European Economic Letters
ISSN 2323-5233
Vol 15, Issue 3 (2025)
http://eelet.org.uk

Assessing The Role Of Government Initiatives In Improving Farmers Livelihood: An Empirical Study Of Jammu District

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Abstract
The study highlights the importance of various Government initiatives in improving the quality of life of the farmers by increasing productivity. Despite of the best efforts of the administration agricultural productivity and quality of life for farmers has increased but is not contributing to overall development. For this an empirical study was conducted in rural villages of Jammu district by interviewing 300 respondents and applying various statistical tests like percentages, mean, standard deviation and ANOVA tests using SPSS software v 22 to assess the benefits of the efforts of the Government. The results show positive but uneven benefits contributing to lack of help from administration and lesser education.

Keywords : Agriculture, Awareness and benefits, Productivity, Standard of living

Introduction
There is a link between the agriculture and industry in Jammu district. The exploration of Government policies would help in providing base for future industrial development as well as the infrastructural development in Jammu district and also will facilitate the process of additional facilities such as power, water for irrigation, health and education.

Besides that, it has been observed that very few studies as so far been carried out on empirical basis towards agricultural development. Also, this study will become a base for allowing future research on agriculture and will open opportunities for many research scholars to empirical examine or evaluate the performance of such policies in future. This will also provide new dimensions to the subject of agriculture and its allied activities.

Agriculture still continues to play an important role in the overall economic development and growth of the economy. Agriculture infact is a backbone of Indian economy, so development or improvements in agriculture shall be new era of economic development and growth in almost all areas of life in Jammu district mainly quality of life, quality of education, health and health service etc.

Government of India took many initiatives for example Intensive Agriculture Development Programme, Intensive Agriculture Area Program, High Yield Variety Programme but some of the prominent are like, initiatives of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) was established in 1974 for doubling farmers income, KVK is an integral part of National Agricultural Research System (NARS), it aims at assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises ,through technology assessment ,refinement and demonstrations. KVKs produce quality technological products (seed, planting material, bio-agents, livestock) and make it available to the farmers, organize frontline extension activities, identify and document selected farm innovations and converge with ongoing schemes within the mandate of KVK. Farm Risk Management, as farmers have many options for managing the risks they face, and they use a combination of strategies and tools. Some strategies deal with only one

kind of risk, while others address multiple risks. It includes Enterprise Diversification, Financial Leverage, Vertical integration, Contracting, Hedging, Liquidity, Crop yield insurance, Crop revenue etc. Most farmers use a variety of farm management strategies and tools, since risks and the willingness and ability to bear risks differ from farm to farm, so the risk management strategies are used.

Integrated Watershed Management Programs (IWMP) was launched in 2009-10 and is implemented by Department of Land Resources of Ministry of Rural Development. The main objective of IWMP is to restore ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water.

Technology Development Extension and Training Schemes (TDET) was launched in 1993-94 to promote development of cost effective and proven technologies for reclamation wastelands for sustainable production of food, fuel wood, fodder etc. And various Crop Insurance initiatives will be analysed.

Review Of Literature

The prime focus of Government of India is to boost agricultural production. (Ahmed et al, 2021). Data collected from 900 apple growers across Jammu and Kashmir showed that all farmers showed interest in adopting insurance schemes that were weather based and most of them were ready to pay premium also (Sharma et al.2024). The isolation and political backdrop of Jammu district is one of the reasons for its underdevelopment, (Javeed, 2022).

Adopting to new technology is the need of the hour and only innovation in agriculture can improve the standard of living and productivity of farmers product. The economies with special reference to India unable to adopt latest innovation in technology will not be developed. (Javeed, 2023). To guarantee that future groups can manage their requirements, sustainable agriculture attempts to overcome problems related to food and resources, Arumugam and Manida (2023).

States like Karnataka, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir develop similar structural revolution and are near the third stage of economic evolution, Padder and Bommayasamys (2023). The 1960s witnessed the onset of the Green Revolution, introducing high-yielding crop varieties and modern contributions that intensely increased agricultural output, Tripathi et al. (2023).

To provide farmers with different opportunities concerning their livelihood so better quality of life. (Bharne, et al. 2025).

The objectives of the study are to find out the impact of Government initiatives on agricultural productivity, awareness and benefits, standard of living and occupation of farmers. And the demographic (blocks and family type) impact across these variables.

Methodology

Data was collected using primary survey of 300 farmers from three blocks namely- RS Pura, Bishnah, Satwari of Jammu district and applying various statistical tools like percentages, mean, standard deviation, ANOVA using SPSS software to draw results. Data analysis technique: Questionnaire validity measures the degree of agreement of the results or conclusions gotten from the research questionnaire with the real world. Steps in validating a questionnaire include, establish face validity, conduct a pilot test, enter a pilot test in a spreadsheet, use principal component analysis (PCA), Check the internal consistency of questions loading onto the same factors, Revise the questionnaire based on information from PCA and CA.

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i) Descriptive statistics: A descriptive statistic is a summary statistic that quantitatively describes or summarizes features from a collection of information, while descriptive statistics is the process of using and analysing those statistics.
ii) Bivariate analysis: A bivariate analysis is one of the simplest forms of quantitative analysis. It involves the analysis of two variables, for the purpose of determining the empirical relationship between them. Bivariate analysis can be helpful in testing simple hypothesis of association.
iii) Multivariate analysis: Multivariate analysis is a set of techniques used for analysis of data sets that contain more than one variable, and the techniques are especially valuable when working with correlation variables.
iv) z -test: A Z -Test is any statistical test for which the distribution of the test statistic under the null hypothesis can be approximated by normal distribution. Z - Test test the mean of distribution. It shall be used where ever applicable.

Results And Discussion

Family distribution of respondents

Figure 1 highlights that agriculture is predominantly practiced by nuclear families (180) and joint family (120) out of 300 respondents from three different blocks of Jammu district.

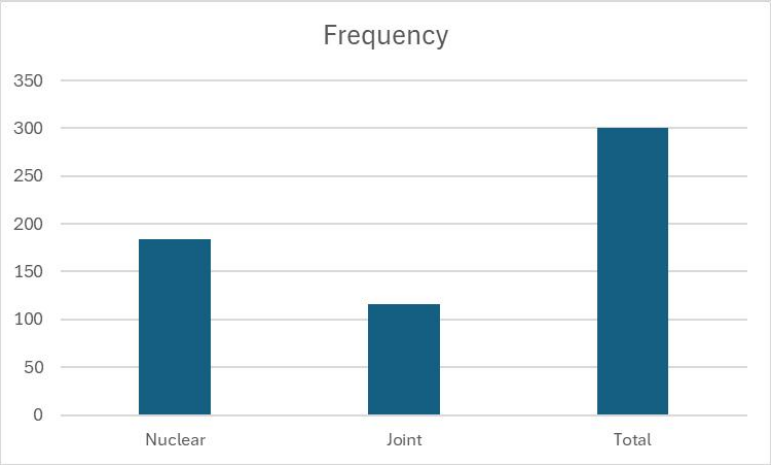

Figure1- Family distribution of respondents

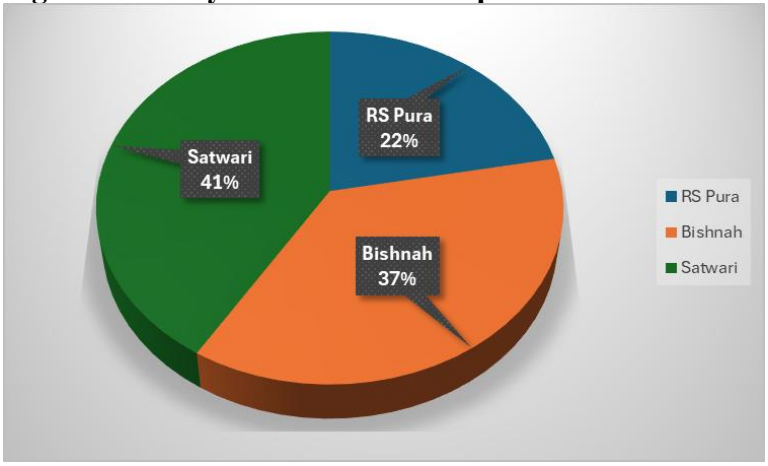

Figure 2-Family percentage distribution of respondents for nuclear family

Figure 2 shows the percentage concentration of nuclear families across three different blocks namely Satwari (41%), Bishnah (37%) and RS Pura (22%) respectively of Jammu district.

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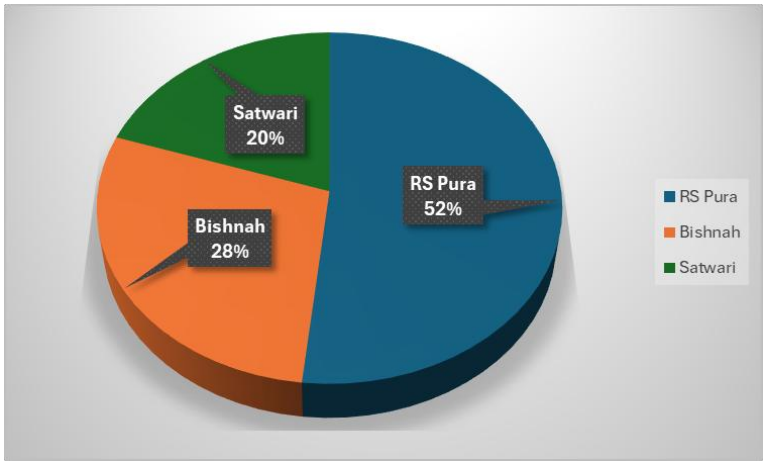

Figure 3-Family percentage distribution of respondents for joint family

Figure 3 shows the percentage of joint families practicing agriculture in three blocks of Jammu district - RS Pura (52%), Bishnah (28%) and Satwari (20%) respectively.

Impact of Government initiatives on Agricultural productivity from Jammu district

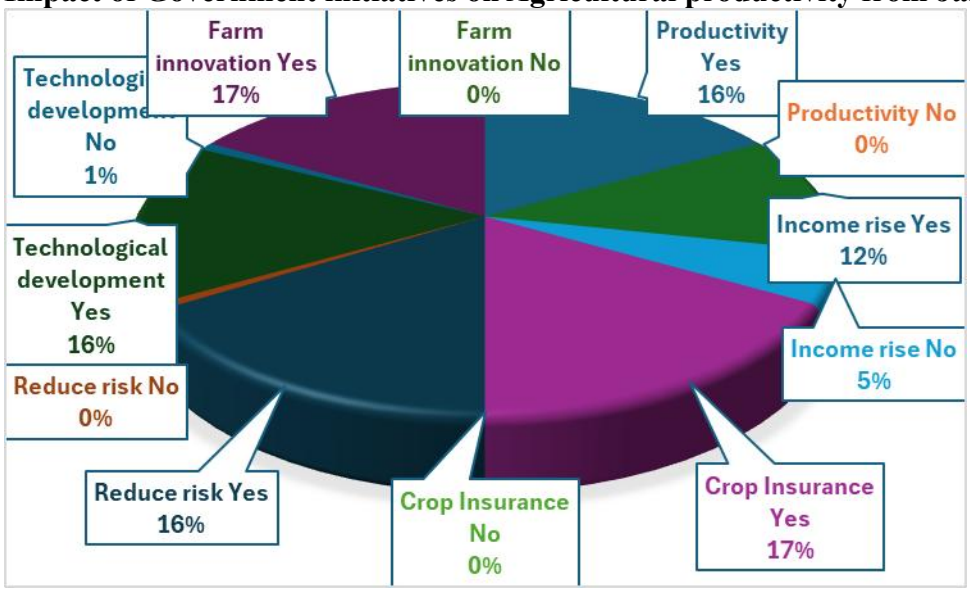

Figure 4 -Percentage distribution of Agricultural productivity across Jammu district

Figure 4 shows the percentage share of farmers productivity benefits from agriculture and in Jammu district. Around 17% contributed to positively benefited from crop insurance schemes and farm innovations, whereas 16% reported increased in productivity, technological development, and risk reduction. Income increases to 12%, and 5% said no benefit received by them. 1% of the farmers revealed no technological development, productivity. This shows that Government initiatives have brought positive change by increase in productivity

Impact of Government initiatives on Standard of Living of farmers from Jammu district

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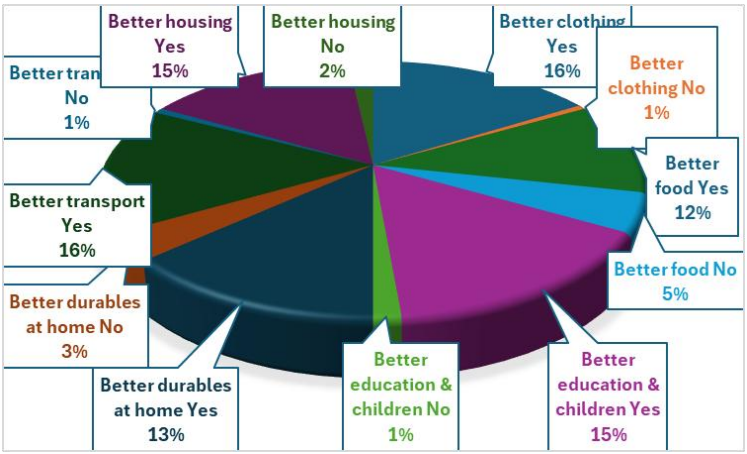

Figure 5 -Percentage distribution of Standard of Living of farmers across Jammu district

Figure 5 reveals the standard of living percentage share of farmers in Jammu district. Improvements in transport (16%), good clothing (16%), better housing (15%), and quality education & welfare of children (15%). About, 13% purchased durable goods, and 12% reported improved quality of food., the data shows positive impact of Government initiatives on the standards of living of farmers, while no impacted reported by a few.

Impact of Government initiatives on Awareness and Benefits of farmers from Jammu district

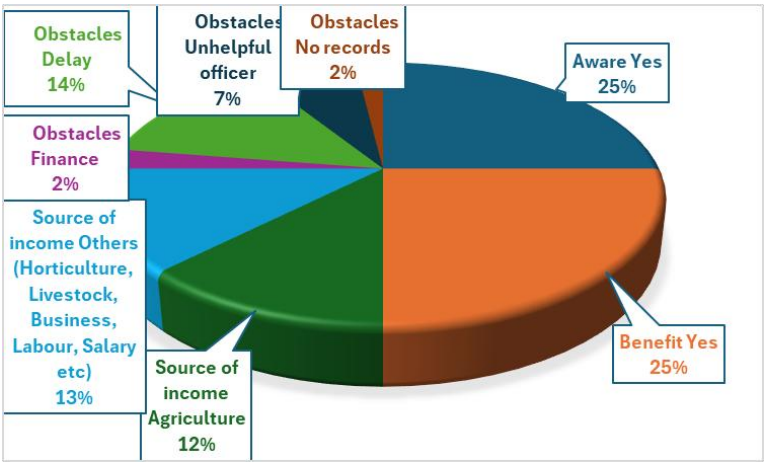

Figure 6 -Percentage distribution of Awareness and Benefits of farmers across Jammu district

The figure 6 shows the share of percentage of awareness and benefits across farmers in Jammu district. It shows that the awareness level of farmers is very high, 25% of them are aware and received total benefits. From income point of view 13% of respondents earn from non-agricultural sources, however 12% depend on agriculture. Farmers face challenges in getting benefits for example —14% observed delays, 7% attributed to unhelpful nature of officers, and lack of finance (2%) and no recorded available (2%). Thus, high awareness and benefit received by farmers highlighting poor administration and framework.

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Impact of Government initiatives on Income and Occupation of farmers from Jammu district

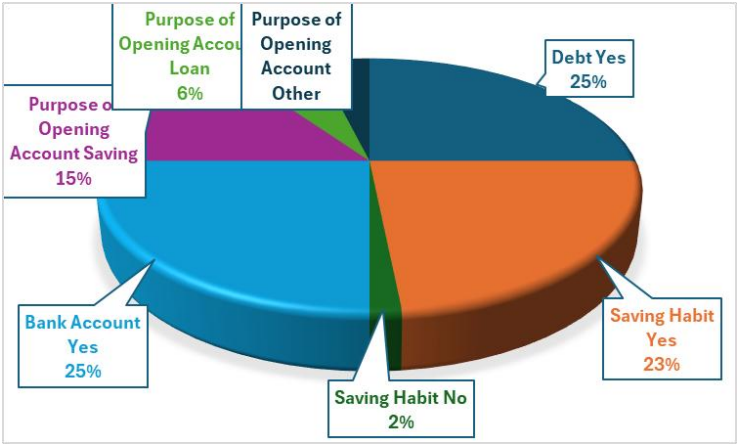

Figure 7- Percentage distribution of Income and Occupation of farmers across Jammu district

Figure 7 shows share of income and occupation across farmers from Jammu district. A percentage of (25%) were in debt, whereas (23%) were positive and saving habit, but 2% with no saving habit. All farmers (25%) opened a bank account, showing complete financial inclusion. About 15% opened bank account for saving, 6% to take loans, and 4% some other reasons. The data points strong banking system and positive financial support.

Table 1- Mean, Standard Deviation and One-way analysis of variance in Income and Occupation, Awareness and Benefits, Agriculture production and Standard of living across Block.

Variables	*RS Pura*		*Bishnah*		*Satwari*				
	M	*SD*	*M*	*SD*	*M*	*SD*	*F (2, 297)*	η2	Post-Hoc
Income and Occupation	6.00	.00	5.37	.48	4.95	1.05	61.88***	0.29	1>2>3
Awareness and Benefits	9.94	.23	6.98	1.38	8.72	2.48	81.37***	0.35	1>2<3
Agriculture production	6.00	.00	6.00	.00	7.15	.72	248.21***	0.62	1=2<3
Standard of living	7.29	.92	6.07	.25	6.96	1.25	47.90***	0.24	1>2<3

***p<.001

Source: Primary Data

The table 1 illustrates variation ($p < .001$) across RS Pura, Bishnah, and Satwari through all variables. RS Pura highest share in Income & Occupation and Awareness & Benefits, whereas Satwari outscored in Agriculture Production and better Standard of Living compared to Bishnah. Effect sizes ($\eta^2 = 0.24–0.62$) expose great impact.

Table 2 - Mean, Standard Deviation and One-way analysis of variance in Income and Occupation, Awareness and Benefits, Agriculture production and Standard of living across Family type.

Variables	*Nuclear*	*Joint*	

	M	*SD*	*M*	*SD*	*F (1, 298)*	*p*	η2	Post-Hoc
Income and Occupation	5.74	.43	4.95	.98	90.24	.000	0.23	1>2
Awareness and Benefits	8.67	1.69	8.34	2.49	1.85	.175	0.00	1>2
Agriculture production	6.00	0.00	6.99	.78	293.53	.000	0.49	1<2
Standard of living	6.70	.93	6.88	1.19	2.29	.132	0.00	1<2

Source: Primary Data

Nuclear families with Mean value of 5.74 and Standard Deviation of 0.43 have high level of Income & Occupation compared to joint families with Mean value of 4.95 and Standard Deviation of 0.98;($F=90.24$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=0.23$).
Joint families with Mean value of 6.99 and Standard Deviation of 0.78 show high Agricultural Production compared to nuclear families with Mean value of 6.00 and Standard Deviation of 0.00; ($F=293.53$, $p<.001$, $\eta^2=0.49$).
Variations across Awareness & Benefits ($p=.175$) and Standard of Living ($p=.132$) are not substantial.

Conclusions

The results show better standard of living across blocks and family types. There exists strong financial inclusion. Despite of high level of awareness benefits received were very less because of poor administration by the Government. Farmers revealed technological innovation resulting in high productivity.

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