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CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

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7.1 Introduction

Kolhapur Jangamhatti irrigation project is one of the medium irrigation projects in Kolhapur district. It is located in Chandgad taluka of Kolhapur district. This project is built on Tamraparni River in 1981 and started implementing since 1995. Farmer in Chandgad taluka have been benefited from this project. There are 14 villages covered under this irrigation project. At present, command area of the project is 4457 hectares. Consequently, agricultural scenario of the region has undergone a phenomenal changes and rural life of the command area has been gradually changing for better living.

7.2 Major Findings of the Study

Following are the major finding of the study.

1. The study showed that the number of marginal farmers and small farmers has increased significantly and the number of medium farmers and big farmers decreased remarkably.
2. Number of farmers land holding between 0 to 5 acres increased. The farmers who were not cultivated the land before the dam being construed started to cultivate the land after the construction of the dam.
3. It was also observed that area under different crops declined after the construction of dam, from 889.5 acres to 631.89

acres. Because the construction of the dam occupied the land taken from farmers. Consequently, area under cultivation has decreased. The area under cultivation of sugarcane increased from 156.62 acres (31.37%) to 209.25 acres (50.07%). In this region, sugarcane is the most preferred crop among the farmers. Farmers cultivated sugarcane as water is sufficiently available to them.

4. The survey showed that the economic conditions of farmers has been improved due to Jangamhatti irrigation project. Out of the total beneficiaries, economic condition of 62 farmers has improved directly significantly. However, some other farmers also benefited from this irrigation project. In fact, irrigation project has created significant change in socio economic life of rural community in this areas.
5. It revealed that 80% of farmers who were taking benefits of the irrigation water paid loan installment regularly and 20% of farmers were irregular in repaying the loan. This might be because of irregular and low income occurred to farmers. Moreover, the farmers could raise the loan for the purposes where more investment is required, such as land development, irrigation facility, purchase of tractor, trailer, purchase of land etc.

6. Out of the total number of beneficiaries 93% of beneficiaries had membership of cooperative society. This reveals that due to irrigation water the need of credit was increased significantly.
7. The 62% of farmers had accepted that there was an improvement in standard of living, due to increase in production and income.
8. The beneficiaries had taken more interest in social and political affairs in this area. Thus, it revealed that participation in social, political affairs was positively related with the development of irrigation in study area.
9. In study area, the Maratha caste was found to be dominating caste. At overall level 86% were Marathas followed by Mahar caste with 11% and Brahmin caste 3%.
10. In the study area it was that observed that after dam was being constructed, there has been improvement in economic status of farmers, their tendency toward nuclear family.
11. In the village of Jangamhatti it was observed that female have their active contribution in decision process regarding farming, which indicates equal status of women.

12. With growing income, people did not show much interest towards investment on the education of their children. Consequently, it was noticed that, 77% of farmer's children were participated in agriculture.
13. Moreover crop wise analysis showed that in irrigated area cropping pattern has been replaced by cash crops. Farmers are growing cash crops like sugarcane, potato, chilies, groundnut, cashewnut, rice etc. It was observed that due to irrigation, there has been improvement in yield of crops.
14. Moreover, irrigation has brought about technological changes in agriculture. There has been use of ~~HYV~~^{HYV} chemical fertilizers and other modern inputs due to availability of irrigation facility.

7.3 Suggestions

Following are some suggestions of the study.

1. People want to acquire scientific knowledge about cropping pattern, production technology, marketing and resource management. Hence, it should be provided through agricultural extension services effectively.
2. Government should give them assurance about proper price for agricultural production to make farming profitable. At present, majority of farmers sale their farm products at low prices in rural market.

3. Instead of giving compensation in the form of money, land should be allotted to affected farmers by the government.
4. Government should educate farmers about advantages of commercial agriculture.
5. Government should impose tax according to use of water which would protect the farmers from using excessive water and thus the land will be protected from alkaline, and thus it will help to make sustainable development of farming.