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## Suggestions of rural youths for development of agriculture

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**Abstract**

Indian agriculture is facing many hitches even though exhaustive research has been for improvement farming and farmers. Nowadays rural youths are playing significant role for boosting the agriculture. Present study was conducted in Maharashtra and Karnataka states to seek the opinions of rural youths for development of agriculture. Many suggestions were received off which major were considered for socio-economic uplifting of the farmers. Foremost propositions acknowledged were adoption of organic farming and reduction in cost of inputs and ultimately cultivation, lack of irrigation facilities and mechanization, availability of subsidized agriculture loan, poor policies, electricity power cut, inadequate market facilities and apathy towards agriculture.

**Keywords:** Rural youths, agriculture, youths' interests, cost of cultivation

**Introduction**

In India primary occupation of villagers is still agriculture and its allied enterprises. India is a young country and rural youth constitutes about 41% of total population of India. In the present scenario the interest of rural people especially rural youth is declining towards agriculture. This upright profession of agriculture is going on backfoot among different sources of farmers' income due to decreasing profit when compared with total cost of production. rural youth have energy which can be utilized in the overall improvement of agriculture. Moreover, they can be engaged in innovative way of farming keeping in view changing scenario. It is the need of the hour to make agriculture occupation remunerative to sustain the interest of youth towards agriculture. Rural youths also aspire to lead a prosperous life like urban ones and if profession of agriculture makes them capable enough to satisfy their basic needs and other genuine luxuries of life then attraction of rural youths towards agriculture will be natural. On the basis of last few years studies it has been observed that only 20% youth of rural families are directly engaged in the agriculture as a source of employment which is an indicator of sorry situation of agriculture. Decreasing size of land holding, increasing population, decreasing profit, want of better living standard etc. are the important factors responsible for taking away youth from agriculture profession. It is imperative to take confident steps to make agriculture profitable and rural youth can play crucial role in this respect. This can be realized by promoting agri-based ventures. Rural youth should be provided training at grassroot level for taking up these income generating enterprises as per their interest and availability of resources along with proper financial support at low interest rate from banks and other institutions. In this respect, the suggestions of rural youth are very important to bring agriculture on forefront.

**Material and Methods**

The present study was undertaken in Sindhudurga district of Maharashtra state and Belagavi District of Karnataka state. An exploratory research design of social research was followed. The data were collected from primary and secondary sources using questionnaire which was subjected for statistical analysis and interpretation. Door to door survey of 120 respondents was carried out to find suggestions of rural youth for development of agriculture.

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## Results and Discussion

An attempt was also made to ascertain suggestions from the rural youths to overcome various constraints faced by them in adopting agriculture. The rural youths were requested to offer their valuable suggestions against difficulties faced by them in agriculture. The suggestions given by the rural youths were collected, summarized and presented in Table 1.

Apparently from Table 1, it was concluded at overall level that, more than three-fifth (67.50 per cent) of the rural youths suggested that, cost of inputs should be minimized by the concerned agencies followed by sufficient electric power should be provided regularly (54.16 per cent), Government should improve the agriculture policies especially for the financial support (52.50 per cent), Soil testing should be done (51.66 per cent), regular guidance should be provided to the small farmers (48.33 per cent), regulate the supply of farm inputs at local level and in time by the government (41.66 per cent), proper marketing facilities should be established in the village (41.16 per cent). Further, equal (40.00 per cent) number of rural youths suggested that organic farming should be practiced by the farmers and to provide farm machinery at subsidized rates and the custom of hiring should be facilitated.

It was observed that, more than three-fifth (61.66 per cent) of the rural youths from Maharashtra had suggested that organic farming should be done by the farmers in contrary and only 18.33 per cent of the rural youths from Karnataka had advocated organic farming. Further, it is observed that,

more than half (51.66 per cent) of the rural youths from Maharashtra suggested that, cost of inputs should be minimized by the concerned agencies, regular guidance should be provided to the small farmers (41.66 per cent), regulate the supply of farm inputs at local level and in time by the government (35.00 per cent), Soil testing should be done (33.33 per cent) and equal (30.00 per cent) of the rural youths suggested to provide farm machinery at subsidized rates and the custom of hiring should be facilitated and Government should improve the agriculture policies especially for the financial support. While, 22.50 per cent and only 16.66 per cent of the rural youths suggested that proper marketing facilities should be established in the villages and sufficient electric power should be provided regularly respectively.

On the other hand, majority (91.66 per cent) of the rural youths from Karnataka had suggested for Sufficient electric power should be provided regularly followed by Cost of inputs should be minimized by the concerned agencies (83.33 per cent), Government should improve the agriculture policies especially for the financial support (75.00 per cent), Soil testing should be done (70.00 per cent), proper marketing facilities should be established in the village (60.00 per cent), regular guidance should be provided to the small farmers (55.00 per cent), provide farm machinery at subsidized rates and the custom of hiring should be facilitated (50.00 per cent) and 48.33 per cent of the rural youths suggested to regulate the supply of farm inputs at local level and in time by the government.

**Table 1:** Suggestions of the rural youths from Maharashtra and Karnataka for the development of agriculture.

| Sl. No. | Suggestions  | Respondents (N=120) |          |                  |          | Total (N=120) |          |
|---------|--|---------------------|----------|------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
|         |  | Maharashtra (N=60)  |          | Karnataka (N=60) |          | Number        | Per cent |
|         |  | Number              | Per cent | Number           | Per cent |               |          |
| 1.      | Cost of inputs should be minimized by the concerned agencies.                              | 31                  | 51.66    | 50               | 83.33    | 81            | 67.50    |
| 2.      | Sufficient electric power should be provided regularly.                                    | 10                  | 16.66    | 55               | 91.66    | 65            | 54.16    |
| 3.      | Government should improve the agriculture policies especially for the financial support.   | 18                  | 30.00    | 45               | 75.00    | 63            | 52.50    |
| 4.      | Soil testing should be done.   | 20                  | 33.33    | 42               | 70.00    | 62            | 51.66    |
| 5.      | Regular guidance should be provided to the small farmers.                                  | 25                  | 41.66    | 33               | 55.00    | 58            | 48.33    |
| 6.      | Regulate the supply of farm inputs at local level and in time by the government.           | 21                  | 35.00    | 29               | 48.33    | 50            | 41.66    |
| 7.      | Proper marketing facilities should be established in the village.                          | 27                  | 22.50    | 36               | 60.00    | 53            | 41.16    |
| 8.      | Organic farming should be done by the farmers.   | 37                  | 61.66    | 11               | 18.33    | 48            | 40.00    |
| 9.      | Provide farm machinery at subsidized rates and the custom of hiring should be facilitated. | 18                  | 30.00    | 30               | 50.00    | 48            | 40.00    |

## Conclusion

The suggestions offered by the rural youths are more or less situational in nature and on the basis of their indirect observations. However, it is an indication of their interest and inclination towards agriculture and these needs to be taken in to considerations by the concerned developmental agencies in both the regions. The study has brought out major suggestions around input supply, electricity supply, soil testing and policy making. The government and concerned supply agencies may take suitable steps to fulfil these needs of rural youths.

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