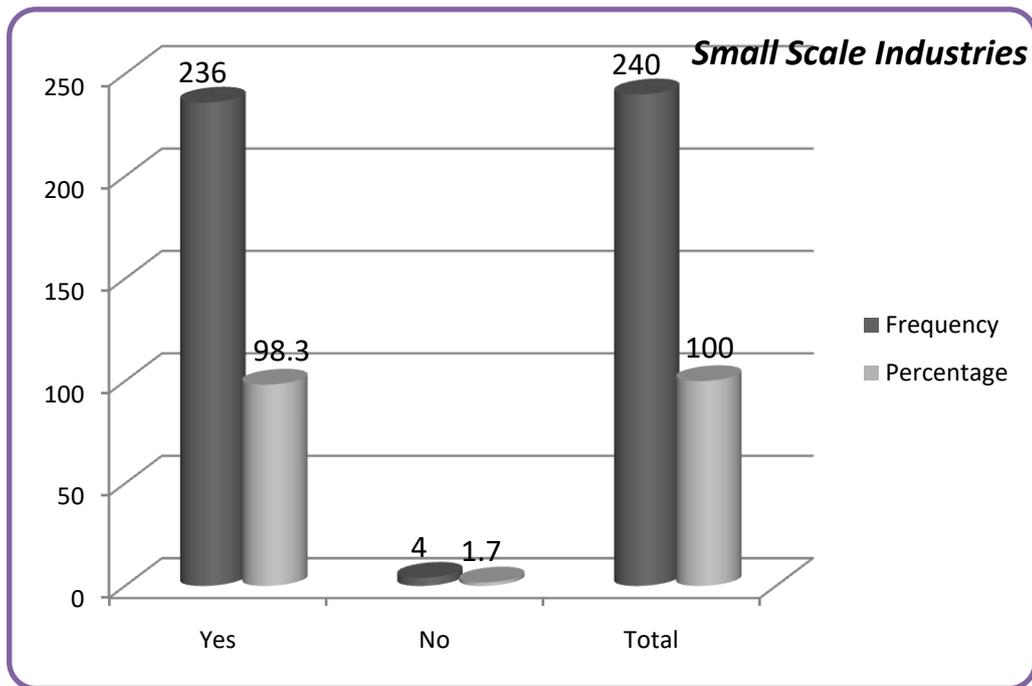
Input cost in agriculture is increasing but not the profit. Farmers are losing interest on agriculture due to non-profitability. The rural India is transforming and there are possibilities to find new opportunities to uplift the living standard of rural community. Production of agricultural byproducts is one such option.



The query towards enquiry of willingness of villagers to produce byproducts among eight villagers of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state received multiple responses. 131 (54.6%) of them are expressed their interest in the production of agricultural byproducts. 32 (13.3%) of them said that they can't produce, 89 (37.1%) of them don't know how to produce, 137 (57.1%) of them wants technical advice to produce, 97 (40.4%) of them said that they need financial assistance and 19 (7.9%) of them said that they can't say anything.

Instead of concentrating only on large scale industries which are leading to hundreds of ecological problems in urban setup, is it possible to start small scale industries in villages? As we discussed earlier facilities are improving in villages,

literacy and skilled human resource is also increasing in rural India. But villagers are migrating to urban area in search of livelihood and a portion of migrants are working in industries for low salary and living in outskirts of the urban area. With the improvement of transportation facility, the floating population is also increasing. Is the villagers are expecting to have a small scale industry in their villages to enhance the livelihood opportunities?



Out of 240 respondents of eight villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state, 98.3% (236) of them wish to have small scale industries in their villages and 1.7% (04) of them is not interested to have small scale industries in their villages. The study reveals that there are enough possibilities to establish small scale industries in villages to enhance the livelihood opportunities for rural community.

IV. CONCLUSION

Organic agricultural system is transformed into modern agricultural system in the country. Modern agricultural system is demanding high usage of machinery, chemical fertilizers, pesticides and high yield seeds. The input cost in agriculture is increasing but not the profit. Farmers are in threat due to increasing input cost and non-profitability in agriculture. Today's agricultural process ends with the production of primary products. Due to increased input cost and low market price, production of

primary products is not profitable. Instead of focusing only on the production of primary products, there are possibilities to produce agricultural byproducts which have more demand in the market than the primary products. The study conducted in eight villages of Ramanagara district of Karnataka state revealed the possibilities to produce agricultural byproducts.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Censes report (2011), Registrar General and censes commissioner, ministry of home affairs, Newdelhi.
2. Desai A.R. (1969), Rural Sociology in India, 4th ed., Popular prakashan private limited, Bombay, 1969, pp 23-30.
3. Gandhi M.K. (1946), Harijan, 31-3-1946; 82:365.
4. GOK – Government of Karnataka (2011), Ramanagara District at Glance 2011-12.
5. Gurappa Naidu Y. (2006), Globalisation and its impact on Indian Society, The Indian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 67, No. 1 (JAN. - MAR., 2006), pp. 65-76.
6. Gupta, Dipankar (2005), Whither the Indian Village - Culture and Agriculture in 'Rural' India, Economic and Political Weekly February 19, 2005, pp. 751-758.
7. Majumdar N. A. (2002), Rural Development : New Perceptions, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 37, No.39, 2002.
8. Redfield, R. (1965), Peasants and Peasant Societies and Culture, Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
9. Socio - Economic Survey (2011-12), Ramanagara District, Government of Karnataka.
10. Suri K.C. (2006), Political Economy of Agrarian Distress, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 41, No. 16 (Apr. 22-28, 2006), pp. 1523-1529.