

Summary of the Gokhale Institute Studies

Artha Vijnana
June 1995 N 2, 203-209

Title : *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Central Sector Scheme on Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization in Maharashtra, by A. Narayanamoorthy, N. Rajasekaran, Deepak Shah, February 1995.*

Introduction of new seed-water-fertilizer technology in Indian agriculture has made greater changes in the use of machineries like pump-sets, tractors, sprayers, etc. Among the machineries, the diffusion of tractor is not uniform across the States. It is highly concentrated the areas where assured irrigation facility is available and among large farmers. But, owing to the commercialization of agriculture, the wage rate of both human and bullock labour has increased enormously in recent period. The escape from this problem, many medium and small farmers are also willing to use tractor in their farm activities. However, its capital intensive nature does not permit the small size holding farmers to use in their crop cultivations. To avoid this problem and support or popularize the tractor use among the small and medium group of farmers the Government of India has introduced a scheme called "Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization Through Small Tractors" in the year 1992-93. This has been introduced in the Eighth Five Year Plan on a pilot basis with an intention to extend it in future based on the level of response of the farmers.

It is a subsidy oriented scheme. The bank loan is sanctioned for the selected farmers satisfying the criteria as indicated in the guidelines of the scheme. This is an impact evaluation study of this scheme conducted in two districts of Maharashtra. The main aim of this study is to understand the impact of small tractor use on the pattern of agriculture of the beneficiaries.

Objective and Methodology

The study is taken up with the following objectives:

1. To assess the extent to which the objectives of the scheme have been achieved.
2. To evaluate the benefits accruing to small and marginal farmers belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
3. To assess the contribution of this scheme in increasing agricultural production.
4. To assess the impact of this switch over to tractor on employment.
5. To find out the economic viability of the investment under this scheme.