

## **Determinants Of Labour Demand In Paddy Cultivation : A Case Of Tamil Nadu**

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The low level of labour use in Indian agriculture compared with some of the Asian countries and the differences in the intensity of labour use across regions and crops, have evidenced the argument that Indian agriculture is capable of using more labour than what it presently does. A considerable amount of empirical studies has been carried out on this subject. However, the differences in time span covered, methodology adopted and choice of crops and regions, render the conclusions reached by them of limited significance to other areas and crops. Using the cost of cultivation data, this paper attempt to bring out the determinants of labour demand in paddy cultivation in Tamil Nadu.

In India, as in most part of the agriculture based economies, labour absorption in non-agricultural sectors has not been high enough to utilise the growing labour force. Consequently, despite planning, the problems associated with unemployment and under employment, like poverty, have persisted especially in rural areas. Evidently, besides economic diversification of the rural work force, augmenting labour use in crop production is an important element of the development strategy.

A considerable amount of empirical analysis has been carried out on this project. The differences in time span covered, methodology adopted and the crops and regions covered by various scholars render the conclusions reached by them of limited significance to other regions and crops. This paper, therefore, attempts to find out the determinants of labour demand in paddy cultivation in Tamil Nadu. (For an aggregate level analysis, see, Parthasarathy, 1989).