

A Study on Farmers' Perspective about Price Mechanism of Co-Operatives and APMCs in Valsad District about Sapota

Guide

Dr. K. R. Trivedi

Assistant Professor

Sarvajanik College of Commerce and Computer Applications.

Affiliated to Sarvajanik University,

Surat.

Research Scholar

Patel Miteshkumar Koshorbhai

Sarvajanik College of Commerce and

Computer Applications.

Affiliated to Sarvajanik University, Surat.



Abstract:

Co-operatives and APMC ensures worthy prices and timely payments to the farmers for their produce. The main objectives were to study farmers' perspective about price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs in Valsad district about sapotain the context of farmer's annual production and farmers' annual income. The researcher used self-constructed opinionnaire for present study. In this study, the researcher used self-constructed opinionnaire. The researcher randomly selected 50 farmers from Saran village as a sample. The researcher found that farmers having high and low annual production have similar perspectives towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs in Valsad district about Sapota. It was also revealed that the farmers having high and low annual income have similar perspectives about price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of Valsad district about Sapota.

Introduction:

Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMC) are marketing boards set up by state governments to address the phenomenon of exploitation of farmers by middlemen, where they are forced to sell their produce at extremely low prices. All food has to be brought to the market and is sold by auction. Market places i.e. mandis have been established at various places in the states. These markets divide the state geographically. Traders are licensed to operate in the market. Mall owners, wholesalers, retailers are not allowed to buy produce directly from farmers. Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is a system operating under the State Government since agricultural marketing is a State subject. The APMC has Yards/Mandis in the market area that regulates the notified agricultural produce and livestock. The introduction of APMC was to limit the occurrence of Distress Sale by the farmers under the pressure and exploitation of creditors and other intermediaries. APMC ensures worthy prices and timely payments to the farmers for their produce. In this research, the researcher studied farmers' opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about sapota.

Review of Literature

A review of related literature is a critical analysis and synthesis of existing literature relevant to a particular research question or topic. It involves systematically searching and analyzing scholarly articles, books, and other publications to identify key concepts, trends, and gaps in the existing knowledge base.

Mehta, B. M. (2013) Opinion regarding services of co-operative societies by sapota growers of Navsari district of Gujarat state. This study aim to analyze the role of leading co-operative societies and their services with respect to supply of agricultural inputs, finance, marketing of produce etc. by the sapota growers of Navsari district of Gujarat state. Out of ten co-operatives

working in sapota crops only four were selected for study based on their performance in procuring and marketing of sapota fruits during last three years. Respondents viz, members of the selected co operative societies 120 farmers were selected proportionately. Thus the total sample for the study comprised of 120 farmers. The results on services of agricultural inputs indicate that majority of the respondents satisfied with timely, adequate and qualitative supply of fertilizers, insecticides pesticides and agricultural implements, respectively. The opinion regarding price of inputs indicate that 54.17, 62.50 and 63.33 per cent respondents agree with that the price was reasonable for fertilizers, insecticides/pesticides and agricultural implements, respectively. More than three fourth of respondents believe that the price for their produce paid by co-operative was reasonable. It is also seen that requirement of finance from the members was partially fulfilled by co-operative societies.

Bhopale, V. N. (2005) Studied about behaviour of prices and arrivals of selected agricultural commodities in Hingoli district. The main objectives of researcher were to study the seasonal variations in prices and market arrivals of selected agricultural commodities, the seasonal pattern of market arrivals and prices of selected agricultural commodities and the annual variation in prices and market arrivals of selected agricultural commodities in Hingoli district. This study covers the period of 11 years, from 1991 to 2001, and is based completely on secondary data. The time series data regarding monthly arrivals 16 and average prices of the selected agricultural commodities are collected from the records of the selected agricultural produce market committees in Hingoli district. In the study some statistical tools have been used for analyzing the data on arrivals and prices of selected agricultural commodities. The research revealed that the total population of Hingoli district according to the Population Census of 2001 is 986.717 thousand. The population of the district increased from 355 thousand in 1951 to 986 thousand in 2001. It means the population of the district increased by 631 thousand during the 50 years period. The percentage of rural population to total population is the highest in Sengaoan and Aundha (Nagnath) talukas which are purely rural and hence no speed of the process of urbanization. During the period 1990-91 to 1998-99 the cropping pattern in Hingoli district and in almost all talukas of Hingoli district is dominated by food crops. Among the food grains the area under rabijowar, rice, total cereals, tur, green gram, black gram, and total pulses has increased during the period 1990-91 to 1998- 99. However, the percentage area under kharifjowar, bajra, wheat, gram, groundnut, safflower, sugarcane and total oilseeds has declined, and that under cotton has increased. The percentage of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area in Hingoli district has declined from 16.53 percent in 1990-91 to 12.01 percent in 1998- 99. The highest percentage of gross irrigated area to gross cropped area is in the

Basmattaluka followed by Kalamnuri and Hingoli. In Sengaon, Aundha and Hingoitalukas the percentage of gross irrigated area to grass cropped die area is even less than the percentage of gross irrigated area to grass cropped area for the district as a whole.

The list of APMCs in Valsad District

No	APMC	Address	Taluka	District
1	Valsad	Front Of Sgment Laboratory, Near Auranga River.	Valsad	Valsad
2	Pardi	Pardi Netional Highway No 48.	Pardi	Valsad
3	Dharmpur	Hathikhana	Dharampur	Valsad
4	Kaprada	Kaparada, At & Po. Nanapondha.	Kparada	Valsad
5	Udwada	Udwada Netional Highway No 48.	Pardi	Valsad

One APMCs included in the present study is Udwada.

Objectives of the Study

Objectives of this research are given below.

1. To study farmers' opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs in Valsad district about Sapota in context of Farmers' annual production.
2. To study farmers' opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs in Valsad district about Sapota in context of Farmers' annual income.
3. To offer suggestion to farmers' of Valsad district for production of Sapota.

Hypotheses of the Study

Hypotheses of present study are given below.

H₀₁ There is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual production.

H₀₂ There is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual income.

Variables of the Study

The researcher defined independent and dependent variables as mentioned below.

1. Independent variables

Independent variables of present study are given below.

1) Farmers' Annual Sapota Production

- High
- Low

Farmers' annual sapota production more than 2000 kg are defined as high production and farmers' annual sapota production up to 2000 kg are defined as low production.

2) Farmers' Annual Income

Farmers' annual income more than 1 lakh are defined as high income and farmers' annual income up to lakh are defined as low income.

2. Dependent variable

Scores of opinionnaire are defined as dependent variable.

Limitations

Limitations of present study are as below.

1. The present study was conducted on farmers of Saran village of Gujarat state.
2. The researcher used self-constructed opinionnaire to know opinions of farmers regarding price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about Sapota.

Research Method

The researcher's main objective was to study the opinions of farmers regarding price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs in Valsad district about Sapota. For this study, the researcher constructed an opinionnaire. This opinionnaire were given to farmers of Saran village of Valsad district. The researcher used descriptive survey method for this research.

Research Tool

The researcher used self-constructed opinionnaire for present study. In this opinionnaire, there were 70 statements. Each statement has five responses: 1) Totally Agree, 2) Agree, 3) Neutral, 4) Disagree and 5) Totally Disagree. The researcher assigned specific score for each response. For positive opinions scores are 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 for opinions totally

agree, agree, neutral, disagree and totally disagree. For negative opinions, the scores are in reverse order.

Sample

The researcher randomly selected 50 farmers from Saran village as a sample. A random sampling technique was used in selection of farmers.

Data Analysis

To check the effect of independent variables on farmers' opinions, the researcher constructed two hypotheses. These hypotheses were tested using t-tests. The results and interpretation of t-tests are given below.

H₀₁ There is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual production.

Table 1.0

Result of t-test between mean scores of mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual production

Annual Production	N	M	SD	SED	t	Significance
High	26	176.35	26.15	6.59	0.79	NS
Low	24	171.13	20.24			

df	0.05	0.01
48	2.01	2.68

As mentioned in above table, calculated t-value between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual production is 0.79. For df=48, table t-values are 2.01 at 0.05 level and 2.68 at 0.01 level. Calculated t-value is less than table t-values at both levels. Therefore, it is said that the hypothesis is rejected and there is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual production. Thus, it is revealed that farmers having high and low annual production have similar opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about Sapota.

H0₂ There is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual income.

Table 2.0

Result of t-test between mean scores of mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual income

Annual Income	N	M	SD	SED	t	Significance
High	30	176.13	26.07	6.36	0.90	NS
Low	20	170.40	18.84			

df	0.05	0.01
48	2.01	2.68

As mentioned in above table, calculated t-value between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual income is 0.90. For df=48, table t-values are 2.01 at 0.05 level and 2.68 at 0.01 level. Calculated t-value is less than table t-values at both levels. Therefore, it is said that the hypothesis is rejected and there is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual income. Thus, it is revealed that farmers having high and low annual income have similar opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about Sapota.

Major Findings

The major findings of present study are given below.

1. There is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual production.
2. There is no significant difference between mean scores of opinionnaire obtained by farmers having high and low annual income.

Suggestions

On the basis of findings of the researcher following suggestions could be made.

- APMCs should provide appropriate MSP for the production of sapota.
- Farmers should be provided their cost of sapota as per quality of the production.

- All the costs of production of sapota should be given in time.
- The farmers should be provided all information to improve quality of production.

Conclusion

The main objectives were to study farmers' opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about sapota and to study farmers' opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives, APMCs of South Gujarat about sapota in the context of farmer's annual production and to study farmers' opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about sapota in the context of farmers' annual income. The researcher used self-constructed opinionnaire for present study. In this opinionnaire, the researcher used self-constructed opinionnaire. The researcher randomly selected 50 farmers from Saran village as a sample. The research revealed that the farmers having high and low annual production have similar opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about Sapota. It was also revealed that the farmers having high and low annual income have similar opinions towards price mechanism of co-operatives and APMCs of South Gujarat about Sapota.

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