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Role of State Government in the Development of Agriculture and Allied Activities in Maharashtra (2021-22)

¹Nishant Shyam Chavan, ²Dr. VN Bhopale

¹Research Scholar, Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded (SRTMUN), Maharashtra, India

²Professor, S.S. Suryabhanji Pawar College, Purna (JN). Dist Parbhani, (MH) 431511, India

Corresponding Author: Nishant Shyam Chavan

Abstract

The agriculture & allied activities sector has always remained a focal point of the economy as well as the social system. Over the decades, more than 50 per cent of the State population is dependent on the sector for livelihood. Livestock, dairy and fisheries play an important role in providing supplementary income opportunities to rural households having agriculture as the main source of livelihood. These activities have contributed to the food basket, draught animal power & employment generation and also help in maintaining ecological balance. It also provides essential nutrients at a low cost to the livestock-rearing families. Livestock has become an important source of income for millions of rural families and plays an important role in achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income. Dairy is a supplementary activity to agriculture, which has

the potential to generate additional income & employment opportunities for rural households besides improving nutrition levels. The State has a coastline of 720 km with 173 fish landing centres and the area suitable for marine fishing is 1.12 lakh sq. km. In addition to this, the area suitable for inland and brackish water fishing in the State is 4.18 lakh ha and 0.10 lakh ha respectively. Forest provides major produce like timber & firewood and minor produce like bamboo, tendu leaves, gum, grass, etc. In this research paper, we have tried to explain how animal husbandry is more dependent on agriculture and how the government has developed agricultural allied activity to increase the income of the farmers. How agriculture can provide supplementary income to farmers with the help of the various policy which are made by the government of Maharashtra.

Keywords: Agriculture, Rural Employment Opportunity, Supplementary Income, Livestock, Fisheries

Introduction

The backbone of the Indian economy can be referred to as agriculture and related activities. The majority of the population in this nation works in agriculture. The largest share of the nation's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) comes from agriculture and other related industries. 14% of the GDP is attributed to agriculture, and 49% of all Indians are directly employed in the sector. The people of the nation are fed by agriculture and other related activities, which also help to make the nation self-sufficient. Additionally, it provides raw materials for agro-based industries as well as fodder for domesticated animals. Animal husbandry, including poultry, dairy, pisciculture (fishery), apiculture (honey production), and sericulture (the production of raw silk from caterpillars), make up the majority of agriculture and other related activities. The preservation of water and soil, horticulture (the cultivation of flowers), agroforestry, and social forestry are also included in these activities. One of the key economic sectors in the state of Maharashtra is the sector of agriculture and related activities. This industry provides the majority of the State's population with their means of subsistence. Agriculture and related industries make up an average of 11.9% of the state economy. It employs a sizable portion of the population, especially considering how much it boosts employment in rural areas. Several agro-industries use certain crops as their primary raw materials, including jute, cotton, and others. A significant portion of society is also employed by various agricultural and related industries, which also significantly contribute to the development of the state. For the fiscal year the period between 2021 numerous allied industries, which include forestry and fisheries, rendered about 20,334cr in contributions. In the State's agricultural and associated industry sector, the Crop sector contributes to an overall share of 63.7% of all activities. About 28.4% of all crops have been grown on average through horticulture. The State has greatly diversified its production base over the past few decades, moving away from coarse cereals and toward high-value crops like cotton, sugarcane, soybeans, maize, fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

Agricultural Development Schemes

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana: The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) is being implemented in the State as the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative strategies for Agriculture & Allied Sector Redevelopment (RKVY-RAFTAAR) with an objective of converting farming toward a profitable economic activity by bolstering farmers' efforts, minimizing risk, promoting agri-business entrepreneurship. The scheme's financing is divided in a way that reserves 70% for state-led growth in production, infrastructure, and assets, 20% for special sub-schemes of national priority, and 10% for projects advancing innovation and agri-entrepreneurship. A cost of 133.51 crore was incurred in 2020–21, and up until January of 2021–22, a cost of 75.24 crore occurred.

Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Nursery Scheme: The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Nursery Scheme will be implemented by the GoM as part of the RKVY in 2020–21 for a period of two years in an effort to encourage farmers to grow and export chemical-free vegetables. Farmers who have at least 0.40 ha of land and a reliable source of water for the construction of a nursery are eligible for the program. The scheme covers a total of 267 beneficiaries, and expenses totalling 4.71 crores have been incurred through December 2021. Received compensation for. To encourage farmers to grow chemical-free export-quality vegetables and their export, the GoM will begin implementing the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Nursery Scheme under RKVY in 2020–21 for two years. Farmers are eligible for the program if they have a minimum of 0.40 ha of land and a reliable source of water for the construction of a nursery. A total of 267 beneficiaries are included in the program, and expenses totalling 4.71 crores have been incurred through December 2021. Been spent.

National Food Security Mission (NFSM): The primary goals of NFSM are to increase the production of rice, wheat, pulses, coarse cereals and nutri-cereals through sustainable area expansion and improvement in soil fertility and productivity regeneration at the individual farm level, and strengthening farm level economics to regain farmers' confidence. The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) consists of out of eight distinctive sections: NFSM-Rice, NFSM-Wheat, NFSM-Pulses, NFSM-Coarse Cereals (Maize, Barley), NFSM-Sub Mission on Nutri Cereals, NFSM-Commercial Crops, NFSM Oilseeds & Oilpalm (NMOOP), and NFSM Seed Village Programme. A total of 29.01 crore has been spent on NMOOP during 2020–21, and a total of 4.37 crore has been spent on cash crops (cotton and sugarcane). Up until January 2021–2022, 2.64 crores of rupees were spent on rice, 0.98 crore on wheat, 42.40 crores on pulses, 3.76 crores on additional pulses, 2.26 crores on coarse cereals (maize), 17.87 crore on nutri-cereals program, and 15.52 crores on oilseeds.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) has been implemented in 34 districts from 2015 to 2016 with the primary goals of increasing horticulture's area and productivity and promoting post-harvest management practices like controlling ripening, edible coating, temperature management, chemical treatment, etc. MIDH programs are being carried out by the Maharashtra State Horticulture and Medicinal Plants Board

(MSHMPB). The total amount spent from MIDH's inception until December 2021 is 2,121 crore.

Bhausaheb Fundkar Falbaug Lagwad Yojana: This 100% subsidy program is being implemented by GoM starting with the Kharif season of 2018–19 in the State for farmers who are not registered under MGNREGA. The program's goals are to (i) increase farmers' incomes, (ii) give young farmers jobs, (iii) alter crop patterns, (iv) establish a reliable source of income, and (v) increase the production of raw materials needed by processing industries. The planting of 16 perennial horticulture crops is covered by this plan. Since the program's inception until January 2022, all 25,698 beneficiaries have planted fruit on a total of 23,527 ha, spending a total of 73.33 crore in the process.

Weather-Based Crop Insurance Scheme for Fruit Crops: For grapes, mango, pomegranate, banana, orange, sweet orange, guava, sapota, lemon, cashew nut, custard apples, and strawberries in the State, a weather-based fruit crop insurance program is being implemented. All 4.30 lakh farmers who were eligible to participate in the program during 2020–21 did so. The insured area was 3.12 lakh ha, and a total of 3,780.86 crore was paid in gross premiums. 1.31 lakh beneficiary farmers' compensation claims in the amount of 304.07 crore (progressive) were resolved in 2020–21. In its entirety, 2.85 lakh farmers joined the program in 2021–2022, insuring 2.10 lakh ha with an assured sum of \$2,096.69 billion dollars and a gross premium payment of \$730.39 billion.

Birsa Munda Krishi Kranti Yojana: With the aim of providing sustainable irrigation facilities, such as new wells (for new wells, a minimum of 0.40 ha land is essential), old well repairs, plastifying farm ponds, inwell boring, pump sets, electric connection fees, HDPE/PVC pipe, micro irrigation sets, kitchen gardens, etc., financial assistance is provided in the form of a 100% subsidy to ST farmers under the scheme who hold land 0.20 ha to six ha. A cost of Rs. 116.09 crore was incurred in 2020–21.

Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh interest rebate scheme: The program is being implemented in the State to encourage farmers to make timely crop loan repayments. Farmers who consistently pay back their loans by June 30th of each year are eligible for an interest subsidy under the program. The GoI has been providing farmers with an interest subsidy of 3% for loans up to Rs. 3 lakhs. Similar to this, starting in April 2021, the GoM will increase the interest subsidy from 1% to 3% for loans up to Rs. 3 lakhs. In 2019–20, 4.26 lakh farmers who qualified for the scheme received an interest subsidy of 52.89 crore, while 1.29 lakh farmers qualified for the scheme's 16.05 crore interest subsidy in 2020–21.

Allied Activities

Animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, and forestry all contribute significantly to the growth of the agrarian economy by boosting household income and creating jobs in rural areas, particularly for landless labourers, small & marginal farmers, and women. The rural poor receive nutritious food that is high in protein it as well. The government has created infrastructure with a variety of facilities for animal health care and is implementing various programs to improve the lives of the rural populace through livestock raising.

Animal Husbandry

Veterinary Health Care Infrastructure of the State Government

Rashtriya Gokul Mission: The Government of India launched the Rashtriya Gokul Mission with the following goals: creation and preservation of native breeds. Increasing the number of HGM females who are disease-free and reducing the spread of diseases in order to increase milk production and productivity in the bovine population. to use HGM germplasm and AI or natural service to bring all breedable female cattle under a controlled breeding program. to set up professional AI services at the doorsteps of farmers.

National Animal Disease Control Programme: Since 2019–20, the State has been implementing the National Animal Disease Control Program in an effort to eradicate Brucella and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) completely by 2029–30. Out of the targeted 1.76 crore animals, 1.47 crore were given the FMD vaccine in the first round of vaccination in 2020. 1.09 crore animals were immunized during the second vaccination round, which took place from September 15, 2021, to January 1, 2022. All vaccinated animals are tagged.

Chief Minister Animal Health Scheme: The Chief Minister Animal Health Scheme aims to build mobile veterinary clinics in 349 talukas' rural areas to serve tribal, isolated, and hilly villages. These mobile veterinary health clinics provide veterinary care for farm and livestock owners' animals right at their doorstep. These veterinary clinics also offer preventive vaccination, artificial insemination, advice on animal diet and health, and details on various programs. A call centre has been established to help the 73 mobile veterinary clinics with their services. In total, they are all operational. Over the course of May 2021 through December 2021, 11,475 farmers and livestock owners used a variety of services.

Poultry Development

Swayam Prakalp: The project, which aimed to supply eggs for inclusion in children's diets in Anganwadis and to create self-employment, was carried out between 2017 and 2018 in scheduled areas of 16 tribal districts. To provide beneficiaries with 45 four-week-old chicks for rearing, the project aims to develop 104 mother units of poultry. The beneficiaries are driven to domestically breed the 45-bird flock up to 100 birds in order to have a reliable and sizable source of income. Children in anganwadis are given the eggs produced as part of the project for protein dietary needs. The project's overall cost is Rs. 22.56 crore. The Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission has been established, and 13.69 lakh four-week-old birds have been distributed to beneficiaries. 100 mother units have been established as of now, and 40,963 beneficiaries have received 13.69 lakh four-week-old birds for the purpose of creating their own businesses.

Dairy Development

Dairy is a complementary activity to agriculture that has the potential to increase rural households' income and employment opportunities in addition to enhancing nutrition.

As of the end of March 2021, the State had 108 milk processing facilities with a combined daily capacity of 89.85 lakh litres and 153 chilling facilities with a daily capacity of

38.77 lakh litres. Government and cooperative dairies collected an average of 0.50 lakh litres and 40.43 lakh litres of milk per day in 2020–21 and 0.39 lakh litre and 41.74 lakh litres per day in 2021–22, respectively, up to November. In 2020–21, there were 209 cold storage facilities with a total capacity of 10,964 MT, of which 188 had a capacity of 10,538 MT and were owned by the private sector.

Fisheries:

The State has a 1.12 lakh square km area suitable for marine fishing along its 720 km of coastline. The State has built 173 fish landing facilities. There were 15,218 marine fishing boats in use in 2020–21, with 12,946 of them being mechanized.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana: - The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), which the government of India launched on May 20, 2020, will last for five years. The PMMSY program aims to close significant gaps in fish production, productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernization and strengthening of the value chain, and the establishment of a strong fisheries management system and the welfare of fishers. For the PMMSY for the 2020–21 fiscal year, the State Level Approval and Monitoring Committee had approved a total of '63.75 crores for 376 beneficiaries, of which the GoI and State's shares were '20.09 crore and '13.39 crore, respectively, and the beneficiary's share was '30.27 crore. The district offices have received funds from the GoI and the State.

Compensation for damages due to natural calamities: -

The State has authorized compensation in the amounts of 10.88 lakh rupees for livestock deaths, 3.85 lakh rupees for damage to poultry sheds, and 630.53 lakh rupees for damage to fishing boats & nets as a result of cyclone Tauktae. As compensation for the loss of livestock due to cyclone Nisarg, the State-sanctioned \$10.12 lakh in June 2021. In July 2021, unexpected rainstorms and hailstorms hit the State. A total of '925.34 lakh in compensation for livestock deaths, '13.17 lakh for damage to a poultry shed, and '1,101.28 lakh for fishermen's damages to fishing boats and nets was approved.

Sericulture

The Tasar silk development program is implemented in four districts of the State: Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, and Gondia, with a total area of 18,866 ha under the plantation of Ain and Arjun trees (on which Tasar silkworms are grown). Sericulture is an agro-based industry with a high potential to create employment opportunities in rural areas. The Mulberry silk development program is currently being carried out in 24 districts of the State.

Forest

Compared to the target of 33 percent set under the National Forest Policy of 1988, the State's forest area at the end of the 2020–21 fiscal year was about 20.15 percent of its geographical area. The Forest Department (55,908.38 sq km), the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra (FDCM) (3,462.25 sq km), the private forest taken into the Forest Department's possession (1,182.78 sq km), and the Revenue Department (1,438.48 sq km) are each given jurisdiction over a portion of the State's total forested area.

According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, the State's total forest cover is 50,798 sq km, up 20 sq km from the ISFR 2019 report. Very dense forest makes up 17.2% of the State's total forest cover, moderately dense forest makes up 40.5%, and open forest makes up 42.3%. According to ISFR 2021, the State's total mangrove cover is 324 square kilometres, an increase of four square kilometres from the information provided in ISFR 2019.

Sant Tukaram Vangram Yojana

The Sant Tukaram Vangram Yojana was started to raise awareness about the value of forests and wildlife and to safeguard them from things like encroachment and illegal tree cutting. Under the plan, 15,500 villages form 12,081 Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC). The 27.04 lakh ha of forest land is managed by the JFMCs.

Mangrove conservation

Approximately 324 sq km of the State are covered in mangroves, according to the India State of Forest Report - 2021. In accordance with section 20 of the Forest Protection Act, mangroves covering more than 9,781 ha have been designated as reserved forests.

Since 2017, the State has been putting the Mangrove Conservation and Livelihood Generation Scheme into practice with the help of the local communities along a stretch of its coastline that includes more than 120 villages from the Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, and Sindhudurg districts. Beneficiaries of the program made a profit under the scheme in 2020–21 of 35.83 lakh. A mangrove plantation project totalling 161.47 ha was started in 2020–21.

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