

A STUDY ON STATUS OF FARM RECORD KEEPING PRACTICES AMONG THE FARMERS IN ANAND TALUKA

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture occupies a prominent position in Indian economy. Agriculture is very important source of income for the people in the country like India. For any business, suitable, quick and reliable information plays an important role for the different kinds of decision making. Secondary nature of information in farming business plays a critical role in decision making. Farmers are less interested in the record keeping of the business. In farming business, farmers deal with the different components of expense like planting, fertilizer, irrigation, plant protection, harvesting, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses as well as with the revenue of the farming business. The farmers are getting very thin margin for their business. With concern to any business, if the person does not maintain their business records properly than, it would be very difficult to keep track of each and every event and transaction of the business during a particular time period. The output of the farm record keeping process is a kind of information on which, a person can take proper decision about their business. Here in this study an attempt has been made to identify how the farmers maintain their farm records, problems faced by them, kinds of benefits they get through maintaining the farm records and consequences of not maintaining farm records with concrete reasons behind it.

KEYWORDS: Decision Making, Farm records, Farm business, Problems, Utility of Farm Records

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is a significant sector of the Indian economy. Though its contribution to the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country has fallen from about 30 percent in 1990-91 to less than 13.9 percent in 2013-14, a trend that is expected in the development process of any economy, agriculture yet forms the backbone of development. An average Indian still spends almost half of his/her total expenditure on food, while roughly half of India's work force is still engaged in agriculture for its livelihood. Agriculture occupies a prominent position in Indian policy-making not only because of its contribution to GDP but also because of the large proportion of the population that is dependent on the sector for its livelihood. India has a large and diverse agriculture and is one of the world's leading producers. It is also a major consumer, with an expanding population to feed. For this reason and because of its agricultural and trade policy, its presence in the world market has been modest in relation to the size of its agriculture. The trend rate of growth during the period 1992-93 to 2010- 11 of Indian Agriculture is 2.8 percent while the average annual rate of growth in agriculture & allied sectors- GDP during the same period is 3.2 percent.

Agriculture is very important source of income for the people. For the any business suitable, quick and reliable availability of information play important role for the different decision making. The farmers are less interested in the record keeping of the business. In the farming business farmers are deal with the different component of expenses like

planting, Fertilizer, irrigation, plant protection, harvesting, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses and also deal with the revenue of the farming business.

The farmers is getting very thin margin of their business. If in the any business the persons are not maintain their business record properly than it is very difficult for them to keep track of each and every event and transaction of the business during a particular time period. The importance of the farms record keeping process is not so felt like producing and selling activities, the reason behind those producing and selling activities are prime activities while record keeping is supportive activity. The output of the Farm record keeping process is information on that basis the person can take proper decision about their business.

OBJECTIVES

- To identify the different types of farm records kept by the farmers
- To identify the benefits of farm record keeping to the farmers.
- To identify the problems which leads for not maintaining the farm records among the farmers

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the Anand taluka of Anand District, Gujarat. The whole taluka was divided in to five zones (i.e. North, South, East, West and Central) and three villages were selected from each zone (i.e. **North-** Samarkha, Sadanapura & Kasor, **South-** Hadgod, Gopalpura & Vasad, **West-** Karamsad, Valasan & Sandesar, **East-** Bedva, Sarsa & Khambholaj and **Central-** Jitodia, Chikhodra & Mogri). Conveniently 150 agricultural farmers were selected (10 farmers from each village) to collect the data. The data was collected from farmers through well structured closed ended questionnaire through personal interview.

The data is analyzed with the appropriate statistical tools. Basic information about the respondents is analyzed through simple tabulation with percentage. To arrive at the mean score of different benefits of farm record keeping and reason which leads for non-maintenance of farm records, total number of responses is multiplied by the scaled value and the total sum arrived is divided by total number of responses. On the basis of mean score of individual variable, each variable under the benefits of farm record keeping and reason which leads for non-maintenance of farm records are ranked. Chi-square contingency is used for analyzing the association between various variables and maintenance of farm records.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The analysis in this study is divided into three heads. The first head discusses about the general information, second head discusses the benefits of farm record keeping as well as reason which leads for non-maintenance of farm records and the third head tries to identify the certain personal factors which are critical and leads to maintenance of farm record keeping.

Profile Study of Respondent

Equal numbers of samples are chosen from each zone comprising of 03 villages each. About 0.7 percent of total sample size is below 25 years of age. A total of 43.30 percent and 49.30 percent sample size belonged to age group between 25 year till 50 years and 50 years till 75 years. About 64 percent of total sample has the education of Higher Secondary and below. A total of 32 percent sample is graduate and equivalent. Maximum numbers of farmers in sample

size are semi-medium and medium i.e. 25.34 percent and 26.00 percent. Majority of farmers belonged to the income group of below Rs 2, 50, 000. Maximum numbers of farmers i.e. 25.30 percent are having the farming experience of 20 to 30 years. Out of total sample, about 64.67 percent are solely dependent upon the farming and rest is either involved in business or service along with the farming. About 62.67 percent farmers are regularly preparing budgets. Out of same, 50.00 percent are maintaining budget crop wise, 14.00 percent are maintaining budget year wise and 36.00 percent are maintaining budget season wise. About 50 percent of the farmers maintained the farm records for their farming business. Out of this 50 percent (75 respondents), around 84 percent maintained production record, 86.67 percent maintained sales record, 97.33 percent maintained expenses and revenue Record, 81.33 percent maintained Agri-Input inventory record and 38.67 percent maintained financial record. Total farmers who maintain farm records are maintaining manually. Around 56.00 percent of total respondents, who are maintaining farm records, are maintaining day to day and 80.00 percent are maintaining by themselves. Around 60.70 percent of total respondents are in opinion that farm record keeping is helpful in many ways for the farming business.

Table No. 4. 1

Sr. No.	Profile		Percentage(%)	No. of Respondents
	Zone			
	North (Samarkha,Sadanapura & Kasor)		20.00	30
	South (Hadgod, Gopalpura & Vasad)		20.00	30
	West (Karamsad,Valasan & Sandesar)		20.00	30
	East (Bedva ,Sarsa & Khambholaj)		20.00	30
	Central (Jitodia,Chikhodra & Mogri)		20.00	30
	Total		100.00	150
2.	Age			
	< 25 Years		00.70	01
	25 Years – 50 Years		43.30	65
	50 Years - 75 Years		49.30	74
	75+ Years		06.70	10
	Total		100.00	150
3.	Education			
	Illiterate		01.30	02
	12th & below		64.00	96
	Graduate & equivalent		32.00	48
	Post graduate		02.70	04
	Total		100.0	150
4.	Agri Land			
	01 HA & Below	Marginal	15.33	23
	Above 01 HA to 02 HA	Small	19.33	29
	Above 02 HA to 04 HA	Semi-Medium	25.34	38
	Above 04 HA to 10 HA	Medium	26.00	39
	Above 10 HA	Large	14.00	21
	Total		100.0	150
5.	Annual Income			
	< Rs.100000		34.70	52
	Rs.100000 –Rs. 250000		32.00	48
	Rs.250000 – Rs.500000		22.00	33
	Rs.500000 – Rs.1000000		02.70	04
	Rs.1000000+		08.70	13
	Total		100.0	150
6.	Farming Experience			
	< 10 Year		11.30	17
	10 Year – 20Year		21.30	32

	20 Year – 30 Year	25.30	38
	30 Year – 40 Year	19.30	29
	40 Year - 50 Year	14.00	21
	50+ Year	8.70	13
	Total	100.00	150
	Income Source		
7.	Agriculture	64.67	97
	Agriculture and Business	21.33	32
	Agriculture and Service	14.00	21
	Total	100.0	150
	Preparation of Budget		
8.	Yes	62.67	94
	No	37.33	56
	Total	100.0	150
	Criteria for budget Preparation		
9.	Crop wise	50.00	47
	Year wise	14.00	14
	Season wise	36.00	34
	Total (Out of 94 respondent who prepare budget)	100.00	94
	Maintenance of Farm Record		
10.	Yes	50.00	75
	No	50.00	75
	Total	100.00	150
11.	Production Record (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)	84.00	63
12.	Sales Record (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)	86.67	65
13.	Expenses and Revenue Record (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)	97.33	73
14.	Agri-Input Inventory Record (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)	81.33	61
15.	Financial Record (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)	38.67	29
	Farm Record Keeping Nature		
16.	Manual (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)	100.00	75
	Frequency of Farm Record Keeping (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)		
17.	Daily	56.00	42
	Once in two day	08.00	16
	Weekly	21.40	06
	Fortnightly	06.60	05
	Monthly	08.00	06
	Total	100.00	75
	Farm Record Maintained By (Out of 75 respondent who maintain record)		
18.	Self	80.00	60
	Family Member	18.67	14
	Employee	00.33	01
	Total	100.00	75
	Opinion about Farm Record Keeping Helpfulness (Out of 150 respondent)		
19.	Yes	60.70	91
	No	39.30	59
	Total	100.00	150

Level of Record Keeping Among Farmers

Out of total respondents, those who are maintaining different types of record books, respondents are divided into low, moderate and high levels of record keeping. Those respondents who maintained only one farm record book are only 7.00 percent and come under low level of record keeping. Maximum numbers of respondents i.e. 75.00 percent (Out of total who maintains farm records) are maintaining 4 to 5 record books. This indicates the majority are maintaining maximum types of record books.

Table No. 4. 2

Level of Record Keeping			
		Frequency	Percent
0	-	75	-
1	Low	5	7
2 to 3	Moderate	14	19
4 to 5	High	56	75
		75	100

Benefits of Farm Record Keeping

Out of total farmers, 50% farmers who maintain farm records have given their opinion regarding various benefits on five point Likert scale. As per the respondents, identifying strong & weak points of business and provide basis for farm planning are the major benefits generated by proper maintenance of farm record keeping with mean score of 4.3. Determination of expenses & revenue of current year, help in comparison of result with previous year, information about use of agri-input materials and help in availing the farm credit are some of the other major significant benefits indicated by the farm record keepers from the total sample with mean score of 4.2.

Table No. 4. 3

Benefits of Farm Record Keeping	Mean Score	Rank
Identify strong & weak point of business	4.3	1
Provide basis for farm planning	4.3	1
Determination of expenses & revenue of current year	4.2	2
Help in comparison of result with previous year	4.2	2
Information about use of agri-input materials	4.2	2
Help in availing the farm credit	4.2	2
Help in availing the government subsidy	4.1	3
Help in selection of crops	3.9	4
Help in crop insurance claim	2.9	5
Provide information about production & cost of production	2.6	6
Provide information about most cost efficient crop	2.5	7

Reasons for Non-Maintenance of Farm Records

Out of total farmers, 50.00 percent have revealed the non- maintenance of any of the farm record. The major reasons, which lead to the non-maintenance of farm records are, illiteracy of farmers with regard to record keeping with mean score of 3.90, lack of time with mean score of 3.20 and lack of awareness with regard to various types of record keeping with mean score of 3.16. This clearly indicates that, the lack of proper understanding regarding the record keeping types and methods unable them to maintain farm records. Lack of time in maintenance of farm records is also led by the

awareness and illiteracy to record keeping.

Table No. 4. 4

Reason which Leads for non-Maintenance of Farm Records	Mean Score	Rank
Illiteracy of farmers with regards to record keeping	3.90	1
Lack of time	3.20	2
Lack of awareness with regard to types of record keeping	3.16	3
Considering farming is not a business	3.10	4
High cost of keeping farm records	3.00	5
Inconsistency in farming income	2.90	6
Agriculture income is exempted from tax	2.70	7
Non involvement of farmers in planning	2.00	8

Factors Effecting Maintenance of Farm Records

Three factors i.e. education, farmer's land holding size and annual income are considered as the factors which lead to maintenance of farm records. These hypotheses are analyzed using the chi-square contingency test. The results of the same are shown in separate sub-heads below;

Education and Maintenance of Farm Records

The table no.4.5 indicates the impact of education on maintenance of farm records. The value of chi-square is 8.375 at degree of freedom 03. The p-value 0.039 indicates the significant association between the education and maintenance of farm records. As education level increases, farmers with maintained farm records are also increasing as compared to non maintainer of farm records. In case of farmers' shift from graduate to Post graduate category it shows decreasing trend. This may be because of the less number of representations under post graduate farmers.

Table No. 4. 5

Education * Maintenance of Farm Records ,Cross tabulation				
		Maintenance of Farm Records		Total
		NO	YES	
Education	Illiterate	1	1	2
	12th & below	55	41	96
	Graduate & equivalent	16	32	48
	Post graduate	3	1	4
Total		75	75	150

Chi-square = 8.375
p-value = .039*

df = 3
0.05 Significant level

Land Holding Size and Maintenance of Farm Records

The table no. 4.6 indicates the impact of Land holding size on maintenance of farm records. The value of chi-square is 14.677 at degree of freedom 04. The p-value 0.005 indicates the highly significant association between the Land Holding Size and maintenance of farm records. The cross tabulation between the two variable also shows an increasing trend of farm record maintainers with increase in the land holding size.

Table No. 4. 6

Land Holding Size * Maintenance of Farm Records ,Cross Tabulation				
Land holding size		Maintenance Of Farm Records		Total
		NO	YES	
	Below 01 ha	16	7	23
	01 ha & below 02 ha	16	13	29
	02 ha & below 04 ha	20	18	38
	04 ha & below 10 ha	20	19	39
	10 ha & above	3	18	21
	Total	75	75	150

Chi-square = 14.677
p-value = .005**

df = 4
0.01 Significant level

ANNUAL INCOME AND MAINTENANCE OF FARM RECORDS

The table no. 4.7 indicates the impact of annual income on maintenance of farm records. The value of chi-square is 19.322 at degree of freedom 04. The p-value 0.001 indicates the highly significant association between the annual income and maintenance of farm records. The cross tabulation between the two variables also shows higher number of farmers maintained farm records as compared to farmers who are not maintaining farm records with increase in the annual income.

Table No. 4. 7

Annual Income * Maintenance of Farm Records,				
Annual Income		Maintenance of Farm Records		Total
		NO	YES	
	< Rs.100000	34	18	52
	Rs.100000 – Rs.250000	22	26	48
	Rs.250000 – Rs.500000	14	19	33
	Rs.500000 – Rs.1000000	4	0	4
	Rs.1000000+	1	12	13
	Total	75	75	150

Chi-square = 19.322
p-value = .001**

df = 4
0.01 Significant level

CONCLUSIONS

The study was focused to identify the status of the farm record keeping practices among farmers, which is very much critical for proper planning and management in the business of farming. Farming like any other business requires sharp and systematic decision making process for proper utilization of available resources and maximum output. Maintenance of financial records is the life line of any business as it helps to identify the errors as well as provides the direction for future.

The present study indicates that 62.67 percent farmers in the chosen area are preparing the budget either crop

wise, year wise or season wise. Out of this most of the farmers i.e. 50.00 percent are preparing budget crop wise. These indicate the good tendency among the farmers for planning and control the scarce resources available to them. Half of the surveyed farmers are maintaining farm records and most of them are maintaining expense and revenue record i.e. 97.33. Only 38.67 percent of farmers out of total farm record maintainers are maintaining financial record, which is most significant record in farm management. Total farmers who maintain the at least one farm record are maintaining manually. The manual mode of posting transaction is cumbersome and tedious in nature. Again 56.00 percent of farmers are maintaining farm records day to day manner, while 8.00 percent are maintaining monthly basis. Around 75 percent of the farmers are maintaining 4 to 5 records in their farming business. The record keepers have indicated that identifying strong and weak points of farming business and providing basis of farm planning as the most important benefits availed by them. Those farmers who don't maintain farm records have indicated illiteracy with regards to record keeping, lack of time as well as awareness with regard to various types of record keeping as the most important reasons leading to non maintenance of farm records. Education, Land holding size and income shows significant association with the maintenance of farm records.

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