



AWARENESS OF CROP INSURANCE IN FARMERS; WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO MAAN AND KHATAV TEHSILS OF SATARA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

Crop insurance is purchased by agricultural producers including farmers, ranchers and others to protect themselves against the loss of their crops due to natural disaster or may be a loss of revenue due to decline in prices of agricultural commodities. It has two types viz crop yield insurance and crop revenue insurance. Present research is an attempt to know the awareness of the farmers in the study region about crop insurance. Government has made these schemes to encourage farmers to use advance techniques and to help to stabilize farm income. But farmers in drought prone areas are less aware about it. Researcher has selected details of Kharif season for the study. Bajra, Soyabean and groundnut are selected crops in the study region. Only 1.51% farmers from Maan tehsil and 2.58% farmers out of overall population are aware of insurance that they are taking advantage of this scheme. This percentage is limited to DCC bank loanee and non Loanee farmers. Farmers may have taken insurance from other banks but percent is too low.

KEYWORDS: PMFBY, WBCI, Compensated amount, Sum insured

INTRODUCTION:

Indian economy is boosted up by agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Indian agriculture does not only feed a population over one billion but also provides livelihood to nearly two third of them. For many of them it's not only occupation but the way of life. In India 65% cropped area is rain fed. Sustainable agriculture is predominant in country. There are diverse agricultural systems. Many parts of the country are prone to onslaught of frequent natural calamities like droughts, floods, cyclones, storms, winds, hail, frost, winterkill, fire, lightening excessive etc. Thus there is need to protect crops against natural calamities. For such purpose our government has organised crop insurance schemes. Generally insurance is the mean of protection from financial loss. It is a form of risk management primarily used to hedge against the risk of contingent, uncertain loss. Crop insurance is purchased by agricultural producers including farmers, ranchers and others to protect themselves against either the loss of their crops due to natural disasters or the loss of revenue due to declines in the process of agricultural commodities. Government of India had announced so many schemes such as Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (1985 to 1999), Experimental Crop Insurance Scheme (Rabi 1997-1998), National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (1999 onwards), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme etc.

In Maharashtra NAIS is implemented from the year 1999-2000 under the central government in collaboration with Agricultural Insurance Company of India Ltd; for identified crops in identified region. In order to enhance the scope of the scheme NAIS is further merged into "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana" from the year 2015-16. State government of Maharashtra has also decided to run the same scheme from same year.

Following are the features of this scheme:

1. PMFBY provides insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the identified crop as a result of natural calamities.
2. PMFBY encourages the farmers to adopt progressive methods of farming and higher technology in farming.
3. It also helps in stabilizing farm income.

Present study is conducted to understand the role of Satara District Central Co-operative Bank limited in implementation of the scheme. It also focuses on the contribution of bank in the crop insurance.

STUDY REGION:

The study region selected for present investigation is Maan and Khatav Tehsils of Satara District of Maharashtra state. Climate of Maan tehsil is an inland climate of Maharashtra. The temperature has a relatively high range between 15 °C to 45 °C. Maximum temperatures exceed 40 °C every summer. The city receives very little rainfall from June to September and it is declared as a drought prone place by the government. It is too Hot in summer. Highest temperature is in between 33 °C to 41 °C of Khatav tehsil. Khatav is also declared as drought prone area. Maan and Khatav tehsil comprises 13.8 and 12.6% of total area of the district respectively.

METHODOLOGY:

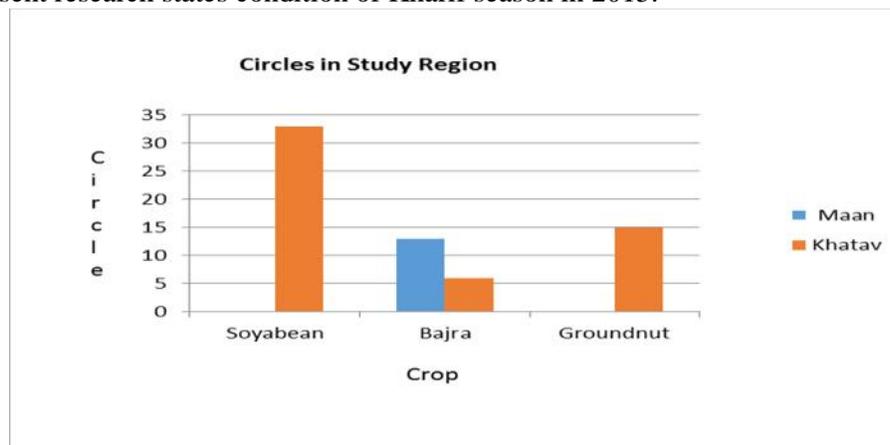
Data has been collected from DCC bank circulars, census of India. Analysis is based on secondary data probably. Simple statistical techniques are used for analysis. Results are shown by graphs and maps.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine the awareness of crop insurance in the farmers.
2. To study the implementation of the scheme.
3. To suggest remedies on identified problems.

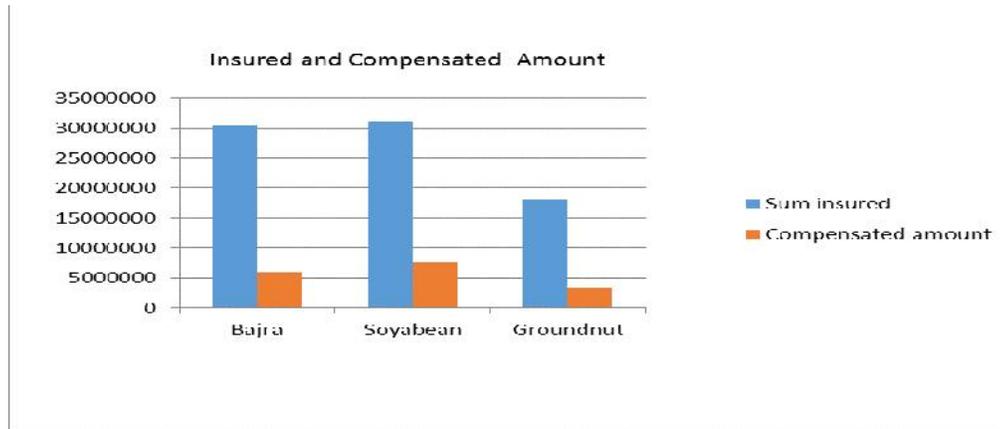
ANALYSIS:

Crop insurance is purchased by agricultural producers including farmers, ranchers and others to protect themselves against either the loss of their crops due to natural disasters such as hail droughts and floods or the loss of revenue due to decline in the prices of agricultural commodities. Crop insurance is of two types. It's either crop yield insurance or crop revenue insurance. In India many parts of the country are prone to onslaughts of the frequent natural calamities like floods and droughts. Present research is an attempt to focus drought prone areas of the Satara district namely Maan and Khatav tehsils of the district. In these teshsils DCC bank of Satara plays an important role for awareness of crop insurance in the area. Following observations focus on the role of DCC in the crop insurance. Indian agriculture is based on monsoon. Crops in this system are of two types Kharif and Rabbi. Present research states condition of Kharif season in 2015.



Above graph shows the number of circles in the study region. Maan is the tehsil having only Bajra crop that is permitted for insurance. Khatav is the tehsil with Soya, Bajra and Groundnut are the crops which are permitted for insurance. Following chart shows the total number of members in the circles.

There are total 7128 members of bank in the Khatav region who has crop insurance. They are economically weaker as well as stronger. Persons those who hold land less than 5 acre are economic weaker. 3427 members are from Maan tehsil.



This chart shows sum insured in both the region for Bajra, Soyabean and Groundnut and actual compensated amount. If we look at the compensated amount percentile then it shows that farmers growing Bajra have got 19.27% compensation and Soyabean growers have got 24.43%. Groundnut grower farmers have got 18.70% compensation in Kharif season 2015.

Total population of these tehsils as per census 2011 is 225634 of Maan tehsil. Khatav tehsil has population 275274. Out of that 7128 members of DCC bank has crop insurance. And 3427 members of Maan tehsil has crop insurance. If we look at the remaining population they may have insurance by other banks but the percent of insurance holders is very less.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION:

Overall scenario shows that awareness about the crop insurance in drought prone areas is very less. There is need to make farmers and ranchers aware of insurance schemes run by government. Following are some findings and suggestions for making people aware of crop insurance and to increase awareness.

1. Only 1.51% farmers from Maan tehsil and 2.58% farmers out of overall population are aware of insurance that they are taking advantage of this scheme. Of course this percent is restricted to DCC bank only. But from this percent one can determine what is the scenario for other nationalised bank.
2. Other than Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana what are the other agricultural insurance schemes available to the farmers to recover agricultural losses; must be known to them.
3. Workshops, orientation programmes and counselling camps should be arranged by local government to inform people from villages where they will get information about farm income, livestock insurance, Weather Based Crop Insurance, seed insurance, farmers insurance etc.
4. Notices and circulars must be reached to farmers intime.

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