“IMPACT OF MERI FASAL MERA BYORA” SCHEME ON FARMERS INCOME GROWING DIRECT SEEDED RICE IN PANIPAT DISTRICT OF HARYANA

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ABSTRACT: The "Meri Fasal Meri Byora" (MFMB) scheme is an agricultural scheme launched by the Haryana government in India in the year December 25, 2018 to enhance the farmer’s income by providing them a fair price of their crops. Under the scheme farmers who have adopted Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) in their crops after launch of “Meri Fasal Mera Byora” on farmer’s growing direct seeded rice (DSR) in Panipat district of Haryana. The study is based on Primary data collected from the farmers growing DSR in the study area. The study employs a mixed-methods research design, combining both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. The findings of the study suggest that the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" scheme has had a significant positive impact on the farmer’s income in the Panipat district and also in terms of improving their access to information and resources, and increasing transparency, agricultural productivity. However, the study also highlights many challenges and limitations of the scheme, such as low adoption rates, technical glitches, inadequate training for farmers, limited awareness, understanding among farmers and the need for greater government support and investment in agriculture. The thesis concludes with suggestions for improving the effectiveness and sustainability of the scheme, as well as for further research in this area.

Keywords: MFMB, DSR, Agriculture, sustainability

INTRODUCTION
Haryana is an Indian state located in the northern part of the country. Agriculture is one of the primary occupations in the state known for its fertile land and favorable climate, making it a major contributor to India’s agricultural sector. The main agricultural crops produced in Haryana are Rice, Wheat, Sugarcane, Cotton, Oilseeds, Gram and Barley. The state enjoys the First position in the production of basmati rice, pearl millet and mustard. Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) is an increasingly popular cultivation technique in Haryana, wherein rice seeds are directly sown into the field, eliminating the need for transplanting seedlings from a nursery. Compared to traditional transplantation methods, DSR offers numerous advantages, including reduced water consumption, labor requirements, and costs. The Haryana government actively promotes the adoption of DSR among farmers by providing various incentives, such as the distribution of seed drills, equipment subsidies, and training programs. The state has set an ambitious goal of achieving 50% DSR coverage in its rice cultivation area by the year 2025. The adoption of DSR also contributes to environmental sustainability by reducing water usage and greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, DSR helps in conserving soil moisture and improves soil health, leading to higher yields and better crop quality.

Meri Fasal Mera Byora is an innovative agricultural scheme introduced by the Haryana government on December 25, 2018. This initiative aims to bring about a transformative change in the agricultural sector of the state. It aligns with the larger objective of doubling farmers’ income by the year 2022. In the Meri Fasal Mera Byora scheme, farmers who intend to sell their crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the grain markets, known as Mandies, are required to register themselves on the dedicated online portal. This step ensures that farmers have a transparent and streamlined process to access the benefits of the MSP system.

By registering on the portal, farmers can provide essential details about their crops, such as the type of crop, the area of cultivation, and the expected yield. This information helps create a comprehensive database of agricultural produce, enabling the government to effectively plan and implement various agricultural schemes and programs.

The Meri Fasal Mera Byora scheme plays a crucial role in promoting transparency and efficiency in the agricultural sector. Through the online portal, farmers have access to accurate and up-to-date information regarding weather conditions, market trends, and other relevant factors that can impact crop production and pricing.

By facilitating the registration process, the scheme ensures that farmers who wish to sell their crops at MSP receive fair and timely assistance. It eliminates the need for farmers to physically visit government offices or intermediaries to register their crops, simplifying the overall process and reducing the chances of irregularities.

MATERIALS AND METHOD
This chapter of the study describes the details of methods and procedures which are followed during the present investigation. Which are essential in order to arrive at the conclusion. Hence, this chapter has been constant to explain the methodology adopted to fulfil the objectives under study.
Panipat is located in the northern region of Haryana, which is an important agricultural region in the state with diverse agricultural landscape, with a range of crops grown, including rice, wheat, sugarcane, and cotton. This makes it an ideal location for studying the impact of the “Meri Fasal Mera Byora” Scheme on crop diversification and agricultural productivity. Panipat district contains 5 blocks, out of which Panipat Block was selected, as Panipat block has maximum area under cultivation and is more developed as compared to other blocks of the district. Panipat block contains 39 Villages. The list of villages grows were obtained from revenue office of Panipat. These villages were arranged in ascending order on the basis of area of production. Out of these, 10 percent villages were selected randomly for study. Following 4 26 villages namely Jatol, Jhattipur, Diwana, Binjhul were selected randomly form the Panipat block. A complete list of farmers was prepared with the help of village pradhan from different selected villages respectively out of which a group of 100 farmers were selected having 50 MFMB Users and 50 Traditional System Users.

ANALYTICAL TOOLS
The tools which provide access to the information for research and evaluation purposes.

1. Chi Square Test:
It is the degree of dispersion or the scatter of the data points relative to its mean, in descriptive statistics. It tells how the values are spread across the data sample and it is the measure of the variation of the data points from the mean. The standard deviation of a sample, statistical population, random variable, data set, or probability distribution is the square root of its variance.
The population standard deviation formula is given as:

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x - \bar{x})^2}{n - 1}}$$

Here,
\[\Sigma = \text{Population standard deviation} \mu = \text{Assumed mean}\]

2. Garret Ranking Technique:
The Garret ranking will be used as a tool for the constraints and suggestions. Garrett’s ranking technique is used to rank the preference indicated by the respondents on different factors. As per this method, respondents will be asked to assign the rank for all factors and the outcomes of such ranking will be converted into score value with the help of the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage position} = \frac{100 \times (R_{ij} - 0.50)}{N_j}$$

where,
\[R_{ij} = \text{Rank given for the ith variable by jth respondents} \]
\[N_j = \text{Number of variables ranked by jth respondent} \]

With the help of Garrett’s Table, the percent position estimated will be converted into scores. Then for each factor, the scores of each individual will be added and then total value of scores and mean values of score will be calculated. The factors having highest mean value

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
Beginning January 1, 2021, the Haryana government has made it mandatory for farmers to register on the MFMB (Meri Fasal Mera Byora) portal to access subsidies offered by the government on agricultural inputs. This measure aims to streamline the process of availing subsidies and ensure transparency in the distribution of benefits to farmers. The data presented in this study is derived from verbal information provided by 100 respondents who cultivate Direct Seeded Rice (DSR) on one acre of land in the study area. Government is providing multiple subsidies to the DSR farmers who are registering under the “MERI FASAL MERA BYORA” scheme.

Table 1.1: Subsidies offered by the government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No.</th>
<th>SUBSIDIES</th>
<th>AMOUNT IN Rs (AVERAGE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>DIRECT SEEDED RICE</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>SEEDS FROM HSD</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>RECLAMATION(GYPSUM)</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>3700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The aforementioned Table 1.1 illustrates the various subsidies received by users of the MFMB. It indicates that there were three significant subsidies that contributed to the additional income of MFMB users. According to the table, a total of Rs. 3700 was received by MFMB users.
Table 1.2: Income of the respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr No.</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>MFMB USERS</th>
<th>TRADITIONAL SYSTEM USERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>AVERAGE COST OF PRODUCTION</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>SUBSIDIES RECEIVED</td>
<td>3,700</td>
<td>00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>GROSS INCOME (Based on the MSP of DSR 2021-22)</td>
<td>57,680</td>
<td>57,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NET INCOME = GROSS INCOME – AVERAGE COST OF PRODUCTION + SUBSIDIES RECEIVED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>NET INCOME</td>
<td>31,380</td>
<td>27,680</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHANGE IN NET INCOME:

\[
\text{CHANGE IN NET INCOME} = \frac{\text{NET INCOME OF MFMB USERS} - \text{NET INCOME OF TRADITIONAL SYSTEM USERS}}{\text{NET INCOME OF MFMB USERS}} \times 100
\]

CHANGE IN NET INCOME = \( \frac{31,380 - 27,680}{31,380} \times 100 \approx 11.79\% \)

Table 1.3 Compensation in case of Natural Crop Damage:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MFMB USERS</th>
<th>TRADITIONAL SYSTEM USERS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BENEFITTED</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT BENEFITTED</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

According to the data, 39% of farmers have received full compensation in the event of natural crop damage, while 11% have either received partial compensation or have never received any compensation.

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE FARMERS

The Haryana government introduced the MFMB (Meri Fasal Mera Byora) portal considering it a significant achievement. The primary objective behind launching MFMB was to gather comprehensive crop information directly from farmers and address the challenges they faced while selling their crops in the grain market, commonly known as "mandi." The farmers had expressed several concerns and complaints, including technical glitches, lack of knowledge about land records, registration charges, difficulty in selling excess produce, cases where their fields were registered by others, automatic deduction of loan amounts, a complex registration process, non-receipt of compensation for natural disasters, and a lack of awareness regarding available resources and support. The MFMB portal aimed to address these issues and streamline the agricultural governance process, ensuring that farmers receive fair and efficient support for their crop-related activities.

To enhance the effectiveness of the agricultural portal and maximize its benefits for farmers, several suggestions have been put forward. Firstly, conducting awareness campaigns can play a vital role in informing farmers about the advantages offered by the portal. By educating farmers about its features and services, more participation can be encouraged. Secondly, simplifying the registration process is crucial to attract a larger number of farmers. By streamlining the steps and making it more user-friendly, farmers will be more inclined to register and utilize the scheme. Timely payments are also important to build trust among farmers. Ensuring efficient payment systems and adhering to strict timelines can further motivate farmers to engage with the scheme.

SUGGESTIONS AND CONCLUSION

Developing a dedicated mobile application for the portal can greatly enhance accessibility and usability. By providing a user-friendly interface, farmers can conveniently access information, register, and track payments through their smartphones. Offering technical support is essential to help farmers navigate the portal effectively. Providing training and assistance will enable them to make the most of the available resources and support. Lastly, seeking regular feedback from farmers is vital for continuous improvement. By actively soliciting input and incorporating suggestions, the portal can be refined to better meet the needs of farmers. By implementing these suggestions, such as awareness campaigns, simplified registration, timely payments, a mobile application, technical support, and farmer feedback, the agricultural portal can be made more effective and beneficial for farmers.
CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" scheme has had a positive impact on farmers in the Panipat district of Haryana. The scheme has provided farmers with valuable information and support to make informed decisions and overcome farming challenges. As a result, there has been an improvement in agricultural productivity, income levels, and overall well-being among farmers. However, there are still challenges to address for the scheme's sustainability. Improving data collection and dissemination, strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and promoting inclusivity among women and marginalized communities are necessary steps.

Overall, the "Meri Fasal Mera Byora" scheme has shown promising results in improving the livelihoods of farmers in Panipat. It has contributed to an average increase of 11.9% in seasonal net income, highlighting its effectiveness. By addressing challenges and further enhancing implementation, the scheme can continue empowering farmers, driving agricultural growth, and improving socio-economic conditions in the region.

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