

EFFECTIVENESS OF NFSM IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS DERIVED BY THE WHEAT GROWERS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan because National Food Security Mission is running since May, 2007. Total 80 beneficiary and 80 non-beneficiary farmers were selected from two panchayat samities of identified district. Data were collected by personal interview technique from selected respondents. The study revealed that the 77.50 per cent beneficiary farmers and only 15.00 per cent non-beneficiary farmers had high economic benefits level i.e. more than Rs. 55362/year and 6.25 per cent beneficiary farmers and 36.25 per cent non-beneficiary farmers obtained economic benefits from wheat crop upto Rs. 22525/year. Whereas, 16.25 per cent farmers and 48.75 per cent non-beneficiary farmers were getting income from Rs. 22525 to 55362/year due to wheat cultivation. Further, there was significant difference in level of economic benefits between beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers from wheat cultivation. This significant difference was due to the fact that beneficiary farmers adopted the wheat interventions introduced under National Food Security Mission. Thus, it can safely be concluded that NFSM is most effective in terms of economic benefits derived by wheat growers in Udaipur district of Rajasthan.

INTRODUCTION

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in the year 2007 with the overall objective is to facilitate and accelerates the sustainable transformation of the Indian agriculture so that it can support poverty alleviation and income generation through collaborative development and application of agricultural innovations by the public organizations in partnership with farmers' groups, the private sectors and other stakeholders.

The mission is being implemented in 312 districts of 17 states in India for food crops like rice, wheat and pulses. Total states come under rice, wheat and pulses are 14, 9 and 14 respectively and districts 136, 141 and 141 respectively. Mission has a focussed approach. Districts with large area under food crops and despite yield potential having less productivity less than states have been selected. Some of the distinctive features of the selected districts include poor rural infrastructure, poor human resource development, inadequate power

availability, low institutional credit, no developed markets and poverty. The area targeted under the scheme is 20 Mha of rice, 13 Mha of wheat and 17 Mha of pulses covering about 40 per cent of cropped area for focused attention.

The duration of mission is for 5 years from 2007 to 2012. This mission is being run at present in 15 districts of Rajasthan under the component of wheat (Wheat-NFSM) and pulse (Pulse-NFSM). In Rajasthan, rice is not covered under this mission. According to the approaches of the mission good efforts are being made by introducing important interventions of wheat in the study area. The mission is in full swing and so far no such study in the operational area of the mission has been conducted. Therefore, the present study was conducted with following specific objectives:

1. To find out the extent of economic benefits derived by beneficiaries on account of adoption of wheat interventions under National Food Security Mission.

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2. To know the significant difference between beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers about economic benefits derived from cultivation of wheat crop.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Udaipur was selected purposively on the basis of maximum number of household beneficiaries under wheat cultivation covered in southern Rajasthan. There are eleven panchayat samities in Udaipur district of Rajasthan, out of which two panchayat samities namely, Mavli and Salumber were selected on the basis of maximum number of wheat interventions introduced under NFSM. For selection of villages, five villages having maximum number of beneficiaries of NFSM were selected from each identified panchayat samiti. Thus, ten villages were selected as beneficiary villages. Likewise, five distant villages were selected from each identified panchayat samiti where the Mission was not in operation. Thus, ten villages were selected as non-beneficiary villages. To select the beneficiary respondents, a comprehensive list of beneficiary wheat growers was prepared with the help of personnel of Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) office from the selected villages. The list so prepared, 80 beneficiary respondents were

selected by adopting proportionately random sample technique from identified villages. Likewise, 80 non-beneficiary respondents were selected by randomly from identified villages. Thus, in all 160 respondents (80 beneficiary and 80 non-beneficiary respondents) were included in the sample of study. Data were collected from selected respondents by employing personal interview technique. Thereafter, data were analyzed, tabulated and results were interpreted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is initiated for enhancing the food grain production of wheat, rice and pulse crops through area expansion and productivity enhancement, restoring soil fertility and productivity, creating employment opportunity and enhancing farm level economy to restore confidence of farmers of targeted district. In this connection, the present investigation was carried out to find out the economic benefits derived by beneficiaries on account of adoption of wheat interventions introduced under NFSM. The economic benefits of non-beneficiary farmers due to cultivation of wheat crop were also worked out for comparison with economic benefits of beneficiary farmers.

Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their economic benefits due to wheat cultivation

		n =160					
S. No.	Level of economic benefits	Beneficiary farmers		Non-beneficiary farmers		Total	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Low (Upto Rs. 22525/year)	5	6.25	29	36.25	34	21.25
2.	Medium (Rs. 22525 to 55362/year)	13	16.25	39	48.75	52	32.50
3.	High (Above Rs. 55362/ year)	62	77.50	12	15.00	74	46.25
	Total	80	100.00	80	100.00	160	100

f = Frequency, % = per cent

Table 1 reveals that the out of 160 respondents, 74 (46.25 %) respondents in high economic benefit group i.e. above Rs. 55362/year. Whereas, 52 wheat growers (32.50 %) could be placed under medium level of economic benefit group viz., ranging from Rs. 22525 to 55362/year and 34 respondents (21.25 %) were found in the low economic benefit group upto Rs. 22525/ year. A comparative view of

economic benefits derived from wheat crop highlights that 77.50 per cent beneficiary farmers and only 15.000 per cent non-beneficiary farmers were observed in the group of high economic benefit level (more than Rs. 55362/year). It was further noted that only 6.25 per cent beneficiary farmers and 36.25 per cent non-beneficiary farmers possessed their economic benefits from wheat crop

upto Rs. 22525/year. Whereas, 16.25 per cent beneficiary farmers and 48.75 per cent non-beneficiary farmers were found to be in the group of medium economic benefit ranging from Rs. 22525 to 55362/ year due to wheat cultivation.

From the above discussion it could be concluded that more than 90.00 per cent beneficiary farmers were either in high or medium economic benefit group. This was due to the fact that beneficiary farmers adopted the wheat interventions introduced under National Food Security Mission. Hence, there was a good impact on beneficiary farmers so that they obtained

economic benefits at higher level from cultivation of wheat. On the basis of results it can be recommended that NFSM on wheat may be continued for next five years in Udaipur district so that all wheat growers may be benefitted by this scheme. The present finding is similar with the findings of Singh et al. (2009) and Samota (2011).

To find out the variation or similarity in the economic benefits derived by the respondents through adoption of recommended wheat interventions between beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers, 'Z' test was applied.

Table 2. Comparison between beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers about economic benefits derived from adoption of recommended wheat interventions n = 160

S.No.	Category of respondents	Mean value	S.D.	'Z' value
1.	Beneficiary farmers	46256	17895	5.61**
2.	Non-beneficiary farmers	31630	14943	

** Significant at 1 per cent level of significance

Table 2 indicates that 'Z' value (5.61) was greater than its tabulated value at 1 per cent level of significance. It leads to the conclusion that there had been significant difference in the economic benefits derived by the beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers on account of adoption of recommended interventions of wheat crop.

Further analysis of table shows that mean score of beneficiary farmers is more than non-beneficiary farmers, which clearly indicates that beneficiary farmers had more economic benefits due to recommended interventions of wheat crop introduced under the National Food Security Mission.

From the above results it can safely be concluded that National Food Security Mission is most effective in terms of economic benefits derived due to wheat interventions introduced in Udaipur district. The present finding is similar with the findings of Reddy and Patil (1998).

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it can be concluded that the majority of the beneficiary respondents (77.50 %) were in high economic benefits viz., more than Rs. 55362 per annum, while income of 16.25 per cent beneficiary respondents from wheat cultivation

were in medium economic benefits viz., ranging from Rs. 22525 to 55362 per annum and 6.25 per cent beneficiary respondents obtained upto Rs. 22525 per annum from wheat cultivation. It was further noted that there was a significant difference in level of economic benefits between beneficiary and non-beneficiary farmers from wheat cultivation. Thus, the NFSM played a significant role in more economic benefits derived from wheat cultivation by the beneficiary farmers.

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