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IMPACT OF URBANISATION ON SERICULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN KARNATAKA

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and S.M.H. Qadri*

ABSTRACT

Sericulture is an agro-based labour intensive activity, which plays a significant role in the development of rural economy in India. Karnataka is the leading producer of silk in India, which contributes for about 50 per cent of the mulberry raw silk production in the country. In Karnataka, the silk production is concentrated in the southern region comprising Bangalore-Urban, Bangalore-Rural, Ramanagaram, Chikkaballapura, Kolar and Tumkur districts. The speedy urbanisation and the possible fall out of implementation of Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the surrounding areas of Bangalore in the recent years have led to diversion of land and labour for non-agricultural uses. Changes in the climate, pressure on the availability of water etc. are the other factors adversely affecting sericulture development in the southern region. In this context, the study was taken up to analyse the impact of urbanisation on productivity, profitability and expansion of sericulture in the peri-urban areas of Bangalore. The compound annual growth rate computed for area under mulberry in different taluks in Bangalore-Urban, Bangalore-Rural and Ramanagaram districts for the period between 1996-97 and 2007-08 indicated a sharp decline in the area under mulberry, invariably in all taluks. The study also revealed the prominence of the small sized sericulture farms and higher economic efficiency in the peri-urban region compared to sericulture farms in Mandya district of Karnataka. The major constraints faced by the farmers in practising sericulture in the urban areas were difficulty in the availability of labour, higher labour wages, pollution, high input costs and irrigation water problems.
LIVELIHOOD DEPENDENCE ON COMMON PROPERTY LAND RESOURCES– A FIELD STUDY IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

MS Pathania, GD Vashist, KD Sharma and Harbans Lal*

ABSTRACT

The grazing of animals on CPR lands was maximum during winter followed by rainy season. The dependence on CPR products was noticed higher on marginal farms than small farms indicating that dependence on CPR lands decreased with increase in landholding size. The quantity of stones and sand collected from common lands (nallah and small river) was higher than the quantity collected from own lands. On all farms, the different CPR products contributed Rs 17,425 per farm per year to the total income. The maximum contribution (30.76 per cent) was made by grazing followed by material extracted from mining (29.33 per cent) and fodder (19.80 per cent). Fuelwood, timber, farm implements, stacking sticks, fencing, NTFP, leaves for compost contributed from 0.02 to 7.17 per cent to the total income generated from the CPRs by the households. Keeping in view the importance of CPRs, there is an urgent need to increase productivity of CPR lands and to ensure the involvement of local people in the management of these resources.
Crop diversification in favour of more remunerative and high valued crops has been reckoned as an important strategy to increase the income and employment opportunities of the farmers in the State of Uttar Pradesh. It has been adopted in the 'Agricultural Policy of Uttar Pradesh' which has emphasised the need for diversification of existing agriculture towards high value crops and develop appropriate infrastructure to accomplish regional specialisation in production of commodities best suited to their respective bio-physical endowment and improving the sustainability of soil and water resources. In the era of economic liberalisation and WTO regime, crop diversification in agriculture best suits to the market oriented development strategy. In view of this, an attempt has been made in the paper to evaluate the pattern of crop diversification achieved during the post-liberalisation period in the State of Uttar Pradesh and suggest policy modifications. The study noted that agricultural economy of Uttar Pradesh has been largely food crop based during the economic reform period as it was before. Wheat and rice are still the principal crops in the State. The pace of commercialisation in agriculture has been found to be slow in the State. Even the most commercialised western region has shown declining trend in its area under commercial crops in 2006-07 as against 1990-1991. Majority of the districts in Western, Eastern and Bundelkhand regions have lost their area of commercial crops during 2006-07 against the level of 1990-91. In this way majority of districts in Uttar Pradesh have slipped down from their ranks in 2006-07 as compared to their position in the year 1990-91 as far as the level of commercialisation in agriculture was concerned.

The role of cropping intensity in boosting the area of cash crops has been found to be negligible. The observed trends are deterrent in achieving the objectives of Agricultural Policy of Uttar Pradesh which has emphasised the speedy commercialisation of agriculture through cultivation of high value crops by crop intensification. The trend necessitates the infrastructural support and improving the delivery mechanism of promotional policies of farm sector in the State.
ABSTRACT

This paper, drawing upon a primary research conducted in 2006-07 in two districts each of Haryana and Orissa States, assesses the governance issues in the operations of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in rural India. Varimax analysis of the performance parameters identifies the underlying factors which have an impact on the governance of SHGs, and the performance of micro-finance ventures. The main problem areas are found to be low financial base due to the absence of appropriate credit linkages, non-provision of socio-economic incentives to members, and the lack of group commitment to task accomplishment. The results underline the need for an integrated approach to programme governance in rural areas. The paper concludes with policy lessons which can help in improving the implementation of rural self-employment programmes.
MUSHROOM CULTIVATION USING AGRICULTURAL WASTES AS A SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD ALTERNATIVE FOR RESOURCE POOR SC/ST RURAL WOMEN

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ABSTRACT

Emancipation of women is an important indicator of economic development. Rural women are well organised in recent years through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), but no significant efforts are made for them to venture into entrepreneurial activities. The study was undertaken to know the impact of extension intervention in adopting mushroom cultivation among the resource poor scheduled caste/scheduled tribe (SC/ST) rural women using locally available agricultural wastes in four districts of Karnataka State viz., Shimoga, Mandya, Hassan, and Tumkur where agricultural wastes such as areca husk, coffee husk, sugarcane trash and coconut coir pith are available respectively, in abundant quantity. The results revealed that there has been an appreciable improvement in the mean score of knowledge on all aspects of mushroom cultivation before-and-after the interventions. They got fairly good crop and the average yield of mushroom per spawn pocket that ranged from 0.90 kg to 1.10 kg with the sale price lying between Rs. 40 and Rs. 52 per kg. Based on the study, it is recommended to promote mushroom cultivation through capacity building, extending facilities for creating the required infrastructure and developing local markets for mushrooms in the mid-day meal scheme, hospitals, hostels and prisons.
RURAL NON-AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT IN KARNATAKA: EMERGING ISSUES AND EVIDENCES

R. R. Biradar and N.S. Kusugal*

ABSTRACT

There has been a moderate shift of workers away from agriculture in favour of rural non-agricultural employment (RNAE) with varying degrees across gender, activities and zones in the State. The shifting of male and female workers towards RNAE was determined by several factors categorised into the agricultural growth-induced factors, distress-induced factors, human capital formation and degree of urbanisation. The results of correlation matrix suggest that the expansion of male RNAE was determined by the agricultural growth-induced factors and that of female RNAE was determined by the distress/poverty-induced factors. The expansion of RNAE might be due to some distress-induced factors, but it was not necessarily in residual sector. Although it was a multivariate phenomenon, the rate of literacy has emerged as an important factor in promotion of male as well as female RNAE in the State.
PARTICIPATORY LEARNING AND ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA - A CASE STUDY OF DIDHSARI VILLAGE, UTTARKASHI, UTTARAKHAND

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ABSTRACT

For any development facilitator, a potential paradox can arise when assisting in self-reliant participatory development. This occurs when the facilitator tries to help and encourage people to develop themselves and in doing so undermines their self-reliance and sustainability, the very aim of development. Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) exercise was carried out during 25 to 29 April, 2009 at Didhsari, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand, India. Some of the critical factors like socio-economic condition of the village including present status of agriculture, education and health, poverty, unemployment and livelihoods of the people and people’s perception on the Panchayati Raj Institutions were studied and analysed. Besides, a few self-sustainable and employment generation programmes were identified based on societal needs and an action plan was proposed through participatory approaches. The study would be helpful for the planners and administrators not only in better realisation of the socio-economic condition of the villagers but also in successful implementation of the proposed integrated approaches for sustainable rural development in Didhsari and surrounding villages.
COASTAL AQUACULTURE,
RURAL LIVELIHOODS
AND ENVIRONMENT
Insight from Orissa, India

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ABSTRACT

The paper examines the diverse impacts of coastal shrimp aquaculture on communities in Orissa (India). Shrimp farming has played an important role in generating employment opportunities and raising per capita income. This, in turn, has resulted in decreased dependency on agriculture and artisan fisheries for food and income. Unfortunately, the development of shrimp farming has also had a detrimental impact on coastal ecosystems. Environmental degradation and concerns over shrimp farming practices, now threaten the long-term viability of shrimp farming. Unless suitable measures are taken to overcome the problems faced by the local farmers, the potential that shrimp farming has to provide a basis for sustainable livelihoods will not be realised.
AN ANALYSIS OF FACTORS INFLUENCING INTERNET USE BY AGRICULTURAL OFFICERS AND EXPERTS: A CASE STUDY IN YAZD PROVINCE OF IRAN

H.Sh.Fami, Z. Golshiri and H. Varmazyari*

ABSTRACT

Information technology plays an important role in agricultural development. Application of this technology is one of the main strategies in the agricultural development policy framework in Iran. Accordingly, this study was conducted in Yazd province of Iran with the main objective of investigating the status of internet use by the agricultural officers and experts of the area. A survey method was adopted for the study and 153 people were selected as sample out of 971 agricultural officers and experts working throughout the province. A questionnaire was developed as the tool of study. The main scales of the questionnaire were found to be valid and reliable. The results showed that a majority of the respondents used internet at high extent. The respondents revealed that they use internet generally to find out new public and expert information on agriculture. According to the study there was significant relationship between internet use of the respondents and their age, attitude towards applying IT for agricultural development, educational level, working experience and some other variables. Step-wise regression analysis indicated that three variables, viz., skill to use internet, access to internet and attitude towards applying information technology (IT) for agricultural development totally accounted for 73 per cent of variation in the extent of internet use by the respondents. The findings revealed that five factors/components containing 25 variables determined about 78.53 per cent of variations of internet use for agricultural development: Positive attitude towards internet use, Enhancing professional competency to use internet, Organisational support to provide necessary prerequisites, Easy and reliable access to internet and Reduction of personal internet connection cost.