

## Research Paper

**“Issues and Challenges before Indian Agricultural in Drought Prone Areas”**

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Commerce, Sangli.**ABSTRACT**

*Agriculture has always been the backbone of the Indian economy and deposit concerted industrialization in the last six decades, agriculture still occupies a place of pride. It provides employed to around 60% of the total workforce in the country. The agriculture situation started improving after 1960s with the introduction of high yielding varieties of crops and the development of agriculture infrastructure for irrigation credit Storage and marketing. But Indian agriculture is depends upon the monsoon farmers have to face the fury of nature in the form of drought, unseasonable rain which causes extensive damage to crops.*

**Origin of the Research Problem:-**

The present research paper is devoted to all study of the agriculture problems and prospectus of Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka of Sangli district. Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka is Drought Prone area of the Sangli District it is located in the north top of the Sangli district it situated between 15-23 and 16-58 north latitudes and 74-05 to 75-28 east longitudes at the North west part of Maharashtra state. Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka is one of the biggest Taluka in the Sangli district with an area of 70673 sq.km it lies on the border of Maharashtra State connecting Sangli district in the North Kolahpur district in west and Bijapur district in the east.

**III. Objectives of the Study:-**

1. To study the geographical set up of the Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka.
2. To study the impact of drought on agricultural sector of Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka.
3. To study the cropping pattern of the study area.
4. To study the Issues and Challenges before Agricultur in Kavathe Mahankal Taluka.

**IV. Methodology of the Study:-**

The present study is mainly based on primary data and secondary data relating to use of land cropping pattern, rainfall etc. The primary data collected by personal canvassing of questionnaires. This is one of the major sources for data collection. Spot observation are yet another source other information was collected through Talathi Office, and agricultural office.

The secondary data were collected form the Govt. Reports i.e. Central Statistical Organization, Zilla Parishad of Sangli and Panchayat Samiti Kanathe-Mahankal.

**V. Scope of the Study:-**

The challenges before agricultural of Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka would be the universal problem for the agricultural drought prone areas of Maharashtra. The total geographical area of the Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka is 70672 hectares out of which land available for cultivation was 58102 hectare i.e. 82.21%. In this investigation we find the low agricultural productivity scarcity of water, defective

storage, lack of use of improved technology, economically backwardness of farmers, Low prices of for agricultural products. There is the basic problem of the Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka is uneven rainfalls. Comparing to other Talukas in Sangli district the rainfall in Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka is very low.

**Rainfall in Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka:-**

Normal Rainfall (in mms) during 1991 to 2010

558.1

Actual Rainfall (in mms) in 2009-2010

589.0

During Rainy Days Normal (1991 to 2010)

37.00

Actual (2009-2010)

40.00

**Cropping pattern in Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka :-**

The Cropping pattern in Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka is shown in Table No. 1

Table No.1

Crops	Area (in hectare)	Percentage
Cereals and minor Crops	69080	55.55
Pulses	10343	8.31
Oil seeds	11520	9.26
Fruits	9155	7.36
Vegetables	173	0.13
Sugarcane	10387	8.35
Other Non food Crops	13671	10.99
<b>Total</b>	<b>124329</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: - Sangli District Statistics at a glance 2008-09 and 2009-10.

**VI. Issues and Challenges:-**

India's massive agricultural sector employs about 60% of the population. Yet accounts for only about 17% of total GDP. Growth in agricultural has stagnated relative to other sectors. Last year the agricultural sector growth rate of 2.7% and relative to 11% growth in service and industry

sectors. Agricultural incomes are lower and growing slower than incomes in other sectors. The agriculture in study area is facing following challenges.

- In the study area rainfall is very low. i.e. 589 mm in 2009-10 and during 1991-2010 558.1 mm. The monsoon rain in the Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka is often marked by some important variations from the normal, like climate uncertain. Often marked expressed in the commonly held view that "Agriculture" in India is a gamble against the monsoon. It is the most important challenge before agriculture in study area.

- There has been lack of systematic planning of agriculture i.e. cultivation, Production, Processing and marketing.

- The social environment of study area is often stated to be an obstacle in agricultural development. The farmers in Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka are illiterate, superstitious, conservative and unresponsive to new agricultural techniques.

- Heavy pressure of population on land is one of the challenge in study area. In fact since the non agricultural sector of the study area has not been able to expand at a sufficiently rapid pace, this pressure has continuously increased. Increasing pressure of population on land is partly responsible for the subdivision and fragmentation of land holdings.

- Financial institutions are not able to provide timely and sufficient delivery to farmers.

- Fragmented and holding is a measure challenge as the majority of the farmers in study area are small and marginal farmers.

- 50% of farming community availing credit facilities from private money lenders on higher interest rate which results in to rural indebtedness.

- The agriculture sector is labour intensive. Day to day the wage rate of agricultural labour is increasing. The prevailing wage rate of study area is Rs.75/- per day for women and Rs.150/- for men. It is not possible for the farmers to meet the cost of labours.

- In study area most of the child labours work in agriculture sector. Some of children work with their families on small family owned farms.

- Indian agriculture has to become more cost effective to meet the growing challenges and opportunities arising out of WTO agreements and the consequent globalization has to be yield based. Development of infrastructure is essential to support this growth.

- It is here the challenge arise considering the implementation of the technology at various levels in the global community. The need of the hour is not application of the technology but the adoption of appropriate technology. Which would suite the particular level of the global community.

- In study area, the farming practice are too haphazard and non-scientific and hence need some forethought before implementing any new technology. In the study area yet to take a firm ground primarily due to its unique pattern of land holding, poor infrastructure, Socio-economic and demographic conditions.

**VII. Recommendations:-**

The majority people in the Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka are mainly depended on agriculture. The economic development of this Taluka is mainly based on agriculture. The problem of agriculture land use planning is envisaged in following ways.

- Use of improved seeds and fertilizers, requires

proper irrigation facilities in study area, irrigation can also make multiple cropping possible in a number of areas. Attempts in this field will have to be under taken in the following directions modernizing irrigation systems, efficient water management, adequate maintenance of canals etc.

- It is necessary to provision of credit and marketing facilities in study area. The commercial banks should be encouraged to lend more to small farmers. The marketing structure also needs reorientation to serve the small farmers in a better way.

- In the Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka agro based industries should be started on co-operative basis. These industries will increase employment level and also raise the socio-economic status of Kavathe-Mahankal Taluka.

- In study area heavy pressure of population on land and the climatic conditions have put limits an on the source of income of farmers. The farmer from the study area has to depend upon only one crop and rarely two crops in a year. There is possibility of positive change in the status of farmer's by introduce the subsidiary, supplementary activities like dairy, poultry, horticulture etc.

- In Indian agriculture rural women play a vital role and participate in all stages of crop production, as they constitute in agricultural operations like transplanting, manuring and fertilizing, harvesting, threshing, drying and carrying the product. To better exploit the emerging opportunities there is need for changing property rights in favour of women evolving technologies to suit women farmers increasing the number of women extension workers, educating and training women farmers.

- Improved rural infrastructure is also playing a key role behind the agriculture sectors comeback trail. With better rural infrastructure, is comparatively easier and cost effective to bring farm produce to the market.

- Create a viable model of public-private partnership that allows private investors to invest in agriculture in partnership with banks and financial institutions.

- Creating a more productive, internationally competitive and diversified agricultural sector would require a shift in public expenditures away from subsidies towards productively enhancing investments.

- Support the organized private sector in increasing its spending on extension and technology transfer.

- The rural finance would require improving the performance of regional rural banks and rural credit co-operation.VIII. Conclusion

- Even if agricultural productivity does increase, it is skill likely to lag behind the explosive information and service sectors. However the public education system is clearly failing to provide rural children with the skills necessary to enter these labour markets. This is problem the single biggest factor inhibiting the transaction from agriculture to service sector employment. The demand for skilled labours in India has exploded, particularly in the service sector, demand which many firms are finding difficult to meet domestically due to extremely skewed distribution of human capital.

- Agricultural productivity in India is challenge because of fragmented land holding. Consolidation of land holding is one of the measures to get maximum out it. Government has to take innovate steps to get farmer benefited with the subsidy schemes directly as applicable in other countries to make the farmers self reliant. Banking industry in India has take suggestive measures to cover

excluded or unbanked people get benefited to make them out of the rural indebtedness due to the private money lenders. India has a wide network of rural finance institutions, many of the rural poor remain excluded, due to inefficiencies in the formal finance institutions, the weak regulatory framework, high transaction costs, and risks associated with lending to agriculture. XI

**.References :**

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