



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF FARMERS THROUGH ANDHRA PRAGATHI GRAMEENA BANK (APGB) IN DROUGHT-PRONE AREA - WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO BATHALAPALLI MANDAL OF ANANTHAPURAMU DISTRICT

ABSTRACT

The India primary sector is agricultural sector. Majority of the rural people are depending on agricultural sector and its important key role in Indian economy. Agricultural products- tea, sugar, oilseeds, tobacco, spices, etc., constitute the main items of exports of India. Broadly speaking, the proportion of agricultural goods which are exported may amount to 50 per cent of our exports, and manufactures with agricultural content (such goods as manufactured jute, cloth and sugar) contribute another 20 per cent or so; and the total comes to 70 per cent of India's exports. This has great significance for economic development. For, increased exports help the country to pay for the increased imports of machinery and raw materials. The general economic development will require rapid agricultural development either to precede or to go hand in hand with it. Agricultural credit is one of the most crucial inputs in all agricultural development programmes. This source of credit was inadequate and highly expensive and exploitative. The Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs) provide mainly short and medium term loans and Land Development Banks (LDBs) provide long term loans to the agricultural sector. The Commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) provide both short and term loans for agriculture and allied activities. Hence, the paper highlights economic development of farmers through Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) like Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank in Bathapalli Mandal of Anantapuramu district.

Dr. B. Venkatappa¹

Post-Doctoral Fellow,
Department of Economics &
Applied Economics,
Sri Krishnadevaraya University,
Anantapuramu, Andhra Pradesh,
India,

KEY WORDS: Agriculture, Regional Rural Banks, Indian Economy, Economic Development.

INTRODUCTION

The India primary sector is agricultural sector. Majority of the rural people are depending on agricultural sector and it's an important key role in Indian economy. Agricultural products- tea, sugar, oilseeds, tobacco, spices, etc., constitute the main items of exports of India. Broadly speaking, the proportion of agricultural goods which are exported may amount to 50 per cent of our exports, and manufactures with agricultural content (such goods as manufactured jute, cloth and sugar) contribute another

20 per cent or so; and the total comes to 70 per cent of India's exports. This has great significance for economic development. For, increased exports help the country to pay for the increased imports of machinery and raw materials. The general economic development will require rapid agricultural development either to precede or to go hand in hand with it. Indian planners learnt a better lesson during the second and third five year plan periods when failure of the agricultural sector spelt disaster to the entire



planning process. Agricultural credit is one of the most crucial inputs in all agricultural development programmes. For a long time, the major source of agricultural credit was the private money-lenders. This source of credit was inadequate and highly expensive and exploitative. The Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACs) provide mainly short and medium term loans and Land Development Banks (LDBs) provide long term loans to the agricultural sector. The Commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) provide both short and term loans for agriculture and allied activities. Hence, the paper highlights impact of Rural banks on the farmers of weaker section in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh.

REGIONAL RURAL BANKS

The regional rural banks, it is viewed, have performed their business nearing to the target. However, in terms of managerial performance, they too are no way better than that of the commercial and cooperative banks. The reasons for this sorry state of affairs are varied; and the prudence of management in terms of financial viable and commercial feasible is one among them. A management with sound financial and managerial operations, no doubt, sets in better financial management generating surplus income and enlivens the projects of economic significance.

IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Though different aspects of agricultural credit by cooperatives and commercial banks have been studied and highlighted, the significance of credit made available by the Regional Rural banks to both agricultural and non-agriculture sectors is an area yet to be fully analysed which pronounces the need for this study. As it is indisputable that the weaker sections in rural areas are having a miserable existence on the financial front, the subject of rural credit has come in for a critical review by different expert committees from time to time so far, there are no in-depth studies on the performance of Andhra Pragathi Gameena Bank to cater the needs of farmers belonging to weaker sections. Hence an attempt is made in this study to examine the extent of credit given to weaker section farmers engaged in agricultural activities by the regional Rural Banks. The present study is confined to the role of Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank in Anantapuramu district of Andhra Pradesh. Thus the role of the Grameena Bank with its specified salient features is critically analysed with due emphasis on the utilization of credit by the borrowers of agricultural loans.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are

- To study the importance of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for the weaker sections
- To identify the type and sources of credit required by the farmers
- To analyse the economic development of farmers in Bathalapalli mandal of Ananthapuramu district
- To draw the conclusions

METHODOLOGY

The present study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary data was collected from the selected farmers who were provided assistance by Sri Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank and the farmers who did not received any benefit from the Bank were selected by using with an without approach a questionnaire was prepared and administered to the farmers, personal visits were made to the selected mandal to make on the spot study of various socio-economic conditions of the farmers.

The secondary data was collected mostly from Annual Reports, Action Plans, and Reports of various studies and Government publications of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The basic literature relating to Regional Rural Banks, status of farmers and strategies were collected from various books and journals. Data was collected mostly from the reports of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

SAMPLING

The present study, one mandal is selected like Bathalapalli Mandal in Anantapuramu district. It is medium developed mandal and 120 beneficiaries were selected through the stratified random sampling.

STUDY AREA

Bathalapalli mandal is one of the Medium Developed mandals of Anantapuramu district in Rayalaseema region. The total geographical area of the mandal is 23,073 hectares consisting of 11 revenue villages. In this mandal cultivation is carried out in Kharif and Rabi seasons. The first seasons commence from June and the Second season commences from November. The area of irrigated through various sources is as follows. Area irrigated more than once is 589 hectares. The total Gross Area irrigated in Kharif and Rabi seasons is 1,507 hectares. Through Tube-well and Filter Points 943 hectares are irrigated under crops and through other wells 564 hectares is under irrigation of crops.

Table 1 caste-wise coverage of beneficiaries under APGB in Bathalapalli mandal

S.No	Name of the Caste	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage to total
1	Scheduled Caste	38	31.67
2	Scheduled Tribe	34	28.33
3	Backward Castes	48	40.00
	Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey

As per the table 1 beneficiaries of different castes are found in Bathalapalli mandal, 31.67 per cent of the beneficiaries belongs to Scheduled Castes, 28.33 per cent of beneficiaries belongs to Scheduled Tribes and 40.00

per cent of the beneficiaries belongs to Backward Castes. The table concluded that majority of the respondents are belongs to Backward Castes in the study area.

Table 2 type of houses among the APGB beneficiaries in select mandal

S. No	Type of House	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage to total
1	Pucca	26	21.67
2	Semi-pucca	32	26.67
3	Kuccha	62	51.66
	Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table 2 shows the type of house in which the farmers are living. All the sample beneficiary farmers have house of their own. Because the rented houses are not available in small villages in Rayalaseema, so, everyone has their own house, whether it is a pucca house or Kucha

house. Out of total beneficiaries 21.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have pucca houses, 26.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have Semi-pucca houses and 51.66 per cent of the beneficiaries have Kuccha houses.

Table 3 land holding of the selected respondents under APGB

S.No	Irrigated Land (Acres)	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage to total
1	Upto 2	36	30.00
2	3 to 5	44	36.67
3	6 and above	40	33.33
	Total	120	100.00

Source : Field survey

The table 3 shows the particulars of irrigated land of selected beneficiaries of APGB in Bathapalli mandal. As per the table 3, it is found that 30.00 per cent of the respondents have less than 2 acres of irrigated land, 36.67

per cent of sample respondents have 3-5 acres and against this 33.33 per cent of the sample beneficiaries have 5 acres and above irrigated land.

Table 4 live stock particulars of selected beneficiaries

S.No	Cattle	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage to total
1	Bullocks	18	15.00
2	Buffaloes	56	46.67
3	Cows	12	10.00
4	Goats	10	8.33
5	Sheep	24	20.00
	Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table 4 shows the particulars of live stock possessed by selected beneficiaries of APGB in Bathalapalli mandal of Rayalseema Region. As per the above table, is found that 15.00 per cent of the beneficiaries have Bullocks,

46.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have Buffaloes, 10.00 per cent of the beneficiaries have Cows, 8.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have Goats and rest of the beneficiaries i.e.,20.00 per cent have Sheep respectively.

Table 5 cropping pattern of the selected beneficiaries in selected mandal

S.No	Name of the Crops	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage to total
1	Paddy	22	18.33
2	Groundnut	74	61.67
3	Redgram	14	11.67
4	Sunflower	10	8.33
	Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey

Table 5 shows the cropping pattern of selected beneficiaries in Bathapalli mandal. Above table reveals that, out of 120 sample respondents, 74 beneficiaries have cultivated Groundnut followed by 22 respondents are

cultivated Paddy, 14 sample respondents are cultivated Redgram and only 10 respondents are cultivated Sunflower respectively. It further concluded that, majority of the farmers are depending on Groundnut cultivation.

Table 6 loan amount received by selected beneficiaries in Bathalapalli mandal

S.No	Loan Amount	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage to total
1	Below 10,000	16	13.33
2	10,001 to 15,000	86	71.67
3	15,001 to 30,000	18	15.00
4	30,001 to 50,000	00	00.00
	Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table 6 shows that the loan amount of selected beneficiaries of APGB in selected mandal of Anantapuramu district. It is clearly indicates Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank (APGB) is providing loans to the farmers, it is clear from the table that 13.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received loan amount less than Rs.

10,000, 71.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received loan amount between Rs. 10001 to Rs. 15000 and 15.00 per cent of the beneficiaries have received loan amount between Rs. 15001 to Rs. 30000. None of them has borrowed any loan between Rs. 30001 to Rs. 50000 from APGB.

Table 7 agricultural output of the selected beneficiaries of APGB in Bathalapalli Mandal

S. No	Agricultural output	No. of beneficiaries	Percentage to total
	Paddy		
1	Below 10 Bags	04	3.33
2	10 to 20 Bags	08	6.67
3	Above 20 Bags	10	8.33
	Groundnut		
1	Below 10 Bags	14	11.67
2	10 to 20 Bags	22	18.33
3	Above 20 Bags	38	31.67
	Redgram		
1	Below 2 Bags	06	5.00
2	3 to 5 Bags	02	1.67
3	6 to 8 Bags	06	5.00
	Sunflowers		
1	Below 2 Bags	04	3.33
2	3 to 5 Bags	02	1.67
3	6 to Bags	04	3.33
	Total	120	100.00

Source: Field survey

The table 7 shows the agricultural output of the selected beneficiaries of APGB in Bathalapalli mandal. As per the above table it is found that 3.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received less than 10 bags of paddy output, 6.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received paddy between 10 bags to 20 bags and 8.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received paddy output between 20 and above bags.

As per the above table, it is found that 11.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received less than 10 bags of Groundnut output, 18.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received Groundnut output between 10 bags to 20 bags and 31.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received ground output between 20 and above bags.

It is found that 5.00 per cent of the beneficiaries have received less than 2 bags of Redgram output, 1.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received Redgram output between 3 bags to 5 bags and 5.00 per cent of the beneficiaries have received Redgram output between 6 bags to 8 bags.

It is found that 3.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received less than 2 bags of sunflower output, 1.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received sunflower output between 3 bags to 5 bags and 3.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received sunflower output between 6 bags to 8 bags.

CONCLUSION

Bathalapalli mandal is one of the Medium Developed mandals of Anantapuramu district in Rayalaseema region. The total geographical area of the mandal is 23,073 hectares consisting of 11 revenue villages.

In this mandal cultivation is carried out in Kharif and Rabi seasons. The first seasons commence from June and the Second season commences from November. The area of irrigated through various sources is as follows. Area irrigated more than once is 589 hectares. The total Gross Area irrigated in Kharif and Rabi seasons is 1,507 hectares. Through Tube-well and Filter Points 943 hectares are irrigated under crops and through other wells 564 hectares is under irrigation of crops.

It is found that majority of the respondents i.e., 71.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received loan amount between Rs. 10001 to Rs. 15000 and it further found that, majority of the farmers are depending on Groundnut cultivation. As per the data, it is found that 3.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received less than 10 bags of Paddy output, 6.67 per cent of the beneficiaries have received Paddy between 10 bags to 20 bags and 8.33 per cent of the beneficiaries have received paddy output between 20 and above bags.

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