

# Participatory Action for Integrated Development “PAID”

## Abstract

In recent months several unfavourable trends in Indian agriculture – Farmer's suicides, declining prices of several crops, widening disparities between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and a marked slowing down in the rate of agricultural growth – have attracted the attention cumulatively they have contributed to generating a sense of a deepening agrarian Crisis in the Country.

Peasant of rural India is over loaded by socio-economic Circumstances, which are unfavorable for agriculturally dominated country, like – India. Indian peasantry in general suffering from unbearable burden of debt and teetering on the brink of bankruptcy, such an increase is unwarranted.

PAID is an attempt to study the Socio-economic. Conditions of peasants of Allahabad region and an effort Co-op with them through of students volunteers.

**Keywords:** Participatory, Agrarian, Rural India, Socio economic, Peasants.

## Introduction

Rural Society has its own identity in modern world due to its agricultural importance. Rural Society is considered to be an old Society which has a rich culture. 'Little Community' has its own high Culture. This Society is in the process of social formation as 'Rurban', or in the midst of rural-urban dichotomy. Under the development programmes Government's effort was to make them self-sufficient and link then with the wider World. But the real hero of this 'Little Community', peasant, 'the Son of the Soil' is breathing in oppressive conditions. Peasants are Victim of economic, Social and geographical calamities and encompassing a marginalized peasantry. Sociologist - A.R. Desai, Kathleen Gough, N.G. Ranga, studied Indian Peasantry immensely. The relations between peasants and agricultural labours requires a through analysis for students of Rural Sociology.

## Objectives of the Study

With the aim of empowering students to let them play their role for an improvement in present conditions of peasants while organizing them and linking with service providers for achieving goal of various projects/schemes/plans of the Government, Cooperatives, Banks and Corporate to accelerate integrated development of rural Uttar Pradesh following objectives were set under the PAID:-

1. Identify socio-economic condition of peasant in Allahabad with change required for betterment in their condition and the environment.
2. Identify agriculture practices with root cause of problems and develop an action plan to address the problem.
3. Identify role of the Government, Bank and Cooperatives for delivering various services to peasant individually and also in group.
4. Identify the most appropriate source of information and plan for regular communication.
5. Identify role of women in agriculture with need to reduce drudgery and empower them to utilize their potential optimally in domestic and field work.
6. Identify Peasant's perception and actions which may motivate them for collective action to meet their need.
7. Hold meetings with individual and institutions experts in participatory management process of development and evolve an appropriate action plan for integrated development of peasants.



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**Review of Literature**

Peasants provide us raw material for processing living essentials for many beings on earth planet. Unfortunately such important sector of the society is still struggling hard to meet minimum basic need of their family. Attempts are being made from the Government, banks, NGOs, Corporate and international agencies but the desired results are not met yet. Considering the need of time universities and development agencies depute students to work as volunteer to learn the root cause and play an important role in bringing about a positive change in the living and working condition of the peasants in Uttar Pradesh. History has witnessed many peasant movements. Sociologists has studied various aspects related with peasantry, K.L. Sharma has classified peasant groups. A.R. Desai, Kathleen Gough, N.G. Ranga, Macciam Marriott, are also in the line who studied various aspects of peasantry.

**Methodology**

The study was conducted as a participatory action project to achieve the aim of PAID. Methodology adopted in the study is described below:

**Information Collection**

Primary information was collected through a set of questionnaire developed by the students and pretested in the field for ensuring availability of all the information required.

A team of ten students were involved in development of questionnaire and collection of primary information from peasants.

Secondary information was collected from the internet to compare findings with the state of the issue at district and state level.

**Designing an Appropriate Action Plan**

Individual and small group meeting were organized with peasants in all the villages covered under the PAID. Team of students visited all selected peasants many times in their home and also in field to develop friendship and make clear understanding of the interventions being planned by the Ishwar Saran Degree College (ISDC) for integrated development of the peasants.

It was great pleasure to learn that in spite of their economic inefficiency they welcome students by offering whatever they have to eat and drink. The peasants were organized in small groups to know their perception and willingness for joining hands in PAID. The peasants interested in PAID were involved intensively in planning action of students of ISDC for implementing various development and welfare projects in partnership with the Government and Bank through the Gram Panchayat.

**Development of Future Action Plan of PAID**

Meetings were organized to discuss findings of the study with subject experts and get their views on the action planned by the students during the study. It was pleasant to note that most of the experts wish to support ISDC in establishing live model of participatory management of local resources and services being planned to be developed at village level. Adaptable suggestions were incorporated in future action plan.

Allahabad stands at a strategic point both geographically and culturally. An important part of the Ganges-Yamuna Doab region, it is the last point of the Yamuna River and is the last frontier of the Indian west.

The land of the Allahabad district that falls between the Ganges and Yamuna is just like the rest of Doab, fertile but not too moist, and is especially suitable for the cultivation of wheat. The non-Doabi (southern and eastern) part of the district, are somewhat similar to those of adjoining Bundelkhand and Bagelkhand regions: dry and rocky.

**Findings from the Field Study**

The study was conducted in villages of Allahabad with the help of students of Ishwar Saran Degree College to find the state of peasants at village level and document their perception regarding developmental interventions. During the field work attempts were also made to explore possibilities of organizing peasants for collective action in partnership with the Government and local institutions mainly Gram Panchayat.

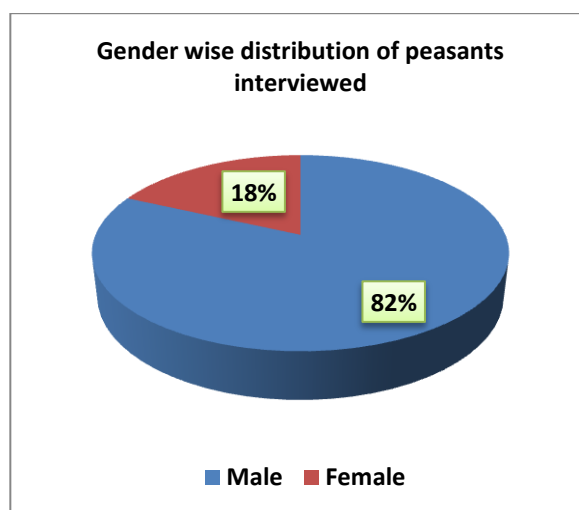
In this section of report on finding of field study and results of interventions made is being described in brief.

**Peasants Interviewed**

Category wise number of people interviewed under PAID.

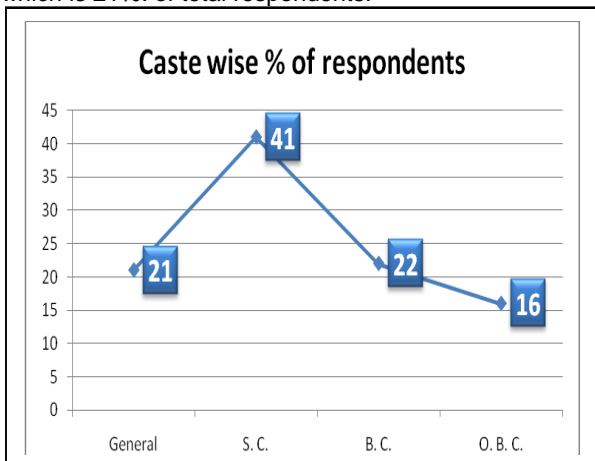
**Gender**

Under PAID total 121 peasants were interviewed to record their information in a questionnaire developed by the team. It was considered very important to cover all different categories of peasants so that a clear picture may be developed to design an appropriate plan for addressing their common problems. The charts shows 82 percent male and 18% female peasants were interviewed.



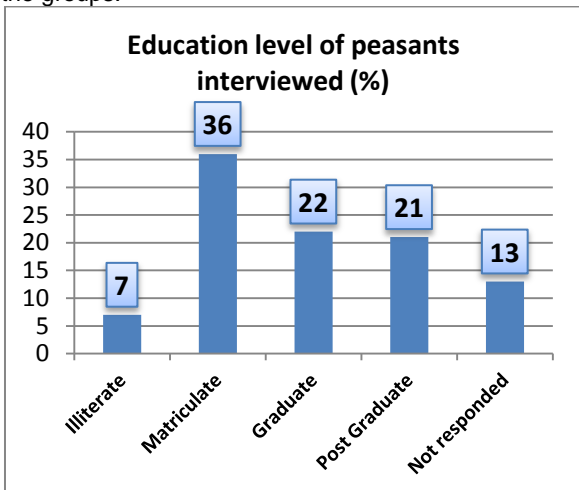
**Caste**

Under the study attempts was made to cover all different caste of peasants in Allahabad. This was mainly because the PAID wish to cover all four categories of caste accepted generally. The chart is indicating that majority of peasants interviewed were from Scheduled caste followed by Backward caste. The chart also shows representation of general caste which is 21%. of total respondents.



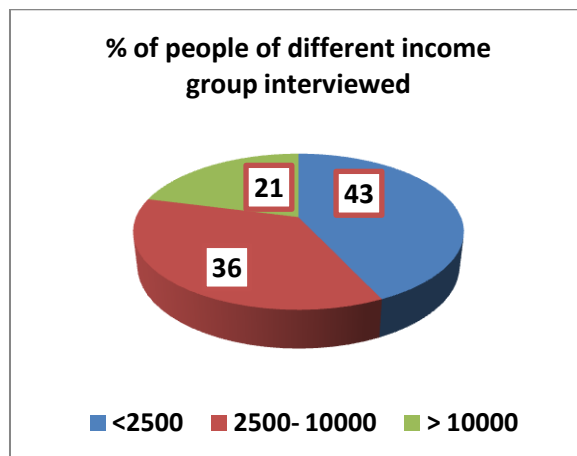
**Educational Level**

The study covered peasants of different qualification. It was surprise to note that 13% peasants were not interested to talk about their education level so they did not respond to the question of their qualification. The majority were matriculate followed by graduates. Illiterate peasants were also interviewed to collect information from all the groups.



**Income Group**

It was considered very important to cover peasants of all three income group. Under PAID three categories of income group were made. Based on the findings the artisans are classified into three categories. The very poor are who reported income below Rs. 2500. The peasants who reported their income > Rs 10,000 were considered rich. The rest are being considered middle income group.

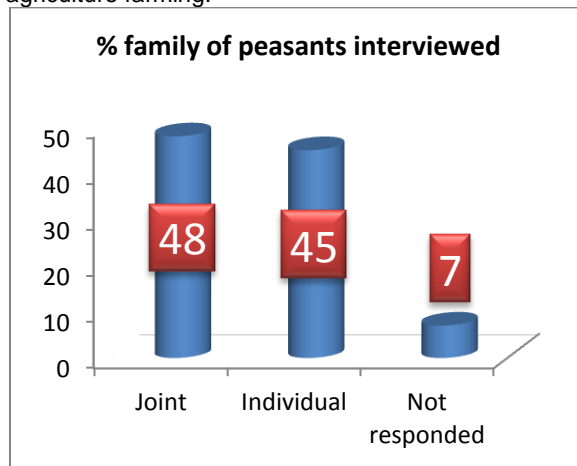


**Socio Economic Condition of Peasants Interviewed Under PAID**

Some of the important aspects to find socio economic condition of the peasants interviewed were analysed under the study. The findings are being given below:

**Joint to Individual Family**

Economic condition of the peasants interviewed at village level were not satisfactory. Therefore, they live in a joint family system so that that may be supportive to each other for meeting physical need in various working of their life and agriculture farming.

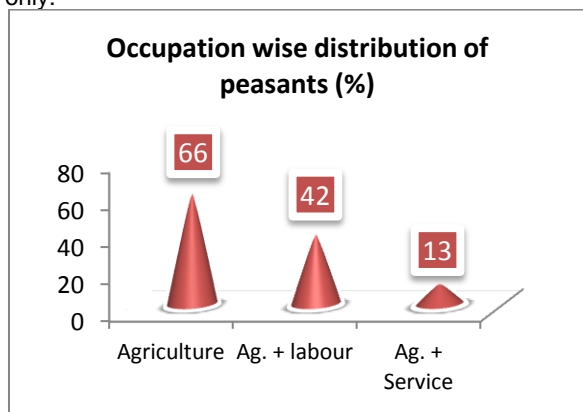


The study finds a declining trend in the joint family system. Out of total 121 peasants only 48% were found holding traditional system of living together. But nearly equal numbers of peasants have made their own individual family. Discussing with them it was learnt that with the change in time it is difficult to live together. Peasants say that now no one is happy in bearing the cost of other family member. All wish to earn for their own family members which is just husband wife with children.

**Shift in Occupation of Peasants**

In most of the cases distribution of land among son becomes essential because the brothers are not willing to live together after having individual family. In some of the cases it was also found that the brothers may be interested to live together but their wife finds it difficult. The main reason of income of husband through other sources like labor and service.

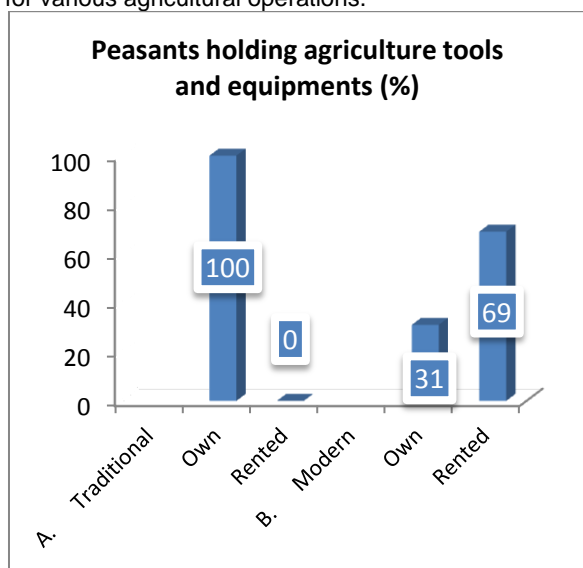
The study finds that the peasants are not able to meet their need from agriculture sector so they have to migrate in towns in search of earning opportunity. As the source of income is becoming individual so the family in want of not sharing income. This is mainly the income can hardly meet need of wife and children only.



Majority of peasants are not satisfied with the income from agriculture so they wish to explore opportunity where they may learn livelihood for meeting minimum basic needs of their family members.

**Holdings of Ag. Tools and Equipments:**

The study found that the peasants are using both the traditional and modern tools and equipments for various agricultural operations.



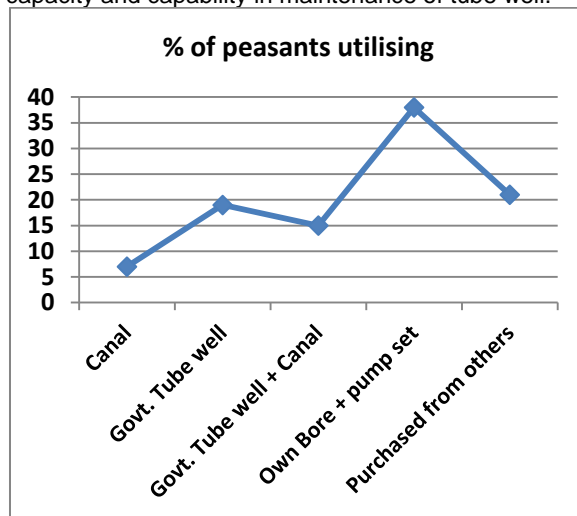
It was learnt that the peasants own all the traditional equipments and tools. They are economically not so efficient to own modern tools and equipments so majority of them hire in and only 31% peasants were found who own the modern tools and equipments.

**Peasants and Source of Irrigation**

The Government is supporting peasants by providing better source of irrigation. Support of Canals and Tube well is being done by the Government.

Unfortunately, during study, the peasants reported that the water in canals do not run at the time of need, moreover it takes considerable time to fix the

tube well when it need repair. This indicates that there is acute need to educate people and organize them for maintenance of tube well while developing their capacity and capability in maintenance of tube well.

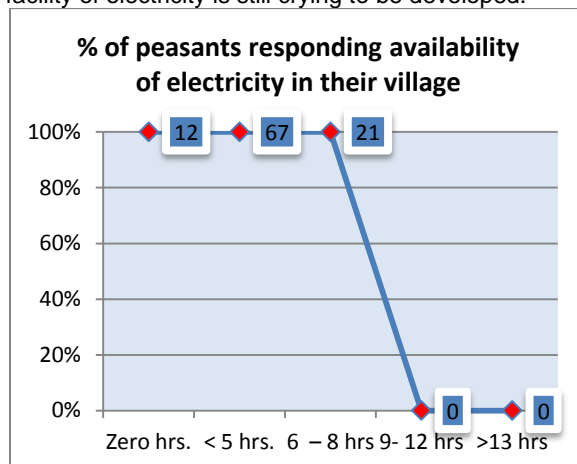


It was interesting to note that majority of peasants have been benefitted by the Government under free boar scheme of the Government, moreover, the Bank provided them loan to purchase own pump set. Out of 212 peasants 38% peasants are well equipped with their own irrigation, 19% are dependent upon Government tube well and only 7% peasants are utilizing canals for meeting their need of irrigation. It was surprising to note that 21% peasants purchase water from other farmers.

In the study, on the issue of irrigation facility, it was pleasant to note that the majority of peasants have become efficient enough not only in meeting their need of water for irrigation but can also provide water to other peasants who have not any source of irrigation.

**Availability of Electricity in the Villages**

Findings of the study indicated that the Government has created facility for providing electricity to the peasants as the chart shows that 88% of the peasants responded that they get electricity but maximum 8 hours. It was surprising to learn that 12% were saying that they never get electricity. The peasants were from the hamlet where facility of electricity is still crying to be developed.

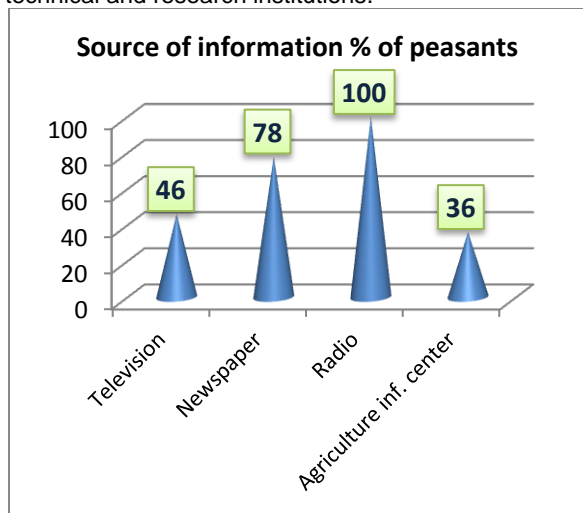


The most surprising was to learn that no one peasant responded that they get electricity more than 8 hours.

The peasants were found in great difficulty in absence of electrify to run Government tube well. This caused them low production and sometimes loss of crop.

**Peasants and Source of Information**

This is the age of information technology for transferring the best practices developed by various technical and research institutions.



The study identified four sources of transferring information being utilized by the peasants. Radio/transistor was found the most popular source of information to learn the researches and development being made in the field of agriculture.

Discussing with peasants it was learnt that News paper is also very important source as it is available in most of the tea shops. Facility to enjoy news through television is not available to many peasants but it is second last source is use as 46% peasants are availing it.

**Agriculture Practices and Peasants Cropping Pattern**

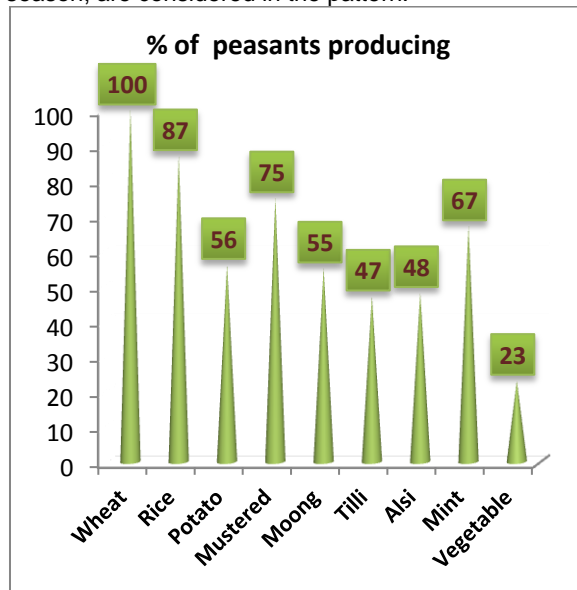
Cropping pattern adopted by the peasants interviewed made a clear picture that food security for the peasant is must so all are producing wheat and 87% are producing rice. We can describe all the cropping patterns within the framework of this chapter. There are many ways in which a cropping pattern can be discussed.

A broad picture of the major cropping patterns in the selected villages can be presented by taking the major crops into consideration. To begin with, the south-westerly monsoon crops (kharif), bajra, maize, ragi, groundnut and cotton.

Among the post-monsoon crops (rabi), wheat, sorghum (rabi) and gram can also be considered to be the base crops for describing the cropping patterns.

With such an approach, the crop occupying the highest percentage of the sown area of the region is taken as the base crop and all other possible alternative crops which are sown in the region either as substitutes of the base crop in the same season or

as the crops which fit in the rotation in the subsequent season, are considered in the pattern.

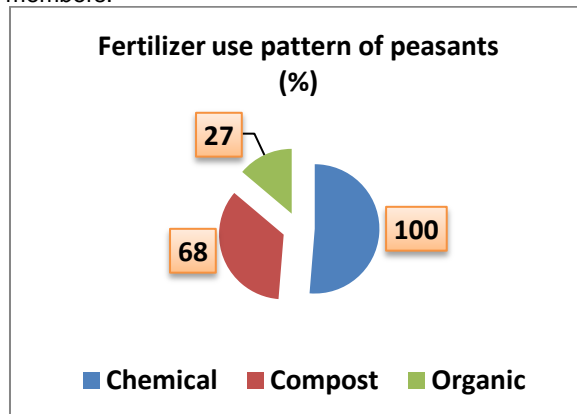


Also these crops have been identified as associating themselves with a particular type of agro climate, and certain other minor crops with similar requirements are grouped in one category. For example, wheat, barley and oats, are taken as one category. Similarly the minor millets (Paspalum, Setaria and Panicum spp.) are grouped with sorghum or bajra.

Vegetable production is also in practice. While discussing with the peasants it was learnt that they are more interested in producing crop for own consumption. Otherwise if they have to purchase from market survival would become problem for them.

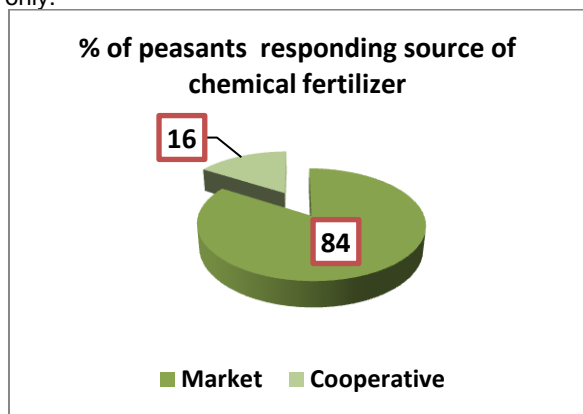
**Fertilizer Use Pattern**

Findings of the study show that all the peasants have become dependent upon chemical fertilizer to sustain production, that is also increasing. They understand that the fertilizer using pattern of chemical is not only increasing cost of production but also decreasing fertility of land. But they have no alternative so at the cost of soil fertility they are producing various crops for survival of their family members.

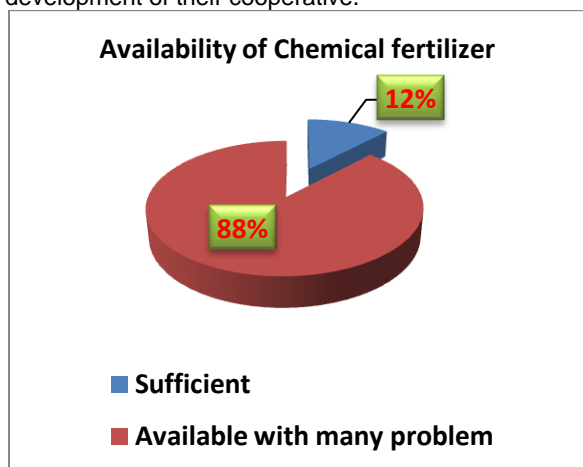


The chemical fertilizer is being made available to them through farmers cooperative but it is also available in market on a high price. The

cooperative are not functioning properly to meet the demand of fertilizer. Discussing with the peasants individually and also in small groups it was learnt that some members of their cooperative have taken loan and not returned which has made them defaulter. These members have to be dependent on market only.



Findings of the study shows that only 16% of total 121 peasants interviewed were the members of farmer's cooperative and availing the benefits of getting chemical fertilizer on subsidized rate. The majority of peasants are purchasing chemical fertilizer from market. This indicates very poor performance and need of educating peasants to remain beneficiary by following rules and shoulder responsibilities for development of their cooperative.



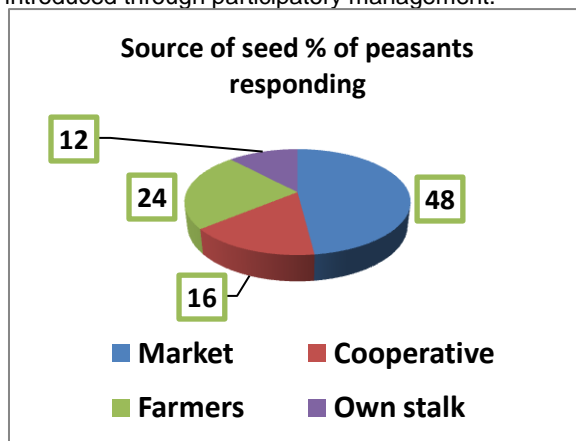
The fertilizer use pattern found in practice of the peasants interviewed under PAID is indicating need of introducing participatory management for addressing various administrative and managerial problems in meeting demand of peasants. Majority of peasants are able to meet demand of chemical fertilizer but with many problems. Most of the peasants were neither satisfied with the working of cooperative nor with the market as no one provide required quantity at the time of need.

The peasants also aware that the chemical fertilizer is not producing quality crop but they are not educated enough to understand its impact on health and conduct cost benefit analysis of chemical and organic farming. The Government provides training and monitory support for producing organic fertilizer

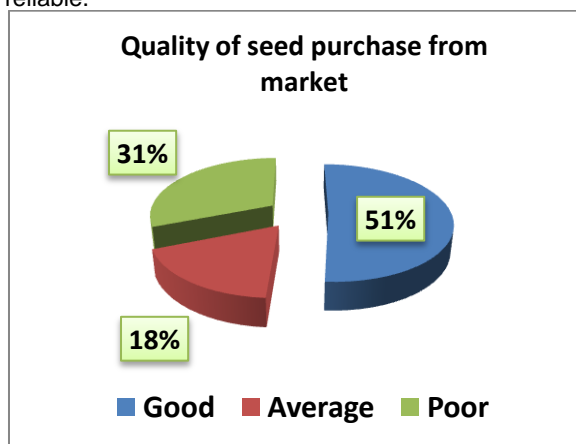
and promotes organic farming. Here the students have a very important role for educating and organizing peasants to produce healthy food and regain soil fertility.

**Seed Source and Quality**

Traditionally peasants were self sustain in meeting the need of seed. Gradually own seed storing practice changed and market and cooperative started playing role in meeting the need of seed. This changed the traditional pattern and at the time of study it was found that only 12% peasants were utilizing their own seed because they use foundation seed. Foundation seed is costly but saves if utilized not only for crop but also for meeting the need of next crop. Some of the peasants were found using breeder seed to produce better crop and keep some seed to sale for meeting out higher cost of breeder seed. The findings are showing that the students may educate peasants and reestablish traditional practice. Moreover, collective direct marketing of seed may be introduced through participatory management.



Quality of seed available in market is good in the opinion of 51% peasants interviewed. This indicates that the market of seed is also not very reliable.



It was surprising that the peasants were saying that the quality of seed is poor in the market. Availability of seed was found a very serious problem of the peasants.

Depending upon the findings of meeting with the peasants it seems essential to involve student as volunteer for motivating peasants for developing and

promoting participatory management for arranging quality seed for all.

**Role of Women Peasants in Agriculture**

Women peasants were found in a very pitiable situation as they work very hard not only in various domestic works but equally in agriculture field works for their survival and meeting minimum basic need of their family members.

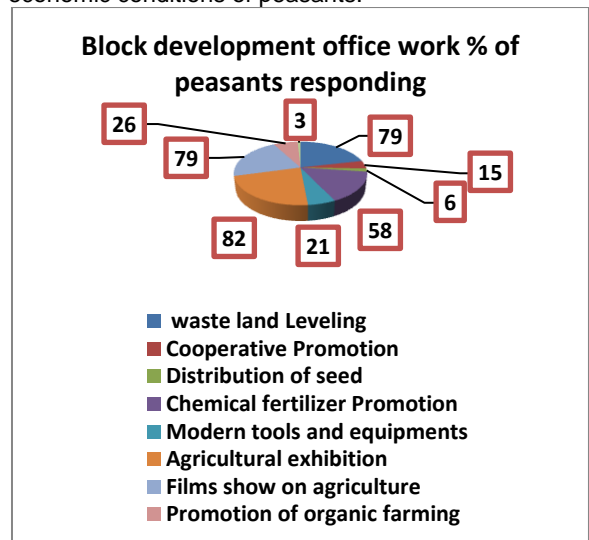
Except tilling of land role of women was found very important in all the operation of agriculture. Tilling and leveling of land is the main work of male but in all operations female either support male or complete all the work with the help of children of her family. It was a matter of shame that only women carry produce and residue on their head from agriculture field to home. Men also work for carrying inputs and out puts but by vehicle only. It may be either cycle or tractor.

There is most urgent need to support women by introducing such tools & equipments and process which may reduce drudgery and educating peasants for gender equity. The students may play very important role in organizing women and linking them with service providers. PIAD team discussed with the selected women peasant and it was learnt that they are the most vulnerable and need most effective attempt for their empowerment.

In discussion with women peasant the need of developing their skill in processing various agriculture products also emerged. They were found very much interested to learn appropriate process of making pickles, souses and candy for optimum utilization of various crops even after the season. This may easily be organized by the students with the help of Government departments working for the same.

**Service providers and services for peasants  
Block Development office**

Block Development Office is the main agency for providing various supports to the peasants on behalf of the Government. The officials with the help of local institutions such as Panchayat and local groups implement various development welfare projects for bringing about a positive change in socio economic conditions of peasants.



Under the study maximum number of peasants (82%) reported that the block office organizes agriculture exhibitions to let us be aware of latest development in the field of agricultural tools and equipments followed by 79% peasants reported that the service providers are attempting to develop waste land by leveling of waste land. The same number of respondents said that the block organizes film shows on agricultural practices developed by the scientists and researchers. Chemical fertilizer Promotion is an another popular activity of Block Development Office among farmers as 58% reported that they are being motivated to use chemical fertilizer.

The Government is also attempting to promote organic farming says 26 % peasants but no useful results have come yet. Modern tools and equipments are also being promoted by the Government and the banks. This is the reason that holding of modern tools and equipments is on increase among peasants in the villages covered under the study.

Farmers Cooperatives (PACS) may be very much supportive in meeting demand of seed and fertilizer if managed properly says the peasants interviewed. It was surprised to find that only 15% peasants responded that the Government officials are working for appropriate management and administration of their cooperatives. Most of the respondents were not happy with the services of cooperatives. The answer of questing about honor of farmers was most surprising as some of them said no one really wants to support peasants. All support large farmers because all want us to sale our land. They were happy to learn that the Ishwar Saran Degree College is not accepting the responsibly of saving peasants by deputing their students in bring the desired change at village level.

**Farmers Cooperative**

It was pleasant to note that the cooperatives are alive at village level but it was said to know that they are not working properly in delivering their services for betterment of peasants. In detailed discussion on this issue it was learnt that quality of seed and fertilizer is not good but as they have no option the peasants are managing faring with inferior quality of inputs. Most of the members of their cooperatives are defaulter as they have not paid their dues in time. It was surprising that the numbers of defaulters are increasing. The state indicates acute need of intensive interventions of volunteers, which can only be made by the students committed for development of their nation by addressing the problems of peasants in meeting their need of inputs for faring through their cooperative.

**Loan facility for peasnats**

Findings of the study made clear that the loan facility is available to the peasants through cooperative and also through banks but it is very difficult for most of them to avail it without facing considerable number of problems. They were told in eetings with them that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the most supporting institution of the Government to provide economic power to the peasants through local

Banks. The NABARD has two main schemes SHG and Farmers Club. Through these schemes the peasants may organize them as their own local institution and be efficient enough in availing benefits under various projects of the Government through local banks.

The NABARD not only provide loan facility to the group of peasants but also build their capacity in managerial and administrative responsibility to sustain their initiation. They also arrange skill development facilities for the group and work as an entrepreneur in producing healthy crops and good quality of handicrafts. The students as volunteer may educate peasants to be empowered enough for initiating collective action for addressing their common problems.

Findings of the study made clear that the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the most supporting institution of the Government to provide economic power to the peasants through local Banks. The NABARD has two main schemes SHG and Farmers Club. Through these schemes the peasants may organize them as their own local institution and be efficient enough in availing benefits under various projects of the Government through local banks.

**Agriculture Information Center**

In every block Agriculture Information Center is established but only 12 % peasants reported that they consult them for availing their services. In meetings with the artisan the issue was also discussed and it was learnt that the Agriculture Information Center is good for nothing. It is situated at a considerable distance and there is not soutry of meeting appropriate person to satisfy their needs. Moreover, behaviour of the people in center is not very supportive. They said that information is required for all the crop and every step that is contributing in negative growth. Therefore, they should be provided information through news letter, radio programme on the action required on every step of each crop.

The students with the help of agriculture research institutions may collect information regarding best practices to grow different crop and steps to be taken to get best output. The information collected by the students shall be made appropriate with the help of experts while incorporating their expertise and experience. The Ishwar Saran Degree College may develop a group of agriculture experts and motivate them to support peasants by transferring the information through their talk on radio.

**Gram Panchayat**

Gram Sabha is the most effective local institution for making bottom to top approach a great success through Panchayat Pradhan and members of Panchayat. The findings of the study makes clear that the process of planning and implementation of development and welfare projects is not perfect and crying to inculcate awareness among local people regarding their responsibilities and rights to initiate bottom to top approach.

Panchayat system means participatory management of local resources and services which can only be brought into action by educating and

motivating people to learn and execute the system. A team of students working intensively at village level may establish self replicable live model, therefore, the study suggest to involve University and Colleges in rural development work and request them to accept responsibility of establishing self replicable live model by adopting village and prove their worth for running courses on rural development.

**Agriculture and the peasant**

Peasants are highly disappointed from agriculture and wish to leave this occupation. They find that they are working for others to earn. Main reason of disappointment is being given below:

Seeds of good quality are not available neither from cooperative nor from the market.
Canals most the time do not run at the time of need to irrigate.
Fertilizers of good quality are not available neither from cooperative nor from the market.
Electricity is not available to utilize the Government table well for meeting need of irrigation.
Availability of diesel in green market is a great problem so black market remains the only source. The black marketing is an unpredictable factor of increasing cost of production.
Insecticides and pesticides available in market are becoming ineffective to control loss of production.
No support is available from Government to grow better crop and sale in good price.
Agriculture is not providing sufficient to meet minimum basic needs and no option is available to earn livelihood.
Corruption has crossed limit and humanity is going to die.

**Conclusion**

A high degree of disappointment was experienced among the peasants while analyzing answer of the question about their feelings at the time of disappointment. Some of the answer give below may be helpful to understand their state of mind:

1. I wish to kill all the officials responsible to provide us required inputs.
2. All the people involved in delivering services are corrupt if my children will die of hunger I will kill them and go to jail.
3. I wish to commit suicide after killing my family.
4. It is better to die.

Commit suicide also a thought in the mind of many peasants covered under the study. These all are the serious issues and must be considered to identify and play our role for saving the peasants and the society.

Considering the importance the findings of the study were discussed with the subject expert individuals and institutions were consult by the project team to know their views on involving students through different courses on rural development and community work. The team has designed an action plan which is being described in next section of the report.

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