



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MGNREGA IN SOUTHERN STATES OF INDIA

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received 24 th March, 2016 Received in revised form 21 st April, 2016 Accepted 19 th May, 2016 Published online 28 th June, 2016	MGNREGA is a right based approach for citizen of India. It gives right to work for livelihood. It has positive impact in agriculture. Recently government has announced that NREGA should link with agriculture that is need of hours. It is necessary to regularized NREGA for better and efficient use of it in agriculture. This paper explain how Sustainable Agriculture was development through MGNREGA in Southern states of India.
Keywords: MGNREGA, Sustainable Agriculture	

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INTRODUCTION

The Government of India has passed The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (Mgnrega) in September 2005. MGNREGA is not only an act against unemployment, it is for the betterment of overall sustainability, it includes Sustainability of Economy, Agriculture, Forest, Income, Health and many more ideals and principles of sustainable development. It acts as a growth engine for sustainable development of agriculture economy and empowerment of rural poor through the process of rights-based law and new ways of doing occupation. MGNREGS is the largest public works employment project in the world. Since last three years (2013-2015) MGNREGS spent Rs.1,14,531 crores on public works. It is a most direct poverty reduction pathway is through boosting employment and income for the poor.

The recent intense focus on Mahatma Gandhi NREGA has been on understanding the quality and durability of assets created assess the impacts of MGNREGA assets, focusing on environmental services, land and water resources availability (Sudha Narayanan *et al* 2014; Esteves *et al* 2013; Aggarwal *et al* 2012; Dhannjaya *et al* 2011). Research in this area has immense potential to generate policy insights. The current research was initiated by UNDP and conducted by the NIRD & PR, Hyderabad with the following objectives.

Research objectives

- To verify and assess the productivity of Land development works.
- To bring out the beneficiary perception on assets created (water and land related).

- To identify the Return on Investment (RoI) for individual assets related to Land Development.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study has been conducted in five states viz., Andhra Pradesh, Telangana Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil nadu. In each state, top two Gram Panchayats (GPs) with highest wage expenditure were automatically selected based on the Management Information System (MIS) data of financial year 2013-14. All the works issued completion certificates during 2013-14 were listed from the MIS for a census verification of assets in the selected GPs. User's perception is collected from the beneficiaries for the assets related to water and land development. In the case of community assets, two user perceptions were collected from the users of the asset. In the case of individual asset, the user's perception as well as return on investment (RoI) was additionally collected.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

In these five states, 58.8% of land development has been observed through MGNREGS land development activities. The following table & Fig 1 shows percentage of land developed.

Table 1 Land development in five states during FY 2013-2014

State	Available land (Acres)	Developed Land (Acres)	% of land developed
Andhra Pradesh	489.7	384.4	78.5
Telangana	681	344	50.5
Karnataka	240.6	56.1	23.3
Kerala	188.0	144.6	76.9
Tamil nadu	135.5	87.8	64.8

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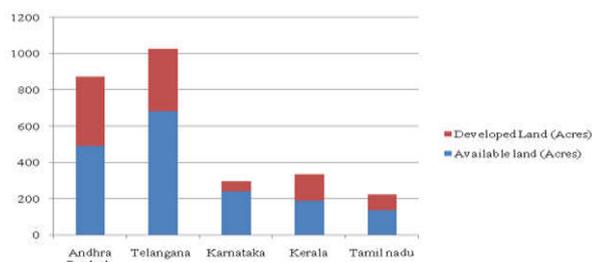


Figure 1

Impact on Agriculture productivity

We captured the perception of the beneficiaries in a four point scale ranging from significant to not significant. In all five states about 79.2% percent of the respondents agreed that there is a significant increase in agricultural productivity due to MGNREGS depicted in table 2

Table 2 Impact on Agricultural Productivity

Impact	Frequency	%
Significant increase	168	79.2
Moderate	28	13.2
Less significant	6	2.8
No significant	10	4.8
Total	202	100.0

Impact on Change in Cropping Pattern

The rise in irrigation facilities and water conservation activities under the MGNREGS is expected to have some impact on the cropping pattern through a shift from dryland farming to irrigated farming. As irrigation facilities increase due to water related works, the possibility of growing short duration high value crops increases. Significant percentage of beneficiaries (84.4%) reported that cropping pattern has changed due to MGNREGS works from single crop to dual or multi-cropping. Rest of the respondents said that the there is no change in cropping pattern.

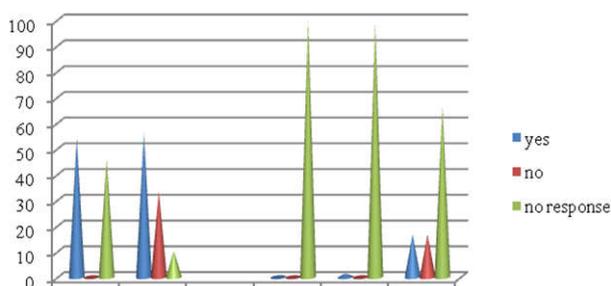


Figure 2 Change in Cropping Pattern

Changes in Area under cultivation & irrigation

The beneficiaries reported that totally 225 acres of uncultivable land has become cultivable land through MGNREGS land development works. Further, 173 acres of land got irrigation facilities through the land development and water harvesting work depicted in the following table 3 & figure 3

Table 3 Changes in Area under cultivation & irrigation

State	Area under cultivation (before MGNREGS in acres)	Area under cultivation (After MGNREGS in acres)	Area under Irrigation (before MGNREGS in acres)	Area under Irrigation (After MGNREGS in acres)
Andhra Pradesh	286	377	22	23
Telangana	431	557	163	325
Kerala	4.2	5.7	4.2	5.7
Tamil Nadu	28	34.5	21.5	30
TOTAL	749.2	974.2	210.7	383.7

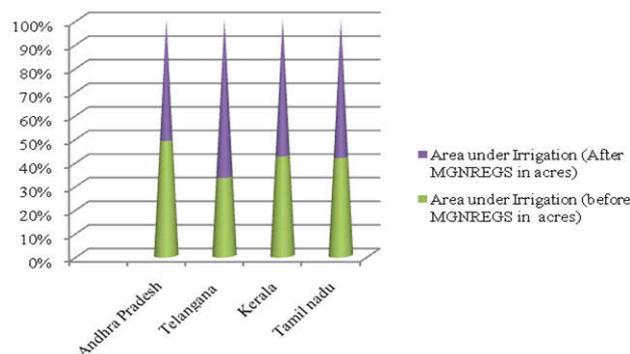


Figure 3 Increased Area under irrigation after MGNREGS

Increased Land Value

The beneficiaries reported that, on average there has been increase in the land value through MGNREGS land development activities. The following table & graph explains where beneficiaries reported increased land value.

Table 4

State	Land Value Before NREGS per acre (On Average)	Land Value After NREGS per acre (On Average)
Andhra Pradesh	176185.84	237830.36
Karnataka	75021.28	123574.47
Kerala	7284705.83	13230088.34
Tamil Nadu	139833.33	280666.67
Telangana	36140.94	78456.38
Total	4369416.49	7935429.02

Shift from dry land farming to irrigation farming

Beneficiaries reported that with the irrigation facilities under the MGNREGS, they have shifted from dry land farming to irrigated farming and depicted in the following graph.

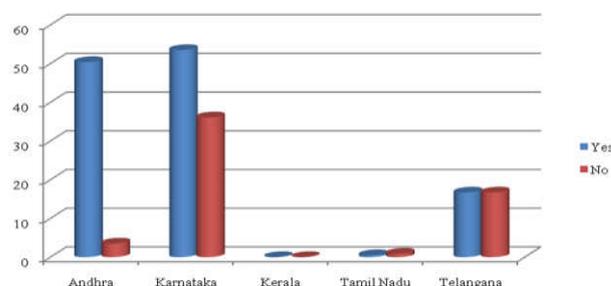


Figure4

CONCLUSION

As study findings show, Agricultural Productivity, Area under irrigation and cultivation, land value has increased due to land

development works and assets (related to agriculture) that are created under MGNREGS benefited to small and marginal farmers significantly.

Acknowledgement

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