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AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON TELANGANA FARMER SATISFACTION WELFARE PROGRAMS, THEIR GROWTH AND STANDING

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ABSTRACT

This research looks at the condition of farmers who have improved after the Telangana administration introduced the best programs in the state. Numerous farmer-related programs that have been developed and are successfully running have benefited farmers. Farmers are helped in their land cultivation by the direct and indirect activities. This has never happened in Telangana state before. Telangana is a state without any rivers since it is situated on a granite plateau. Though not from every district in Telangana, certain rivers flow from the state's borders. Numerous grassroots programs were created to encourage farmers to farm in order to address this issue and draw in new farmers.

The systematic review was done on literature on how traditional practices are carried out all over state with reference to the different papers published in different journals and government annual reports from the year 2015-2021.It is noteworthy that the 'Agriculture & Allied Sectors', which are the backbone of rural Telangana, and employ more than 55% of the population on of the state, make up the major proportion of this sector.

Telangana achieved growth rates of 35.9% and 18.5% even during the pandemic years of 2019–20 and 2020–21, despite beginning the year with a negative 0.7% growth rate in the "Agriculture & Allied Sectors." Gross Value of Productivity (GVO) increased five times for paddy in 2020–21, three times for cotton in 2020–21, three times for meat in 2020–21, and nearly twice for inland fish and prawns, eggs, and meat in 2020–21. (DES -TS 2014-2021).

KEY WORDS: *Farmers satisfaction, Land cultivation, GVO, farmer's schemes.*

1.INTRODUCTION

This research examines the improved circumstances of farmers following the implementation of the Telangana government's premier projects in the state of Telangana. A diverse array of farmer-centric programs has been established and is functioning efficiently, benefiting farmers. The direct and indirect efforts support farmers in the cultivation of their land. This has never transpired in the state of Telangana. Due to Telangana's position atop a rocky plateau, no rivers traverse the state. Certain rivers originate from the state's borders, albeit not from all districts of Telangana. To resolve this issue and engage farmers, several initiatives were implemented at the grassroots level to incentivize agricultural practices. Telangana is the 29th state of India. This research primarily focusses on the position of farmers who have benefited from the Telangana government's exemplary initiatives in the state. Farmers have benefited from many agricultural initiatives that have been established and are now functioning well. Both direct and indirect measures aid farmers in the cultivation of their land. This has never transpired in the state of Telangana. Due to its position atop a granite plateau, Telangana lacks rivers. Several rivers originate from the peripheries of Telangana, however not from every district. To address this problem and engage new farmers, many grassroots projects were established to advocate for agriculture. Telangana is the 29th state of India. It is bordered to the northwest by Maharashtra, to the west by Karnataka, and to the east and south by Andhra Pradesh. The area encompasses 276.96 lakh acres and has a population of 350.04 individuals. According to the 2011 census, there were hundreds of thousands of individuals. The state is ranked 11th nationally in population. It ranks as the twelfth biggest by both land area and population. Given that agriculture constitutes the primary industry in the state, the majority of population inhabit rural regions. Agriculture is vital not just for the national economy but also for the global economy. The economy of Telangana is mostly focused on agriculture and other sectors, contributing to both the state's welfare and the nation's food security. Development. Besides enhancing food security, the industry is vital to the economy.

Furthermore, it employs around 50,000 individuals, constituting over half of the state's workforce. Sixty percent of the state's labor force is engaged in agriculture and other sectors. The principal factors influencing farmer income are agricultural production and market access. marketplaces. Fertilizer is one of the several agricultural inputs that influence yield. The fundamentals encompass labor, seeds, water, power, fertilizer, and automation. Consequently, the government has prioritized the expansion of this business and the welfare of farmers. Wealth via several significant activities, such as enhancing irrigation and providing complimentary services via the Kaleshwaram Project and Mission. Kakatiya farmers gain advantages from investment assistance and round-the-clock electrical access during the week. Rythu Bandhu offers financial services and facilitates access to markets, funding, and inputs. Rythu Bima is a life insurance company.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Government activities have generally influenced agriculture. The state's growth has been driven by increased agricultural production. From 2019-20 to 2020-21, paddy output increased

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by 29.9%. Consequently, the state has emerged as the national leader in paddy production. Cotton production has increased, with 29.4 percent of cultivated area dedicated to cotton. The second advance predictions indicate that the year 2020-21 will be the most active. Consequently, the state has arisen. as the nation's second-largest producer of cotton Consequently, the state's Gross Value Added (GVA) from agriculture and allied sectors throughout the years 2020-21 indicates that the sector, in addition to contributing to food security, plays a significant role in the economy. It furthermore employs over fifty percent of the state's labor force, over 50,000 individuals. Agriculture and related sectors engage 60% of the state's labor force. Farmer income is mostly influenced by agricultural production and market accessibility. Financial markets. Diverse agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, affect output. Water, power, fertilizer, seeds, labor, and automation are all essential requirements. Consequently, the government has prioritized the sector's growth and the welfare of farmers. Affluence via several critical programs, including the enhancement of irrigation provided at no cost through the Kaleshwaram Project and Mission. Kakatiya farmers have access to energy continuously, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, along with investment support. Rythu Bandhu provides access to inputs, markets, financing, and financial services. Rythu Bima offers life insurance. Government activities have generally influenced agriculture. The state's growth has been driven by increased agricultural production. From the years 2019-20 to 2020-21, paddy output increased by 29.9%. Consequently, the state has emerged as the national leader in paddy production. Cotton production has increased, with 29.4 percent of cultivated area dedicated to cotton. The second advance predictions indicate that the year 2020-21 will be the most active. Consequently, the state has become the nation's second-largest producer of cotton. Consequently, the state's Gross Value Added (GVA) from agriculture and allied businesses in the years 2020-21 increased by 20.9 percent. Agriculture exhibits one of the highest growth rates, contributing 42.98 percent to the Gross Value Added (GVA). The growth rate of India's Gross Value Added (GVA) in agriculture significantly exceeds the nation's overall growth rate. 3% of the population Despite the turmoil caused by COVID-19, the agriculture sector saw the least impact on output growth between 2019-20 and 2020-21 (Source: Telangana's socioeconomic outlook for the year 2021). The state's primary challenges, however, are escalating water shortages and natural resource depletion. Land is being degraded, and the per capita availability of natural resources is diminishing. Resources of land and water Agricultural output remained unaffected; yet, producers encountered several obstacles in market access and input procurement. Moreover, rain fed agriculture in the state is very susceptible to the effects of natural disasters.

3.OBJECTIVES

- To examine the different welfare programs offered in Telangana.
- To examine the development of agriculture and the means of subsistence for farmers.

4. METHODOLOGY

A Descriptive Research Collected from Published Books and Papers, Journals, Google scholar as well as annual reports from Telangana government. Government Publications, Semi-Government Publications., Publications of Trade Associations, Journals and Papers, International Publications, Publications of Research Institutions.

5.DISCUSSIONS

Rythu Bandhu – Agriculture Investment Support Scheme (Aiss)

In 2018–19, the Telangana State government initiated the "Agriculture Investment Support Scheme" (Rythu Bandhu), the first cash transfer program for farmers. Rythu Bandhu is an abbreviation meaning "Friend of the Farmer." This program has two objectives: first, it provides farmers with a prompt cash grant for their initial investment needs, and second, it ensures they do not become ensnared in debt.

The Government of Telangana initiated the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in 2018, acknowledging the need of financial assistance in addressing farmers' input costs. The program offers financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 per acre year to landowning farmers, surpassing the amounts allocated in Andhra Pradesh (Rs. 7,500 each farmer family annually), Jharkhand (Rs. 5,000 per marginal and small farmer per acre annually), and West Bengal (Rs. 5,000 annually). Furthermore, the Government of Telangana has broadened the initiative to encompass all land-owning farmers, regardless of the size of their farms. A report from the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has advocated for direct investment assistance begun by the state of Telangana, citing its superiority over other options due to its simplicity of implementation, transparency, and inclusivity.

In Yasangi 2021-22, around 6.3 million farmers got investment support under the plan, of whom 72.58% are marginal farmers (those with 24.78 acres and above), constituting barely 0.1% of the beneficiaries. During the Yasangi season of 2021-22, 148 lakh acres were cultivated.

The program directly impacts 5.8 to 6 million landowning households, varying by the season. Notwithstanding reduced income due to economic disruptions caused by the COVID pandemic, a total of Rs 14.64 billion was allocated under the plan in 2020–21. It is sustainable since it constitutes around 0.68 percent of the state's GDP and about 7 percent of the revenue expenditures in the state budget.

Key Features

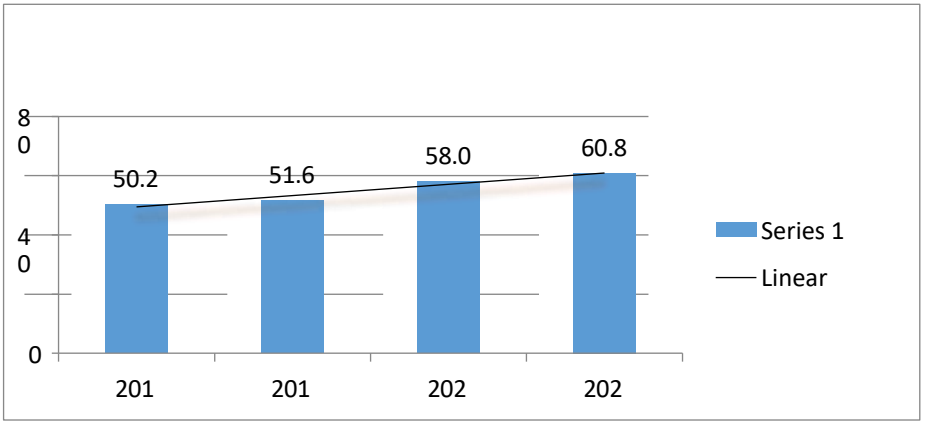
- Agriculture in Telangana is marked by stagnation, low productivity, recurrent droughts, and minimal governmental and private investment. Consequently, it was deemed that investment is the most reliable method to augment agricultural output and increase farmers' incomes, while simultaneously disrupting the detrimental cycle of rural indebtedness.
- The Telangana Government has launched the "Agriculture Investment Support Scheme - Rythu Bandhu" in 2018-19 to promote farmers' welfare, considering the aforementioned circumstances.

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- Alleviating the farmers' debt burden and preventing them from re-entering a cycle of indebtedness.
- Investment support for Agriculture and Horticulture crops is provided through a grant of Rs. 4000 per acre per farmer each season for the procurement of inputs such as (1) Seeds (2) Fertilisers (3) Pesticides (4) Labour and other investments in field operations selected by the farmer for the crop season. • This assistance has been revised to Rs. 5000 per acre per season since 2019-20.
- The revised and refined land record database, established under the Land Records Updating Program (LRUP), will serve as the foundation for executing the Investment Support Scheme (Rythu Bandhu).
- Rythu Bandhu assistance is being provided to the pattadars in accordance with the extents specified in the digitally signed data obtained from the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration. • The Rythu Bandhu assistance is additionally being extended to ROFR Pattadars based on the data received from the Commissioner of Tribal Welfare, TS, Hyderabad.
- The funds are directly deposited via the e-Kuber or IFMIS platform into the bank accounts of the pattadars in proportion to their respective extents, based on data acquired from the CCLA and the Commissioner of Tribal Welfare.Beneficiaries of Rythu Bandhu categorised by landholding in Vanakalam and Yasangi 2021-22

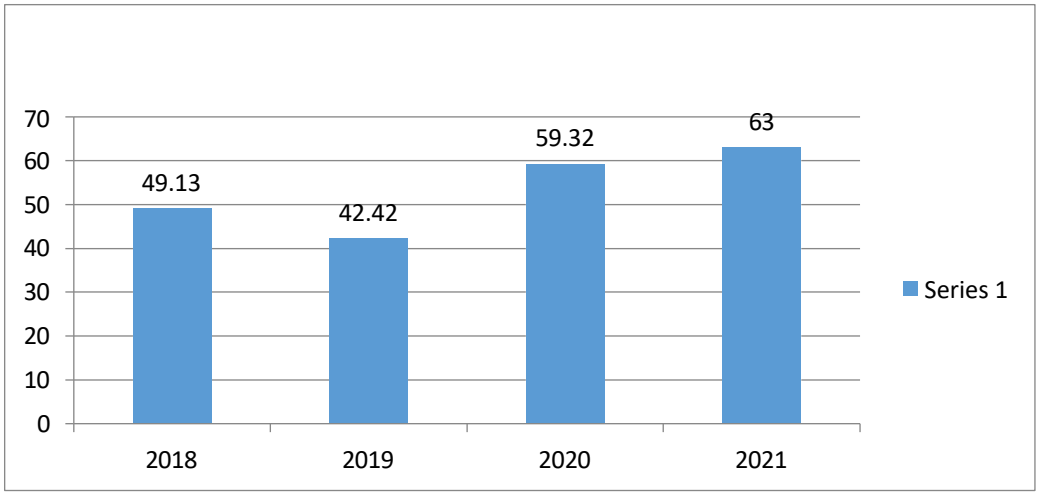
The below table showing tribal welfare beneficiaries of vanakalam and yasangi

Year	Vanakalam Beneficiaries (lakhs)	Amount (Crores)
2018	50.25	5,236
2019	51.60	6,126
2020	58.02	7,289
2021	60.84	7,360



Year	Yasangi Beneficiaries (lakhs)	Amount (Crores)
2018-19	49.13	5,252
2019-20	42.42	4,406
2020-21	59.32	7,367
2021-22	63.00	7,412

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An examination of the aforementioned data indicating farmers who will profit from these increases from 2018 to 2022. Owing to the potential for offering financial assistance, especially to small and marginal scale farmers

Agricultural Credit

is a crucial component for fostering sustainable and equitable agriculture. The state government prioritizes prompt and sufficient finance assistance for farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers, to facilitate the adoption of advanced technologies, enhance crop output, and augment their income. The Annual Credit Plan formulated by the State Level Bankers Committee of Telangana indicates that the overall annual credit allocation for the agricultural sector in the year 2021-22 is Rs. 91,541 crores. Of the overall objective, Rs. 75,977 crores were designated for crop loans, while Rs. 32,101 crores were earmarked for agriculture term loans and related activities. Of the overall objective, Rs. 31,813 crores were allocated to the agriculture sector by September 2021, with further financing already in progress. Owing to the emphasis placed by the state government, agricultural loan from scheduled commercial banks surged by 92% from 2015 to 2021, rising from Rs. 41,300 Crore in 2015 to Rs. 79,689 Crore in 2021.

Waiver of agricultural loans: In recognition of the farmers' predicament, the Government of Telangana has prioritized the agriculture industry by waiving the outstanding debts of farmers in the state. Between 2014-15 and 2018-19, the Government waived Rs. 16,124 Crores in outstanding agricultural loans for 35,29,944 farmers in the state, distributed across four annual payments. The state government has commenced a second crop loan waiver of up to Rs. 1,00,000, and in 2020-21, Rs. 733 crores were disbursed to 4.07 lakh farmers for crop loan waivers.

Rythu Bima - Farmers Group Life Insurance Plan

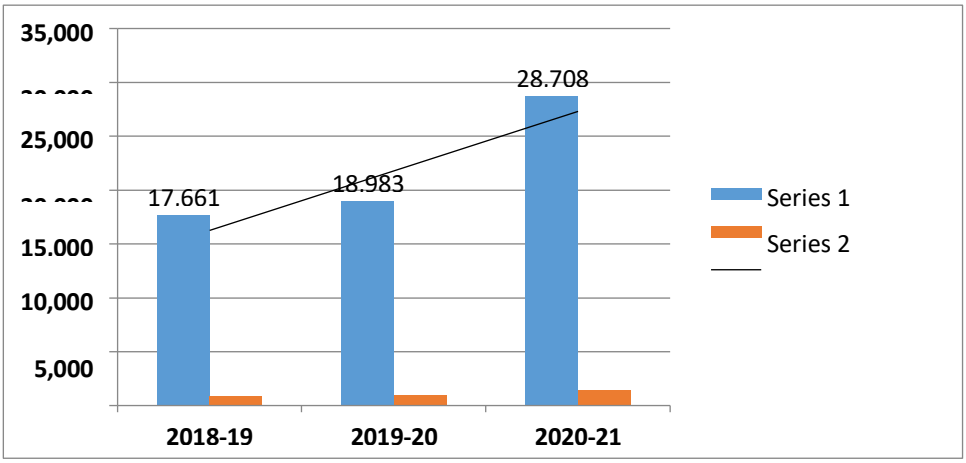
The Government of Telangana initiated a group life insurance plan for all farmers in the state beginning in the fiscal year 2018-19. All holders of Pattadar Pass Books issued subsequent to the land records updating program are eligible for enrolment in this scheme. Farmers aged 18 to 59 qualify for this Scheme, which provides an amount insured of Rs. 5.00 lakhs payable upon death, regardless of reason, to the nominee designated by the enrolled farmer at the time of enrolling. The government disbursed a total of 2917.39 Crores Rupees (comprising 2472.22 Crores in premium and 445.17 Crores in GST) to LIC throughout the three-year plan term. As of May 7, 2021, for the two years and nine months of the scheme duration.

In the fiscal year 2020-21, 3.27 million farmers were registered under Rythu Bima, and ₹1,435 crores was allocated to 28,708 farmers via the plan. The largest percentage of claims paid since the inception of the program was for the age range of 49-59 years at 46% (30,279), followed by the 39-48 age group at 36% (23,435).

Below table showing Claims Settled and Amount Disbursed Under Rythu Bima Between 2018-19 and 2020-21:

Year	No of Beneficiaries (lakhs)	Amount Disbursed (cr)
2018-19	17,661	883
2019-20	18,983	949
2020-21	28,708	1,435

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Free Electricity for Agricultural

Since January 1, 2018, the Government of Telangana has begun delivering continuous, high-quality electricity at no cost to agricultural users in the state. Approximately 40% of the electricity provided in the state is allocated to agriculture. Following the establishment of the state, 639,000 additional agricultural connections have been issued with an investment of ₹3,196 crores, resulting in a cumulative total of 2,563,000 agricultural power connections. Since 2014-15, the government has expended Rs. 39,200 crores on subsidies for the agriculture sector related to free power supply. Telangana accounts for the greatest percentage of power consumption for agricultural uses at the national level, utilizing 41.25% (24,077 Gown) of the total energy sold, which amounts to 58,365 GWh.

Seeds and Fertilizers

Seed is the paramount and essential element for agricultural productivity. It is, in fact, the most cost-effective method for enhancing agricultural production and productivity. The state has the potential to become the "Seed Bowl of the World" due to its advantageous climate and abundant soil. In this regard, the state government commenced the provision of high-quality seeds to farmers at reasonable costs. The state government intends to distribute 192,000 quintals of Green Manure seed under subsidy for the fiscal year 2021-22. Recognizing the significance of fertilizers in enhancing production, the state administration has endeavored to ensure their timely delivery. From 2014-15 to 2020-21, total fertilizer supply has risen by 45%, increasing from 25.36 lakh tones to 36.87 lakh tones. In addition to distribution, the state government participates in seed manufacturing and certification. The Telangana State Seeds Development Corporation (TSSDC) serves as the primary organization addressing the seed requirements of the Department of Agriculture in the state. During Vanakalam 2021, seed production of 245,000 quintals of various crop types was undertaken, and in consideration of crop diversification, seed production of 235,000 quintals of pulses, oilseeds, and millets was planned during Yasangi 2021-22. Additionally, the state provides Interstate seeds to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Chhattisgarh.

The below table showing Supply of Seeds from 2018-19 to 2021-22

Year	Crop	Quantity in Qtls
2018-19	Paddy, Bengal Gram	17,641
2019-20	Paddy	21,000
2020-21	Paddy	55,143
2021-22	Paddy Black Gram	13,722

6.CONCLUSION

The rise in Per Capita Income

The average PCI growth rate in Telangana in the two years before to state formation was 10.9%, which was 0.7% lower than the national PCI growth rate. The growth rate of Telangana's per capita income has consistently exceeded the national average year since the state's establishment. From 2014 to 2015, Telangana's per capita income has risen yearly at a pace 4.6% more than that of India. Telangana sustained a positive Per Capita Income growth rate of 1.8% during the epidemic year of 2020–21, while India's overall PCI growth rate declined by 4%. Telangana's Per Capita Income has been consistently increasing, resulting in annual fluctuations in its PCI position among all of India. Upon the formation of the state, Telangana advanced from eleventh to tenth position, surpassing Himachal Pradesh. Furthermore, it surpassed Tamil Nadu in the 2016–17 period and Gujarat in the 2015–16 period. 230 for Karnataka, Kerala, and Uttarakhand in 2018–19, and 230 for Maharashtra in 2017–18. In terms of PCI, Telangana ranked third among the 18 states for whom MOSPI supplied data Data from 2020 to 2021. Following 2014–15, Telangana outpaced other Southern states in average per capita income growth rate, establishing itself as the leading state.

Primarily, the initiatives enhance farmers' quality of life by providing assistance, security, and mitigating risks to their well-being. They also enhance agricultural productivity relative to prior DFA plans, which is highly beneficial for individuals who are genuinely invested in this area. Furthermore, it provides employment opportunities for agricultural labourers.

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