AN ANALYSIS OF AGRICULURAL SCHEMES RUN BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR FARMERS: A CASE STUDY OF DISTRICT SIRSA

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Abstract

India's agricultural economy is undergoing structural changes. Between 1970 and 2011, the GDP share of agriculture has fallen from 43% to 16%. This isn't because of reduced importance of agriculture or a consequence of agricultural policy. This is largely because of the rapid economic growth in services, industrial output, and non-agricultural sectors in India between 2000 and 2010. In study analysis the farmers' opinions towards the agriculture schemes rum by central government of India. The different tools which are used in this study are schedule, interview, direct observation and informal conversation. In the study, primary as well as secondary data used to achieve the objective of the study. The primary data was collected through the survey in Sirsa District with the help of well structured questionnaire. The administrative region of District Sirsa has been divided into five Tehsils. For the purpose of the study two tehsils will be selected from District Sirsa.The next problem is related to the selection of the villages in the sample. Ten villages will be selected at random from each tehsil. Thus, in all, 20 villages will be selected from two sample tehsils. Considering various aspects of the study, we have decided to survey of 600 agricultural workers include marginal and small farmers and landless agricultural labour from each sample tehsil. The analysis of data has been made by using various descriptive and inferential statistical tools like Arithmetic Mean, Percentage, and Frequency. The Government of India has launched many agricultural schemes for the upliftment of the economic conditions of agricultural workers. But as the survey has suggested that the poor section of the agriculture sector is trickle down by these schemes. Some respondents are slightly and average benefitted as the result shows, but, the majority of the farmers is not benefitted.

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Introduction

In the years since its independence, India has made immense progress towards food security. The Indian population has tripled, and food-grain production more than quadrupled. There has been a substantial increase in available food-grain per capita. Before the mid-1960s India relied on imports and food aid to meet domestic requirements. However, two years of severe drought in 1965 and 1966 convinced India to reform its agricultural policy, and that they could not rely on foreign aid and imports for food security. India adopted significant policy reforms focused on the goal of foodgrain self-sufficiency. This ushered in India's Green Revolution. It began with the decision to adopt superior yielding, disease resistant wheat varieties in combination with better farming knowledge to improve productivity. The state of Punjab led India's green revolution and earned the distinction of being the country's bread basket.

The initial increase in production was centred on the irrigated areas of the states of Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh. With the farmers and the government officials focusing on farm productivity and knowledge transfer, India's total foodgrain production soared. A hectare of Indian wheat farm that produced an average of 0.8 tonnes in 1948, produced 4.7 tonnes of wheat in 1975 from the same land. Such rapid growth in farm productivity enabled India to become self-sufficient by the 1970s. It also empowered the smallholder farmers to seek further means to increase food staples produced per hectare. By 2000, Indian farms were adopting wheat varieties capable of yielding 6 tonnes of wheat per hectare.

With agricultural policy success in wheat, India's Green Revolution technology spread to rice. However, since irrigation infrastructure was very poor, Indian farmer innovated with tube-wells, to harvest ground water. When gains from the new technology reached their limits in the states of initial adoption, the technology spread in the 1970s and 1980s to the states of eastern India — Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. The lasting benefits of the improved seeds and new technology extended principally to the irrigated areas which account for about one-third of the harvested crop area. In the 1980s, Indian agriculture policy shifted to "evolution of a production pattern in line with the demand pattern" leading to a shift in emphasis to other agricultural commodities like oilseed, fruit and vegetables. Farmers began adopting improved methods and technologies in dairying, fisheries and livestock, and meeting the diversified food needs of a growing population.

As with rice, the lasting benefits of improved seeds and improved farming technologies now largely depends on whether India develops infrastructure such as irrigation network, flood control systems, reliable electricity production capacity, all-season rural and urban highways, cold storage to prevent spoilage, modern retail, and competitive buyers of produce from Indian farmers. This is increasingly the focus of Indian agriculture policy.

India's agricultural economy is undergoing structural changes. Between 1970 and 2011, the GDP share of agriculture has fallen from 43% to 16%. This isn't because of reduced importance of agriculture or a consequence of agricultural policy. This is largely because of the rapid economic growth in services, industrial output, and non-agricultural sectors in India between 2000 and 2010. Agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan has played a vital role in the green revolution. In 2013 NDTV awarded him as 25 living legend of India for outstanding contribution to agriculture and making India a food sovereign country. Two states, Sikkim and Kerala have planned to shift fully to organic farming by 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Review of literature

C P Chandra Sekhar and Jayati Ghosh,(1999) in "Feminisation of India's Agricultural Workforce" states that the increased involvement of women in agriculture may be due to out migration of males from low paid agriculture to high paid industry. The same authors in "Indian Economic Refoms Process and the Implications of South-East Asian Crisis" in 1999, has stated that in India, feminisation in agriculture has been induced by casualisation of work, unprofitable crop production and distress migration. Migration has been noticed to other rural areas, to slums and to highly labour-exploitative sectors of the economy such as construction.

Swarna S Vepa (2005) in "Feminisation of Agriculture and Marginalisation of their Economic Stake", Economic and Political Weekly, 2005, proves that increase in women's work in agriculture is due to outmigration of male partners. Women's work remains invisible in family enterprises. Women in rural areas are engaged in other activities (viz., livestock, fisheries and forestry) besides farming. She has calculated that women on an average spend 23.6 hours a week on economic activities, but receive payment for 60 per cent of their work.

Maithreyi Krishnaraj (2005) in "Food Security: How and for Whom?", reports that despite efforts made over the years to improve coverage of women's work in rural areas by proper inclusion of unpaid productive work, there has been only marginal improvement. The definition of cultivators in the census relies on ownership of land so that even though women actually cultivate they are seen as family labour. Hence this fact is not reflected in the proportion of men and women cultivators, which make some people, dispute that there is feminisation of agriculture in India.

Maithreyi Krishnaraj and Aruna Kanchi (2008) in "Women Farmers of India" focuses on the increasing role women are playing in the agricultural and allied sectors in India. They feel that women continue to get discriminated in this sector as seen through the lopsided manner in which their role is viewed both in public perception as well as policy makers.

Godara and Varsha (2015) various beliefs and assumption about rural economy have changed due to growing body of evidence on female's contribution in agriculture and allied activities. There is now wide awareness and recognition of their participation in various economic activities. Rural women play a significant role in domestic, socio-economic life and agriculture sector. The economic development of a country is not possible without growing this important and substantial segment of our society. The result of the paper explained that the category wise (agricultural labourer and agricultural cultivator) classification of population in Haryana. The results reveal that 65.2 percent population exists in a rural area in which 53.1 percent and 46.8 percent has been noticed male and female respectively. The percentage share of the agricultural working population to total working population in Haryana had been increased from 2001to 2011was 15.3 percent to 17.1 percent. The ratio of male and female of the laborers working had been increased from 12.6 percent to 15.3 from 2001 to 2011. The multidimensional contribution of rural women, in terms of time and efforts, is not miner of less than of men in any way. However, this is widely unpaid, home based, and therefore not visible. This input has not considered as an input, while, formulating policies and programs for rural women.

Research Objective

The present study analysis the farmers opinions towards the agriculture schemes run by central government of India.

Research Methodology

The different tools which are used in this study are scheduled, interview, direct observation and informal conversation. In the study, primary as well as secondary data used to achieve the objective of the study. The primary data was collected through the survey in Sirsa District with the help of a well structured questionnaire. The administrative region of District Sirsa has been divided into five Tehsils. For the purpose of the study two tehsils will be selected from District Sirsa. The next problem is related to the selection of the villages in the sample. Ten villages will be selected at random from each tehsil. Thus, in all, 20 villages will be selected from two sample tehsils. Considering various aspects of the study, we have decided to survey of 600 agricultural workers include marginal and small farmers and landless agricultural labour from each sample tehsil. The analysis of data has been made by using various descriptive and inferential statistical tools like Arithmetic Mean, Percentage, and Frequency.

Analysis of Schemes run by government of India

After the independence of the country, many Indian parties came at the political front and they have introduced many government schemes for the development and upliftment of the economic standard of the agricultural section of the Indian economy. In the following section we analysis the respondents' response regarding the schemes run by the government of India.

Table 1

Integrated Rural Development Programme

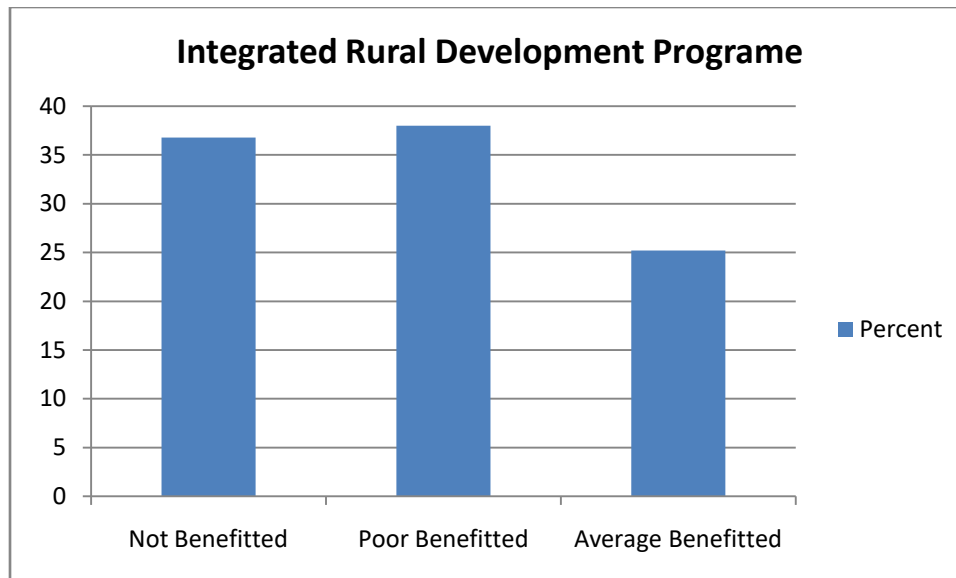| Schemes	Frequency	Percent	Mean value
Not Benefitted	221	36.8	1.88
Poor Benefitted	228	38.0	
Average Benefitted	151	25.2	
Total	600	100.0	

Source: Survey

Figure 1: Integrated Rural Development Programe

Table 1 highlights the respondent's response towards Integrated Rural Development Programs Schemes provided by government of India. It's found that majority of respondents i.e. 228(36.8 percent) out of 600 are belongs to category of Poor Benefitted followed by 221(36 percent) are belongs to Not Benefitted and remaining respondents 151(25.2 percent) are belongs to Average Benefitted with overall mean value of tale is 1.88.

Table 2

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

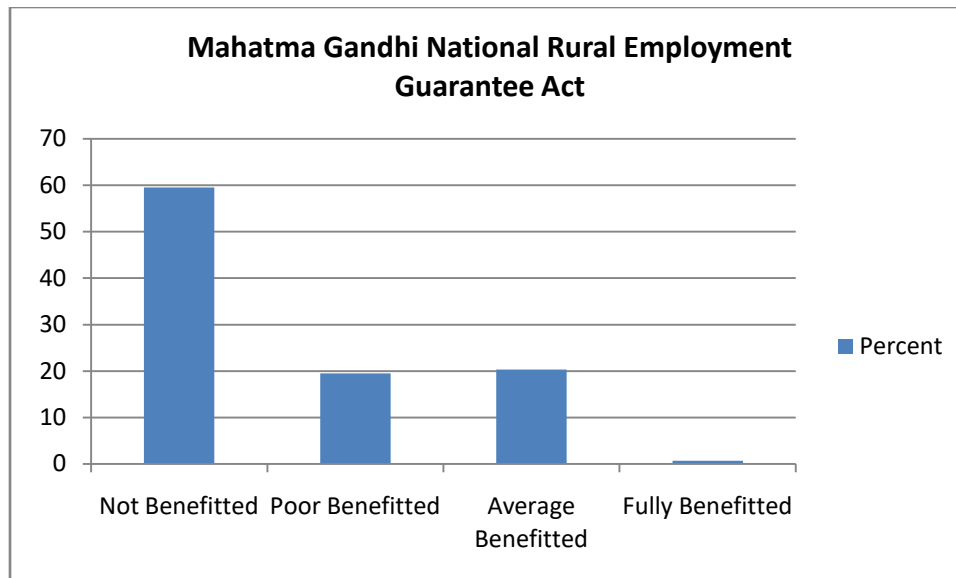| Schemes	Frequency	Percent	Mean value
Not Benefitted	357	59.5	1.62
Poor Benefitted	117	19.5	
Average Benefitted	122	20.3	
Fully Benefitted	4	.7	
Total	600	100.0	

Source: Survey

Figure 2: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

Table 2 shows the respondent's response towards Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Schemes provided by government of India. It's found that majority of respondents i.e. 357 (59.5 percent)out of 600 are belongs to category of Not Benefitted followed by 122(20.3 percent) are belongs to Average Benefitted, 117(19.5 percent) are belongs to Poor Benefitted, and remaining respondents 4(0.7 percent) are belongs to Fully Benefitted with overall mean value of tale is 1.62.

Table 3

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

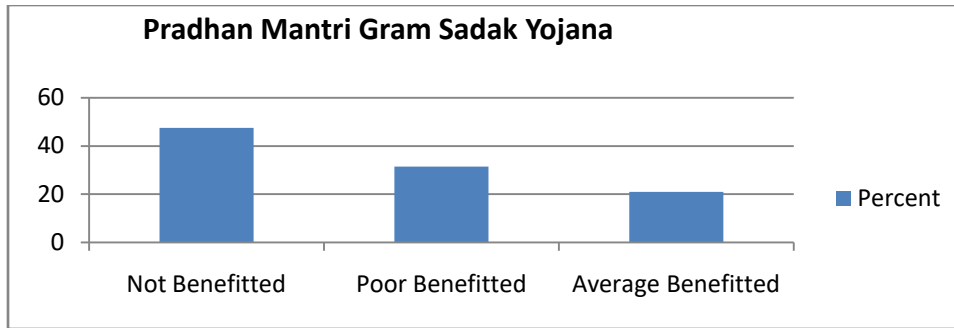| Schemes	Frequency	Percent	Mean value
Not Benefitted	285	47.5	1.74
Poor Benefitted	189	31.5	
Average Benefitted	126	21.0	
Total	600	100.0	

Source: Survey

Figure 3: Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Table 3 shows the respondent's response towards Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana provided by government of India. It's found that majority of respondents i.e. 285 (47.5 percent)out of 600 are belongs to category of Not Benefitted followed by 189(31.5 percent) are belongs to Poor Benefitted and remaining respondents 126(21.0 percent) are belongs to Average Benefitted with overall mean value of tale is 1.74.

Table 4

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

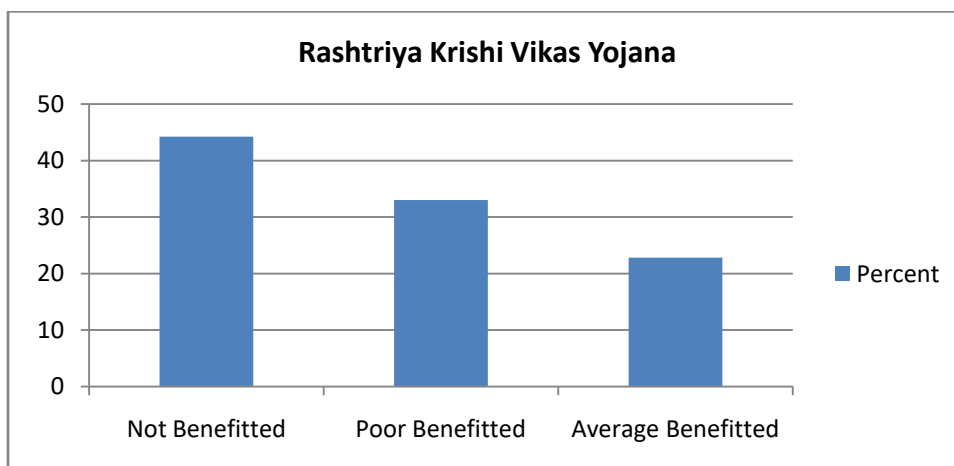| Schemes	Frequency	Percent	Mean value
Not Benefitted	265	44.2	1.79
Poor Benefitted	198	33.0	
Average Benefitted	137	22.8	
Total	600	100.0	

Source: Survey

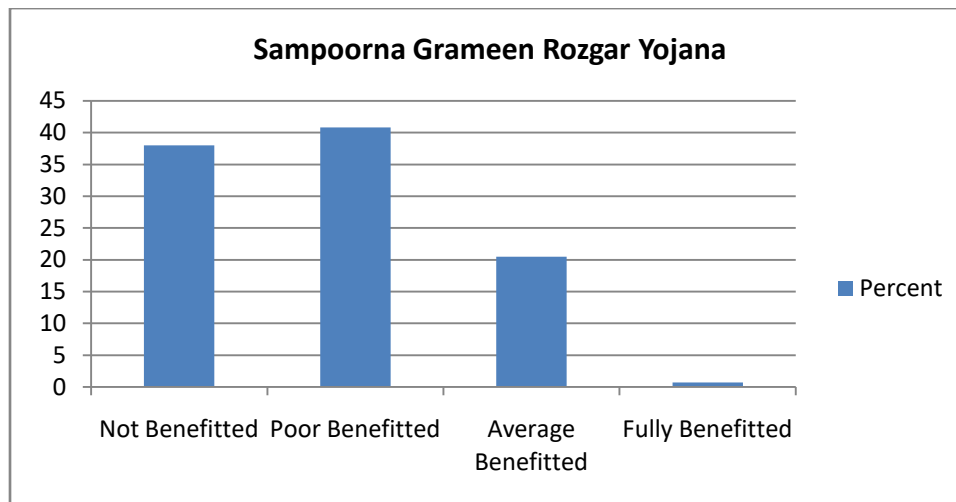Figure 4: Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

Table 4 shows the respondent's response towards Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana provided by government of India. It's found that majority of respondents i.e. 265 (44.2percent)out of 600 are belongs to category of Not Benefitted followed by 198(33 percent) are belongs to Poor Benefitted and remaining respondents 137(22.8 percent) are belongs to Average Benefitted with overall mean value of tale is 1.79.

Table 5

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

Schemes	Frequency	Percent	Mean value
Not Benefitted	228	38.0	1.84
Poor Benefitted	245	40.8	
Average Benefitted	123	20.5	
Fully Benefitted	4	.7	
Total	600	100.0	

Source: Survey

Figure 5: Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

Table 5 shows the respondent's response towards Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana provided by government of India. It's found that majority of respondents i.e. 245 (40.8 percent) out of 600 are belongs to category of Poor Benefitted followed by 228(38.0 percent) are belongs to Not Benefitted, 123(20.5 percent) are belongs to Average Benefitted and remaining respondents 4(0.7 percent) are belongs to Fully Benefitted with overall mean value of tale is 1.84.

Table 6

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

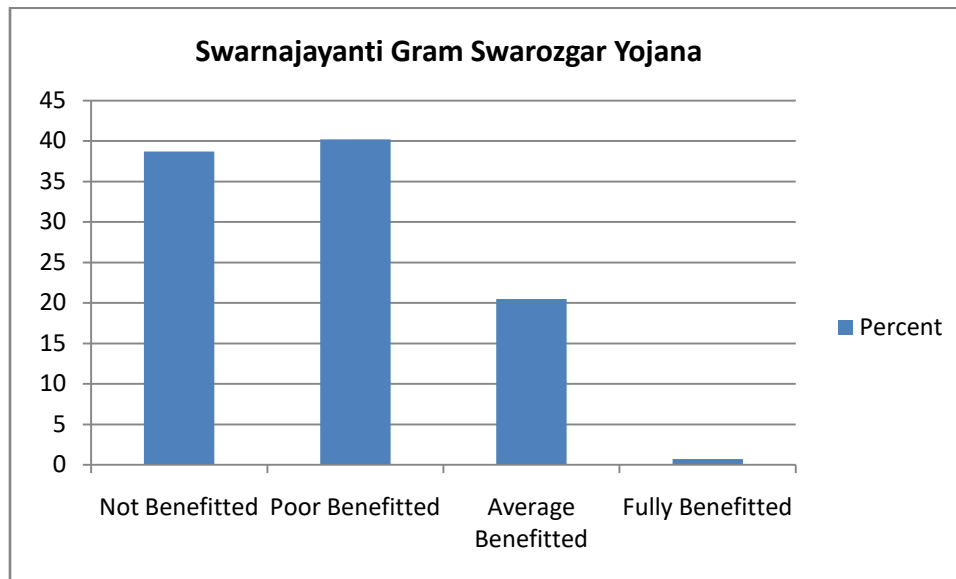| Schemes	Frequency	Percent	Mean value
Not Benefitted	232	38.7	1.83
Poor Benefitted	241	40.2	
Average Benefitted	123	20.5	
Fully Benefitted	4	.7	
Total	600	100.0	

Source: Survey

Figure 6: Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

Table 6 shows the respondent's response towards Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana provided by government of India. It's found that majority of respondents i.e. 241 (40.2 percent) out of 600 are belongs to category of Poor Benefitted followed by 232(38.7 percent) are belongs to Not Benefitted, 123(20.5 percent) are belongs to Average Benefitted and remaining respondents 4(0.7 percent) are belongs to Fully Benefitted with overall mean value of tale is 1.83.

Table 7

Indira Awaas Yojana

Schemes	Frequency	Percent	Mean value
Not Benefitted	331	55.2	1.00
Poor Benefitted	117	19.5	

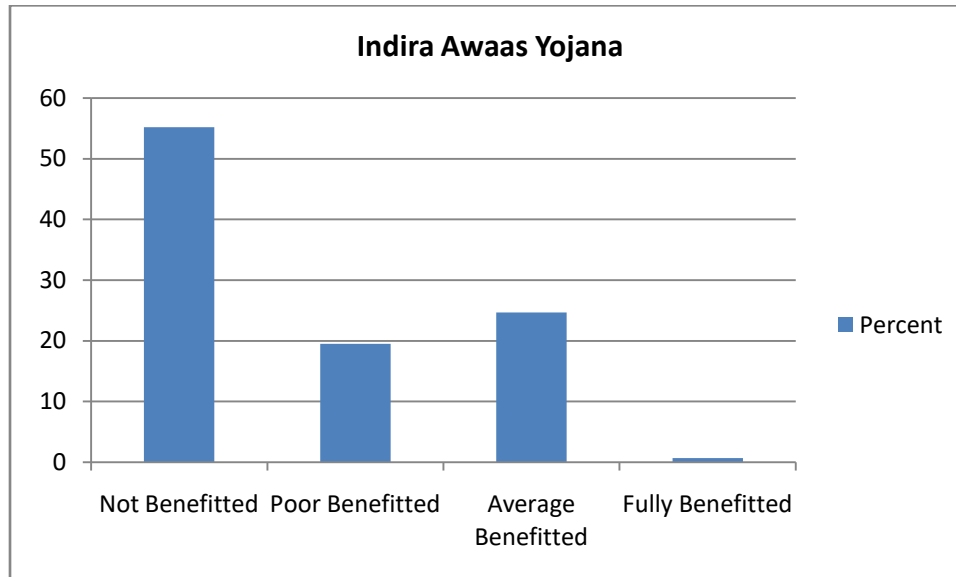| Average Benefitted | 148 | 24.7 | |
| Fully Benefitted | 4 | .7 | |
| Total | 600 | 100.0 | |

Source: Survey

Figure 7: Indira Awaas Yojana

Table 7 shows the respondent's response towards Indira Awaas Yojana schemes provided by government of India. It's found that majority of respondents i.e. 331 (55.2 percent) out of 600 are belongs to category of Not Benefitted followed by 148(24.7 percent) are belongs to Poor Benefitted, 148 (24.7 percent) are belongs to Average Benefitted and remaining respondents 4 (0.7 percent) are belongs to Fully Benefitted with overall mean value of tale is 1.00.

Conclusion

The Government of India has launched many agricultural schemes for the upliftment of the economic conditions of agricultural workers. But as the survey has suggested that the poor section of the agriculture sector is trickle down by these schemes. Some respondents are slightly and average benefitted as the result shows, but, the majority of the farmers is not benefitted. These results show that there is an urgency to take some more steps to let the people know about these schemes and its implications on ground level. The agricultural commission of the Government of India should be reformed with new technologies and should be fully equipped

and be helpful for the development of agriculture sector and economic conditions of agricultural workers.

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