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# A Critical Analysis on Legal Awareness of Farm Based Agri-input Entrepreneurs on Agri Enterprises in Central Telangana Region

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## ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 58% of India's population. Gross Value Added by agriculture, forestry, and fishing was estimated at Rs. 19.48 lakh crore (US\$ 276.37 billion) in FY20. Share of agriculture and allied sectors in gross value added (GVA) of India at current prices stood at 20.2 % in FY20. (Source: National Statistical Office (NSO)). In a contrast situation where farmers' suicide and distress still remain the key issues in India's Agricultural scenario, we are dreaming of achieving a doubling income for the farming community. This gap in the income level of farmers can be bridged by adopting newer income generating opportunities like establishing Farm based enterprises. Farm based enterprises are the vehicles for transforming rural India, these enterprises are maintained by the agripreneurs. More than half (51.42%) Agri enterprises are established units in agriculture and allied sectors established in rural areas (source: Annual report MSME 2020-21). Core thrust of research is to know about the legal awareness on Agri input enterprises like seeds, pesticides and fertilizers and their impact on rural people. Exploratory and Ex-Post Facto research design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in Sanga reddy district of central Telangana purposively as it is having maximum number of Agri-enterprises in the state. From Sanga reddy three revenue divisions namely Zahirabad, Narayanakhed and Sanga Reddy were chosen purposively and from each revenue division Nine blocks were selected purposively thus making up a total of 27 blocks. From each block 7-8 respondents were interviewed and collected data with help of specially designed interview schedule thus constitutes a total of 200 farm based Agri-input entrepreneurs. The findings of the study revealed that an overwhelming (97.50%) possess medium level of legal awareness on farm based agri inputs related information, followed by high level (2.5%) of awareness.

*Key words:* Legal awareness, Farm based agripreneurs, Agri-inputs, Farm based enterprises.

## Introduction

Farm based enterprise means the business of producing crops, livestock products and aquatic organisms through the utilization and management of

land, water, labor, capital, and basic raw materials including seed, feed, fertilizer, and fuel. India in order to remain a front-runner needs to primarily focus on agricultural sector, the back bone of the economy. This specialization will develop Agri-

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preneurs with distinct traits and skills to explore opportunities galore in the field of agriculture. Among the various strategies to promote planned growth in this sector, focus on promoting viable farm based agri-input enterprises will certainly help exploit its operational efficiency to handle. It is a long held view that innovation in the farming sector in India has progressed since the green revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, the drastic change in that period brought high yielding varieties of seeds along with major improvement in irrigation methods and soil nutrition etc it is a common argument that farmers in India continue to follow the paradigm established by the green revolution even today despite the fact that natural and economic factors demand revolutionary changes in the agricultural sector once again.

The farm based enterprises depends upon agriculture for raw materials. Farm based enterprises are the major market of agricultural commodities. Main farm-based enterprises in India are the sugar industry, the cotton textile industry, jute industry, food processing, paper industry and agricultural input industries or companies like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides employment opportunities in the rural areas of the country are increasing due to the establishment of more and more farm-based enterprises. Farm based enterprises playing a significant role in agricultural development. Increasing population growth in the country places pressure on agricultural production. The miss uses of agrochemicals, pesticides and over use of fertilizers increasing rapidly, the harmful effects of the pesticides are now established worldwide.

Farmers are the direct users of pesticides and more like to get acute toxicity of pesticides. The chronic toxicity effect whole population. Farmers were unaware of correct usage of such agro chemicals, they are guided by agri input dealers and retail outlets of agri inputs. Here the role performance of farm based agri-input enterprise and the agripreneurs great important for quality supply of agricultural inputs and proper recommendations for the diseases and pests of the crops. Today the average age of the Indian farmer is 50.1 (Source: Down to earth) increasing globally and encouraging new generation farmers, i.e youth into the farming, farm-based enterprises are crucial because the quality supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. ensure the quality production and productivity of agricultural products. Farmers get

reasonable cost of the farm-based product by interlinking of farm-based enterprise and farmers. Being an agrarian economy, it is the need of the hour for promoting farm-based enterprises and stabilizing Agripreneurship as one of the most emphasized sectors of governmental policies which are being seen as an answer to low production, unemployment, poverty reduction in agricultural sector. The present study was carried with the main objective to find out the awareness level of legal procedure for establishment and running of farm-based enterprises among the farm based agripreneurs.

## Materials and Methods

The study was conducted in Sanga reddy district of central Telangana purposively as it is having maximum number of Agri-enterprises in the state. From Sanga reddy three revenue divisions namely Zahirabad, Narayanakhed and Sanga Reddy were chosen purposively and from each revenue division Nine blocks were selected purposively thus making up a total of 27 blocks. From each block 7-8 respondents were interviewed and collected data with help of specially designed interview schedule thus constitutes a total of 200 farm based Agri-input entrepreneurs. The collected data was processed and tabulated manually. Using Simple frequency and percentage were calculated to analyze the data. Exploratory and Ex-Post Facto research design was adopted for the study as the event was already occurred and the researcher has no opportunity to influence the independent variables. It was measured by providing a list of legal procedures in establishment of enterprise to the agripreneurs and their response is recorded in a five-point continuum scale ranging from aware, partially aware, not aware, using and not using. On the basis of the total score obtained by the respondents, they were classified into low, medium and high, keeping the mean and standard deviation as check.

Total sample size constituted to 200 Agripreneurs involved in agri input services drawn from three revenue division randomly as shown in Table 1.

## Results and Discussion

### a) Awareness level on seed related information

From Table 2. it can evident that majority of the respondents had medium level of awareness (93.5%), followed by high level of awareness (6.5%). None of

**Table 1.** Number of farm-based enterprises in study area

S.No.	Revenue Divisions	Mandals	No of FBES*
1	Narayankhed revenue	1. Kalher	08
		2. Kangti	18
		3. Manor	10
		4. Nagilgidda	06
		5. Narayankhed	32
		6. Sirgapoor	05
2	Sangareddy revenue	7. Ameenpur	03
		8. Andole	11
		9. Gummadidala	09
		10. Hathnoora	09
		11. Jinnaram	06
		12. Kandi	0
		13. Kondapur	02
		14. Munipally	13
		15. Patancheru	06
		16. Pulkal	09
		17. Ramchandrapuram	03
		18. Sadasivapet	35
		19. Sangareddy	10
		20. Vatpally	14
3	Zaheerabab revenue	21. Jharasangam	11
		22. Kohir	14
		23. Mogudampally	03
		24. Nyalkal	14
		25. Raikode	24
		26. Zahirabad	22
Total		200	

\*Farm Based Enterprises

them had low level of awareness on seed related information.

Increased mass media exposure and good sources of information lead to increased level of awareness. The results were consistent with the findings of Mande *et al.*, (2011); Ram *et al.*, (2014) and Sharma *et al.*, (2014).

#### **b) Awareness level on Insecticide related information**

From Table 4. it indicated that overwhelming (97.5%) had medium level of awareness on insecticide related information, followed by high level (2.5%) of awareness. Increased participation in extension programmes like trainings, campaigns, exhibitions, good extension agency contact and better mass media exposure made them aware on insecticide related information. The findings were in confirmatory with the studies of Anitha (2005), Sarda and Gill (2005); Sharma *et al.*, (2014) and Prajapati *et al.*, (2015).

#### **c) Awareness level on Fertilizers used**

From table.6. it revealed that nearly three-fourth of the respondents (71.5%) had medium level of awareness on fertilizers used, followed by low (23.5%) and high (5%) level of awareness on fertilizers used.

Increased mass media exposure, good extension agency contact and better sources of information lead to increased awareness on fertilizers used. Similar studies were reported by Anitha (2005), Sarda and Gill (2005), Sharma *et al.*, (2014) and Prajapati *et al.*, (2015).

#### **Conclusion**

Farm-based enterprises not only empowers farmers, but also involved in social upliftment of rural areas there by improving the standard of living, reducing unemployment and poverty alleviation, in another aspect it becomes necessary to feed the growing population in India. Most of the respondents had

**Table 1.** Distribution of respondents based on their awareness level on seed related information (n=200)

S. No.	Seed related information statements	Awareness level									
		Aware		Partially aware		Not aware		Using		Not using	
		<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
1	Protection of plant varieties and farmers rights certificate of registration shall be valid for 6 years for crops, 9 years for tree species	7	3.5	2	1	191	95.5	0	0	200	100
2	Seed act 1966 provide for establishment of seed certification agencies to certify seeds	5	2.5	3	1.5	192	96	10	5	190	95
3	Seed certification agency should serve the interest of seed producers and farmers/users	3	1.5	1	0.5	196	98	6	194	3	97
4	The export and import of seeds and planting material are governed by the EXIM policy 2002	3	1.5	2	1	195	97.5	9	4.5	191	95.5
5	All imports of seeds and planting material would be regulated under the plant quarantine order 2003	2	1	1	0.5	197	98.5	9	4.5	191	95.5
6	National seed corporation is the largest single seed organization in the country	2	1	3	1.5	195	97.5	9	4.5	191	95.5
7	The registration of new plant varieties by the PVP authority will be based on the criteria of Novelty, Distinctiveness, Uniformity, Stability.	2	1	0	0	197	98.5	8	4	192	96
8	Seed regulation order 1983 frame rules for the sale of certified seeds of declared crops and their varieties	2	1	0	0	198	99	8	4	192	96
9	“Seed village scheme” promoted to facilitate production and timely availability of seeds of crops/ varieties at the local level	2	1	0	0	198	99	8	4	192	96
10	National Seed Grid established as a data base for monitoring of information on requirement of seed its production and distribution preference of farmers	1	0.5	0	0	199	99.5	10	5	190	95

**Table 2.** Overall awareness level of respondents on seed related information (n=200)

S. No.	Level of awareness	Response		$\bar{x} = 11.35$ $\sigma = 2.01$
		Frequency	Percent	
1	Low	0	0	
2	Medium	187	93.5	
3	High	13	6.5	

medium level of awareness (93.5%), followed by high level of awareness (6.5%). None of them had low level of awareness on seed related information. Majority of the respondents had (97.5%) had me-

dium level of awareness on insecticide related information, followed by high level (2.5%) of awareness. More than two-third of the respondents (71.5%) had medium level of awareness on fertilizers used, fol-

**Table 3.** Distribution of respondents based on their awareness level on insecticide related information (n=200)

S. No.	Statements documents required for applying licenses	Awareness level									
		Aware		Partially aware		Not aware		Using		Not using	
		f	%	F	%	f	%	f	%	F	%
1	Insecticide's act 1968 is to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides	4	2	0	0	195	97.5	6	3	194	97
2	Any Insecticide the sale, use of which is for the time being prohibited under section 27	2	1	0	0	198	99	2	1	198	99
3	Insecticide analyst appointed under section 19 of Insecticide act 1968	2	1	1	0.5	197	98.5	0	0	200	100
4	Insecticide inspector appointed under section 20 of Insecticide act 1968	3	1.5	2	1	195	97.5	0	0	200	100
5	Licensing officer appointed under section 12 of Insecticide act 1968	3	1.5	2	1	195	97.5	0	0	200	100
6	Destructive insects and pests act 1914 are to prevent the introduction into and the transport from one state to another in India of any insect, fungus and other pests which may destructive	3	1.5	2	1	195	97.5	0	0	200	100
7	Insecticides rules 1971 are powers conferred by section 36 of the Insecticide act 1968	2	1	0	0	198	99	1	0.5	199	99.5
8	Insecticides rules 1971 classification of insecticides on the basis of their toxicity As well as their suitable for aerial application	0	0	2	1	198	99	38	19	161	80.5
9	Plant quarantine order 2003 regulates imports and prohibition of imports of plant And plant products into India	2	1	2	1	196	98	0	0	200	100

**Table 4.** Overall awareness level of respondents on Insecticide related information (n=200)

S. No.	Level of awareness	Response		$\bar{x} = 9.26$
		Frequency	Percent	
1	Low	0	0	$\sigma = 1.72$
2	Medium	195	97.5	
3	High	5	2.5	

lowed by low (23.5%) and high (5%) level of awareness on fertilizers used. There is an urgent felt need to concentrate on the farm based agri input enterprises because the farmers are completely depends upon the agri input dealer only with intervention of government and other national institutes to give proper guidelines and conducting training session to improve the performance of the farm based agri

input entrepreneur's through them quality supply of farm inputs leads to quality production there by improving the standard of living of the farmers, the central government aim of achieving doubling income to the farmers will be possible.

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**Table 5.** Distribution of respondents based on their awareness level on fertilizers used (n=200)

S. No.	Fertilizers used related information statements	Awareness level									
		Aware		Partially aware		Not aware		Using		Not using	
		f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
1	Fertilizer control order 1983 is to regulating sale, price, distribution and quality of fertilizers	4	2	2	1	194	97	0	0	200	100
2	New urea policy 2015 is for maximizing indigenous urea production promoting energy efficiency in urea production and rationalizing subsidy burden on government	4	2	1	0.5	195	97.5	0	0	200	100
3	New investment policy 2012 is to facilitate fresh investment make India self and reduce import dependency in urea sector	4	2	2	1	194	97	0	0	200	100
4	Nutrient based subsidy policy 2010 under this policy a fixed rate of subsidy is announced on nutrients namely N, P, K, S	2	1	2	1	196	98	1	0.5	199	99.5
5	Government of India declared fertilizer as an essential commodity under the essential commodities act 1955	2	1	0	0	198	99	5	2.5	195	97.5
6	Any person manufacturer, whole seller, and a retail dealer intended to sell fertilizer shall make a memorandum of intimation to notified authority in form A1	5	2.5	0	0	195	97.5	1	0.5	199	99.5
7	Form A is application to obtain dealership certificate and form A1 is memorandum of intimation	2	1	2	1	196	98	4	2	196	98
8	Form D is the application to obtain a certificate of manufacture of physical/ granular mixture of fertilizer/organic fertilizer/bio fertilizer/non edible de-oiled cake fertilizer	2	1	2	1	196	98	0	0	200	100
9	Form N for stock register to be maintained by dealer/manufacturer/importer/pool handling agency	6	3	0	0	194	97	4	2	196	98
10	Form O is Certificate of source for carrying on the business of selling fertilizers in wholesale/retail/ industrial use	146	73	2	1	52	26	26	13	174	87
11	Agricultural produce and livestock marketing act 2017 seek to promote direct Interface between farmers and processors/exporters	87	43.5	0	0	113	56.5	2	1	198	99

**Table 6.** Overall awareness level of respondents on fertilizers used related information (n=200)

S. No.	Level of awareness	Response		$\bar{x} = 13.71$
		Frequency	Percent	
1	Low	47	23.5	$\sigma = 2.49$
2	Medium	143	71.5	
3	High	10	5	

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