Government Sponsored Agricultural Development Schemes: An Assessment Focused on Jammu Province of J&K State

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Abstract: India is at the crossroad where we are looking forward to achieve the millennium goal 2020 and 2025 ensuring the nation to have economically, socially, politically, environmentally and technologically stable and progressive rural society. In order to ensure a sustained development in agriculture sector there have been different programmes and policies right from the beginning of the planning era. The major challenges before the policy makers are sustainability of farm productivity, protection of the environment or natural resources. These challenges are addressed by the inclusion of various policies, which are designed to promote the process of development to reduce poverty in rural areas. There are a number of programmes and policies formulated by the government to help the weaker sections of the society. Many times it has also been witnessed that people are not aware of such programmes and they rarely get benefit of such policies. In the present paper an attempt has been made to evaluate the performance of the different programmes and policies over the six agro-ecological zones of the study area. In order to plan agricultural development plans more accurately each region has to be examined with respect to the strength of physical and non-physical attributes. In the given study the emphasis is on the assessment of non-physical or the institutional factors over the agro-ecological zones. The secondary as well as the primary data generated through the questionnaire has been used for the analysis. The objective of the article is to examine the response of the various government schemes in the agriculture sector over the different agro-ecological zones.

1. Introduction

The given problem is investigated over the ten districts comprising 60 blocks of the region. Since, the physiographic of the region is as diverse in nature as the terrain, climate, soils, and slope all are so diverse in the region. There are so much of physiographical diversity within a block and the districts in Jammu province. Therefore, the paper attempts to examine the performance of different government schemes of agriculture development over the homogeneous agroecological zones. These zones are delineated on the concept of the region as it is the ideology of geography as a discipline. It helps in understanding the interrelationships of physical and non- physical attributes on the earth surface. Further, the regional approach has been considered as the effective and efficient bases for regional development. As Agnew (2001, 201) states, the term 'region' often brings to mind the idea of a homogenous entity in space that can be distinguished from other entities, or regions, by its physical and/or cultural characteristics (also noted by Gregory $2000)_1$.

A region is not an object, either self-determined or nature given. It is an intellectual concept, an entity for the purpose of thought created by the selection of certain features that are relevant to an aerial interest or problem and by the disregard of all features that are considered to be irrelevant. A region includes both material and immaterial elements that are shaped by natural and human-made objects as well as by ideas about the concept of 'region'. Hence, a region is formed by social discourses and practices. Regions are defined for specific purposes and constructed according to specific criteria (Hudson 2004; Blotevogel 2005; Entrikin 2008; Paasi 2009)2. In order to have a sustained agricultural development it is the need of the time to have a systematic planning of agricultural activities. There are several reasons assigned by the researchers for the popularity of the concept of region in various studies focusing on the regional planning and development. The failure of the socioeconomic development in the country over the planning era has led to emphasize on new thinking focusing the provision of equal living conditions in different regions including employment, housing and social security, guaranteeing an appropriate infrastructure equally distributed over the region as one entity and brought close to the people resulting in minimising the social, economic poverty. (Andrea, 2012) stated, the relevance of local social and institutional characteristics is discussed by arguing that favorable conditions for development are the result of a highly context specific combination of rules, norms and social relations which encourage and facilitate knowledge diffusion and exploitation mostly on a localized basis. In this respect, some evidence is provided about the emergence of spatial inequalities connected to the localized nature of development processes and innovative activities₃.

This paper goes about addressing the zone wise assessment of various government sponsored agricultural development schemes in Jammu province. The purpose of considering agro-ecological zones for the study is that the agro climatic information system is a system that incorporates the physical properties of the environment considering land surface, soil, hydrology, vegetation for planning and management of agricultural products. (Srivastava Uma Kant, 1990)₄ the initial attempt by the planning commission to introduce agro climatic regional planning is pioneering in nature; it is the best only indicative and is amenable to arrive at some general strategic guidelines. In the subsequent phases, an effort should be made to delineate more homogenous producing regions and consuming centres₄.

The identification of agro-climatic zones for the purpose of developing location specific research and development strategies for increasing agricultural production has been given the due impetus recently. In order to plan agricultural development plan more accurately each region has to be

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examined with respect to the strength of physical and nonphysical attributes. In the given study the emphasis is on the assessment of non-physical or the institutional factors over the agro-ecological zones. Such approach of considering the agro-ecological zones for the study would help to optimize agricultural production, increase in farm income resulting to reduce the inequalities in the development of agriculture. Moreover, the identification of homogeneous agro climatic zones for regional planning is essential for proper utilization of land, water and other resources through transfer of suitable technology, choice of crops, adoption of uniform policy and distribution of management inputs etc., among the climatic analogues. Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also gave much emphasis on agriculture policy and programmes based on agro-climatic zonal approach. Alagh et at. (1989) and Khanna (1989) identified 15 resource development regions in the country and attempted to bring integration of plans and policies of the agro-climatic regions with the State and National Plans_{5.}

Varying levels of rural infrastructure and policy environment coupled with varied agro- climatic conditions and resource endowment determine differential growth performance of agriculture across states/regions. Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), a western Himalayan state has a unique agro-climatic setting and it is presumed that various efforts for raising agricultural land/labour productivity in this state may be hampered to a great extent by various mountain specificities that hinder development of essential rural infrastructure. This background emphasized upon a comprehensive investigation of existing stock of infrastructure and its role in agricultural productivity in Jammu and Kashmir state of India in broader policy perspective. Accordingly government spending on rural infrastructure has significant impact on agricultural growth and rural poverty (Fan et al., 2000, Baba et al., 2010a, Baba et al., 2010b)₆

The approach of inclusive growth would give us the desired results where the government plans in agriculture sector would reach at the grass –root level. Therefore, keeping the approach of inclusive growth in agricultural sector various policies and schemes were designed and implemented time to time. There are number of agricultural policies designed and implemented over different time periods in post independence. Sustainable development of mountainous regions is a challenging task because of its diverse physiography and fragile eco-system. The most important striking characteristic of mountainous region is its spatial variability. This makes the planning and use of natural resources of this region more complex than any other. In the present study an attempt has been made to examine the response of farmers regarding these polices. The policies such as Rashtirya Krishi Vikas yojana, Gramin Bhandar Yojana, National food security mission, national agricultural insurance scheme, Agricultural technology agency ,Gramin Beej Yojana and krishi Vigyan kinder all have taken into consideration to record the response of the farming community over the different identified zone in the study area. The success or failure of the programme at a micro level would help us to understand the area specific problems and formulate those schemes which are effective for the development of a regional entity.

2. Study Area

Jammu province is situated in the north-western part of India and lies between 32° 17' to 34° 12' North latitudes and 73° 58' to 76° 47' East longitudes. It covers an area of 26,293 square kilometers and forms the southernmost part of the state of Jammu & Kashmir. Attitudinally the region extends from 300 meters above mean sea level in the outer plains to over 5000 meters in middle Himalayas. Administratively, Jammu province is divided into ten districts viz. Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri and Poonch, Samba, Kishtwar, Reasi, Ramban. Jammu province covers a wide area ranging from a thin strip, 274 meters to 304 meters in height, of the plain region in the south to the Siwalik Hills and Mid-Himalayan mountains northwards up to Pir-Panjal range, 3000 meters to 4743 meters. The region presents an intricate mosaic of mountain ranges and hills characterized with river terraces, valleys and gorges. The overall impression presented by the relief map, however, is that the region is essentially a hilly one and that the general slope of the area is from north and north-east to west and south-west. The southern part of the area has synclines and anticlines which vary from symmetrical to asymmetrical, whereas over folds, isoclinals folds and recumbent folds are very common in the semi-mountainous part of the region. The population density of the region is 205 which is much more than the density of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The total population of the province is 5378538 and the child sex ratio in the region is 863 whereas the literacy rate of the province is 71.98. The female literacy of the region is 61.72 and male literacy is 81.11.



Objectives

The paper attempts to examine the following objective:

- 1) To examine the status of Govt. Schemes for agricultural development.
- 2) To examine the success of various Govt. Sponsored schemes for agricultural development Initiated in Jammu Province.

Database and Methodology

In the given study the both the primary and secondary data has been consulted. The rigorous field visits were made to record the responses of the farming respondents on the questionnaire. The questionnaire has been designed with care and all the government sponsored agricultural development schemes implemented in the study area has been listed and the response of the respondents has been recorded under different categories. In order to obtain the number of sample respondents from each zone of the study area the proportional allocation statistical technique has been used. In the proposed study the various secondary sources of data namely districts handbooks, census records and the other relevant records from the government offices were consulted. Since, the study area stretches over the ten districts of the J&K state and considering 1% sample from the study area was practically impossible taking time and cost factors in consideration therefore, 0.5% of sample size through the statistical technique proportional allocation has been selected. The total numbers of farming respondents spread over all the six agro-ecological zones are 3625. Further, the demarcation of the agro-ecological zones in the study area has been done with the help of GIS and remote sensing techniques.

3. Sampling Framework

Further, an attempt has been made identify the number of villages falling under different AEZ .Following is the details of the number of villages and number of households (hhs) falling under different zones, identified with the help of proportion al allocation technique which is as follows: $ni = (n \times Ni) \div N$

n = Number of sample size (1% of the total number of households (hhs) in the study region) ni= Number of households (hhs) falling under each zone.

N= Number of hhs falling under the study region.

Fable 1: AEZ showing the	selected sample size of the						
households							

nousenoids							
S.	Agro-ecological Zones	Number of	Number of				
No		sample hhs	samples after				
		_	reducing to 50%				
1	Zone A = $(7253 \times 181162) \div$	1811	905				
	725345 = 1811.50						
2	Zone B = $(7253 \times 215321) \div$	2153	1076				
	725345 = 2153						
3	Zone C = $(7253 \times 2072245) \div$	2072	1036				
	725345 = 2072						
4	Zone D = $(7253 \times 95707) \div$	957	479				
	725345 = 957						
5	Zone E = $(7253x \ 21651) \div$	216	108				
	725345 = 216						
6	Zone F = $(7253x4259) \div$	42	21				
	725345 = 42						

4. Results and Discussions

India holds the record for the second-largest agricultural land in the world, with around 60% rural Indian households making their living from agriculture. The agricultural sector in India employs half of our population and we are greatly dependent on the farmers and agricultural labourers to

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provide us with a means of sustenance. Agriculture is one of the riskiest sectors to be employed in because it is dependents on uncontrollable factors like weather, market fluctuations and topographical conditions. Efforts are being made to give this sector and its workers a much-needed boost and the biggest way of doing this is through launching of better and more Govt. Schemes.

Scheme		Zone							
		Α	В	С	D	E	F	Total	
		Count							
Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana	Benefited	255	148	82	10	0	3	498	
	Non benefited	650	597	933	339	94	18	2631	
	Can't say	0	331	21	130	14	0	496	
Granin Bhandarn Yojana	Benefited	245	128	83	18	0	1	475	
	Non benefited	660	617	953	375	85	20	2710	
	Can't say	0	331	0	86	23	0	440	
National Food Security Mission	benefited	248	20	230	42	0	3	543	
	Non benefited	657	581	806	395	98	18	2555	
	Can't say	0	475	0	42	10	0	527	
National Agriculture Insurance Scheme	Benefited	245	110	20	20	0	1	396	
	Not benefited	660	491	1016	420	80	20	2687	
	Can't say	0	475	0	39	28	0	542	
Agriculture Technology Agency	Benefited	235	218	43	225	20	0	741	
	Not benefited	670	582	993	254	48	21	2568	
	Can't say	0	276	0	0	40	0	316	
Gramin Beej Yojana	Benefited	245	310	93	66	8	3	725	
	Not benefited	660	436	943	335	56	18	2448	
	Can't say	0	330	0	78	44	0	452	
Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Benefited	235	257	22	10	0	2	526	
	Not benefited	670	453	1014	405	74	19	2635	
	Can't say	0	366	0	64	34	0	464	

Table: 2 Responses of the Respondents Regarding Various Government Schemes

Source: Field Survey, 2017

The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is one of government initiative in the study area started in 2007 with the objective to increase the investment in agriculture and allied sector, to provide autonomy to the states to plan and executive their agricultural plans, to formulate plans at district level, to maximize the returns to the farmers, and to integrate the agricultural and allied sector. At present the planning commission has prepared the guidelines for the RKVY scheme to be known as National Agriculture development programme. Under this government scheme huge amount of funds were allocated and utilized in the study area. Therefore, an effort has been made to examine the magnitude of benefits of such schemes among the farming community over the six agro -ecological zones. out of the total 3625 respondents distributed all over the identified zones only 498 have availed the benefits of RKVY which accounts for a mere 13.73% whereas 2361 respondents out of 3625 are of the view that no benefit has been availed by them under this scheme and there constitutes 65.13% of the sample size. Further, a reasonable number of 496 respondents have not responded regarding the role of RKVY and it constitutes 13.68% of the total sample size which perhaps close to the percentage of the respondents who have been benefited. This variation with respect to the benefits availed by the farmers under the above mentioned scheme can be attributed to the fact that the farming community is not well aware about such programmes and there is need of better awareness and extension programmes by the government agencies to ensure that the benefit should go the target groups.

Zonewise Graphic Presentation of Performance of Various Policies in Jammu Region





Therefore, the given statistics from the field study regarding the role of RKVY over the different zones under study invites the attention to further investigate the causes for such variations in study area. As in case of National Food Security Mission programme, it was launched in 2007-08 to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tons respectively. The aim of the mission is area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil and productivity; creating employment fertility opportunities; and enhancing farm level economy. The plan envisages interventions like demonstration on improved technologies and varieties, HYV Seed distribution, need based plant and soil protection management, energy management and efficient water application tools, Pump sets, Paddy Thrasher, Multi-crop planter, cropping system based training to farmers and construction of go downs at approved rate of assistance. The Mission focuses on low productivity and high potential districts, Agro-Climatic Zone wise planning, promotion and extension of improved technology and integration of various proposed interventions and targets with the district plan. Therefore, through this scheme the objective is to bring parities within the region by addressing the various issues and challenges of rural sector. As far as the response of the sample respondents regarding the implementation of the National food security Mission in Jammu province are concerned, there are 552 respondents out of a total sample size of 3625who are benefited. In case of the response under non-benefited category the maximum of 2565 respondents were recorded and 539 respondents are not aware about this food mission. Further, the NFSM has maximum respondents who are not benefited fallowed by the category of benefited farmers and minimum share in the table is falling under those respondents who don't know about such policy. Moreover, when we compare the performance of the NFSM over the different agroecological zones the figures are not very satisfying in zone B and E the situation is more alarming whereas zone E has not recorded any respondent benefited from this scheme. Similarly, a significant number of the respondents who can't say about such schemes or not aware of such programmes have been recorded in Zone B, D and E. Thus, much is required to be carried at grass root level to help the farming community so that the programme or policies designed for concerned section should go in the proper hands resulting in the balanced development of each and every section of the society. As in case of Agriculture crop insurance scheme, it has an important role in agricultural production and is a tool to support farmers against threats. There are number of

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factors which affect the wider acceptance of the crop insurance scheme in the study area. The various social, institutional and economic factors are extension education, factor, communication channels, economic opinion leadership, facilities, personal confidence, supervision etc. The overall response of National Agriculture insurance scheme in the study area has recorded a mixed response of the sample respondents. The maximum percentage out of the total sample size (3625) is falling under the category of nonbenefited respondents which constitutes 74.1% and fallowed by the benefited respondents with a percentage of 14.7% and 15.1% are the respondents who don't know about such scheme. While making a zone wise analysis of the National agriculture Insurance scheme in the study area the Zone B, D and E have recorded the maximum number of respondents who don't know about such government initiatives to help the farming families. Similarly, in zone A, C and F no respondent have been recorded under the "don't know" category they are either benefited by the scheme or not benefited but the respondent knows about the scheme meant for the promotion the farming sector. Thus, from the above discussion it is clear that in some agro-ecological zones within the Jammu province there exist spatial variations regarding the performance of various agricultural

development programs. Further considering the performance of Agriculture Technology Management Agency, it is a centrally sponsored scheme to operationalize the various agriculture extension reforms. The Agriculture technology Management Agency is a district level body with the responsibility of dissemination of technology at grass root level. It has a link with all allied sectors and main focus is on research extension activities. When the performance of agricultural management agency compared with the performance of rest of the government policies and schemes in the study area it has been observed that there is significant number of respondents who got assistance and are well aware about of the program. It is interesting to see that only two zones namely zone B and zone E have the respondents who are not aware about this agency extending farming helps to the farming community. Therefore, in the light of above statistical observation this can be stated that every agro-ecological zone is a different entity and the performance of different government programmes would respond differently in the presence of diverse physical, socio- economic fabric in the study area. (please insert Figure:4)

ZONEWISE PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS GOVT. SCHEMES: JAMMU PROVINCE (2016-17)



As far as the maximum beneficiaries under this scheme are concerned the highest percentage is falling under zone D which has 46.8% of beneficiaries whereas in zone F no respondent has been benefited under the agriculture technology management agency. The timely availability of good quality of seeds is the utmost need to have good

production of crops. The Gramin Beej Yojana is designed to support the farmers to have good quality seed at low rates. The scheme has recorded extreme variations in the response of the respondents over the study area. Similarly, the performance of Krishi Vigyan kinder has also been observed in the study area this programme provide several farm support activities like providing technology dissemination to farmers, training and awareness etc. To achieve the set objectives KVKs undertake various types of activities in the adopted villages such as Farm Advisory Service, Training programme for different categories of people, Training programme for the extension functionaries, Front Line Demonstration and On Farm Testing. They play a vital role in conducting on farm testing to demonstrate location agricultural technologies. KVKs specific conduct demonstrations to prove the potential of various crops at farmers' fields. They also conduct need based training programmes for the benefit of farmers and farm women, rural youths. KVKs are creating awareness about improved agricultural technologies through large number of extension

programmes. Therefore, keeping in view the objectives of the KVKs aiming to promote the approach of inclusive development in the rural areas an attempt has been made during the study to record the response of the farming families regarding the help and support of KVKs in the study area. It is recorded (table:2) that the performance of KVKs is not that satisfactory as out of the 3625 samples only 524 respondents are getting the benefits which accounts for 14.3% and the 72.65% of respondents are falling under non-benefited category which has recorded 2659 respondents out of the total of 3625. Moreover, the response of KVKs over the identified zones is also very contrasting. It has been recorded that it is only zone A and B where the farmers are benefited and in rest of zones (zone C, D, E, F) the percentage of the beneficiaries is either missing or very meager. The zones namely B, D and E are the one where the respondents have been recorded who can't say anything about KVKs.

ZONEWISE PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS GOVT. SCHEMES: JAMMU PROVINCE (2016-17)



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Thus, in the back drop of the about facts this can be said that there is need to intensify the role of local governing agencies to extent the coverage of maximum number of benificituries under various programmes in the agriculture sector in the study area in order to minimize the inequalities to have a sustained development in the study area.

5. Conclusion

From the above discussions this can be safely concluded that both the state government and the centre government are working together to gear up the process of development in rural areas. The development of these areas is possible only when the schemes and policies designed for the weaker sections of the society will timely reach at the grass root level. The benefits and support extended by the government through these schemes and polices must reach at the household level. The formulation of various policies by the planning commission of India has been the priority area right from the beginning of the planning era. It is really a matter of serious consideration that we still have issues of poverty, unemployment, nutrition, and food insecurity in the country. The state of Jammu and Kashmir is the part of the Indian Himalayan state and having a huge natural resource potential at its disposal. The formulation of various policies by the government is a way towards ensuring the process of inclusive growth in the region through these schemes which are designed to target the vulnerable groups of the society. This will help in minimizing the social, economic inequalities and promote the process to eradicate the poverty in the region. In the study area an attempt has been made to record the responses of the respondents regarding the support and the benefits, if any availed by them. It has been observed that in majority of the responses the respondents are not benefited by all these government schemes. Apart from this the respondents are also not aware about such support coming from the government and it has been witnessed that in zone B,D and E there are respondents who cannot say anything about such policies as they have not

heard about it. Therefore, it is equally important to spread awareness among the people to come forward to avail all the benefits through these government interventions to promote the awareness.

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Figure 1



Figure 2

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Figure 3

ZONEWISE PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS GOVT. SCHEMES: JAMMU PROVINCE (2016-17)



Figure 4

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ZONEWISE PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS GOVT. SCHEMES: JAMMU PROVINCE (2016-17)





S.No	Agro-ecological Zones	Number of sample hrs	Number of samples after reducing to 50%
1	Zone A = (7253×181162) ÷ 725345 = 1811.50	1811	905
2	Zone B = $(7253 \times 215321) \div 725345 = 2153$	2153	1076
3	Zone C = $(7253 \times 2072245) \div 725345 = 2072$	2072	1036
4	Zone $D = (7253 \times 95707) \div 725345 = 957$	957	479
5	Zone $E = (7253x \ 21651) \div 725345 = 216$	216	108
6	Zone $F = (7253x4259) \div 725345 = 42$	42	21

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1		U	0					
Scheme		Zone						
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		Count						
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National Agriculture Insurance Scheme	Benefited	245	110	20	20	0	1	396
	Not benefited	660	491	1016	420	80	20	2687
	Can't say	0	475	0	39	28	0	542
	Benefited	235	218	43	225	20	0	741
Agriculture Technology Agency	Not benefited	670	582	993	254	48	21	2568
	Can't say	0	276	0	0	40	0	316
Gramin Beej Yojana	Benefited	245	310	93	66	8	3	725
	Not benefited	660	436	943	335	56	18	2448
	Can't say	0	330	0	78	44	0	452
	Benefited	235	257	22	10	0	2	526
Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Not benefited	670	453	1014	405	74	19	2635
	Can't say	0	366	0	64	34	0	464

Table 2: Responses of the Respondents Regarding Various Government Schemes

Source: Field Survey, 2017.