



# **AWARENESS OF FARMERS TOWARDS THE AGRICULTURAL SCHEMES OF GOVT.: A STUDY ON DHENKANAL DISTRICT, ODISHA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

*Agricultural development is the yardstick of the growth and development of the Indian Economy. In order to boost agriculture, various schemes have been implemented by the state as well as the central government for the welfare and livelihood of farmers. However, due to a lack of awareness, some farmers are unable to avail the benefits of those government schemes. So, proper awareness among the farmers is required for their upliftment through various government schemes. This study aims at understanding the awareness of the farmers towards the agricultural schemes of the central and state government and to identify the sources of their awareness. Random Sampling Technique is followed and Primary data are collected from the structured questionnaire and personal visits to the farmers in the study area during the period Oct-2022 to Dec-2022. Out of the total respondents, 55.6 % of the farmers are aware of the available govt. schemes in the study area. Out of these, the source of awareness for the majority of the farmers is television followed by newspaper and radio. Proper education and training are required for availing the benefits of the welfare schemes and the overall development of the farmers.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Agricultural Schemes, Farmer's Awareness, Agricultural Development, Sustainable Development, Economic Growth.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Indian economy's expansion and growth are measured by its agricultural development. The state and the central governments have both developed numerous programmes for the welfare and livelihood of farmers to promote agriculture. However, some farmers are unable to take advantage of such government programmes due to a lack of information. The farmers must therefore be properly informed if they are to benefit from various government programmes.

Agriculture is the primary economic driver of the Dhenkanal District. The economy greatly depends on the District's forest products. Here, you may find the main forest goods such timber, bamboo, firewood, and kendu leaf. Minor forest goods such lac, honey, kenduli gum, wax, mahua flowers, sunari fark, siali leaves, catechu, tassar cocoons, and other raw materials for medicine are also available. The Dhenkanal District's economic development is accentuated by the raw materials derived from agriculture, forestry, and minerals.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Ajith & Lakshmi, (2021) study the awareness of farmers toward the government schemes and mention the Tamil Nadu government is making every attempt to boost crop productivity and farmer revenue by embracing agriculture technology for more of the state's varied crops. Baruah & Madan Mohan, (2022) attempts to investigate the knowledge of ongoing agricultural programmes in India's North Eastern Region (NER) among women farmers. According to the findings, a gap in the agricultural advancement of women farmers in the NER is a lack of knowledge of government agricultural programmes. In Haryana, agricultural development programmes' awareness and effectiveness are examined in the context of farmers' welfare (Shehrawat et al., 2020). In the years 2020–2021, a study on the attitudes of farmers regarding crop insurance programmes in Kerala was conducted in the districts of Kottayam, Malappuram, and Idukki. The study's findings indicated that most farmers (69.17%) had a medium perception of Kerala's crop insurance programmes, followed by low (18.33%) and high (12.50%) perceptions (Suresh & Sreedaya, 2022).



**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

This study aims at understanding the awareness of the farmers towards the agricultural schemes of the central and state government and to identify the sources of their awareness in the light of their demographic profile.

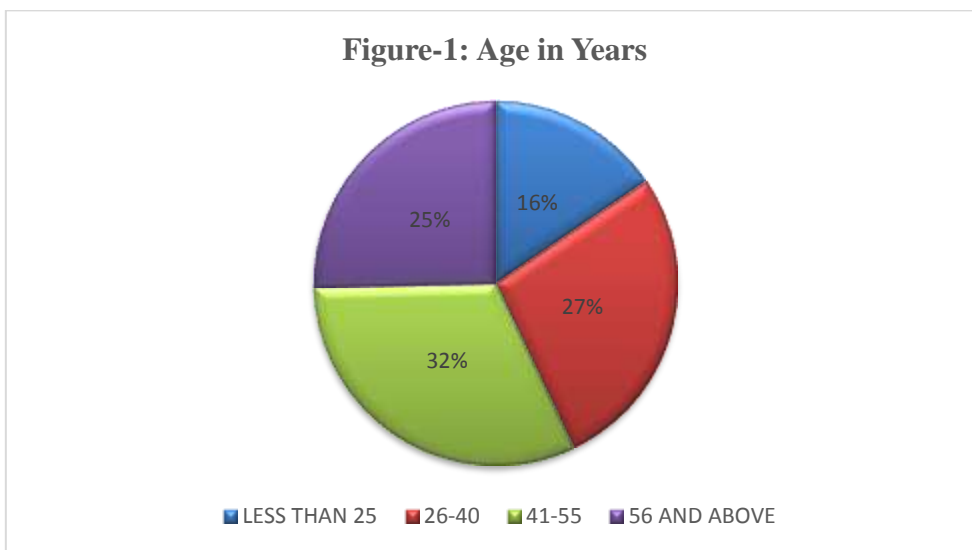
**METHODOLOGY**

Random Sampling Technique is followed for this study. Primary data are collected from the structured questionnaire and personal visits to the farmers in the study area during the period Oct-2022 to Dec-2022. Secondary data are collected from the existing literature i.e., published articles, e-journals, e-books, blogs, govt. websites, reports, etc

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

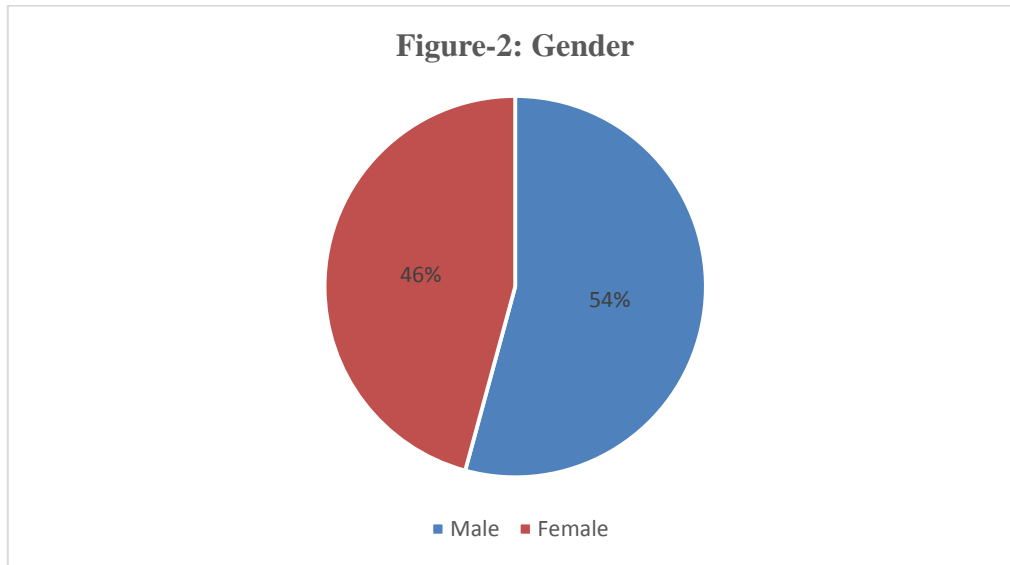
The data collected from the primary data are mentioned in the following tables and figures with brief explanations

<b>Table-1: Age(In Years)</b>					
		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Less than 25</b>	22	15.5	15.5	15.5
	<b>26-40</b>	39	27.5	27.5	43.0
	<b>41-55</b>	45	31.7	31.7	74.6
	<b>56 AND ABOVE</b>	36	25.4	25.4	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



Most of the respondents are from the age group 41-55 years i.e., 31.7% and the lowest is from the age group of less than 25 years. The age group from 26-50 has responsible for 27.5 % and 56 and above for 25.4% of farming activities in the study area.

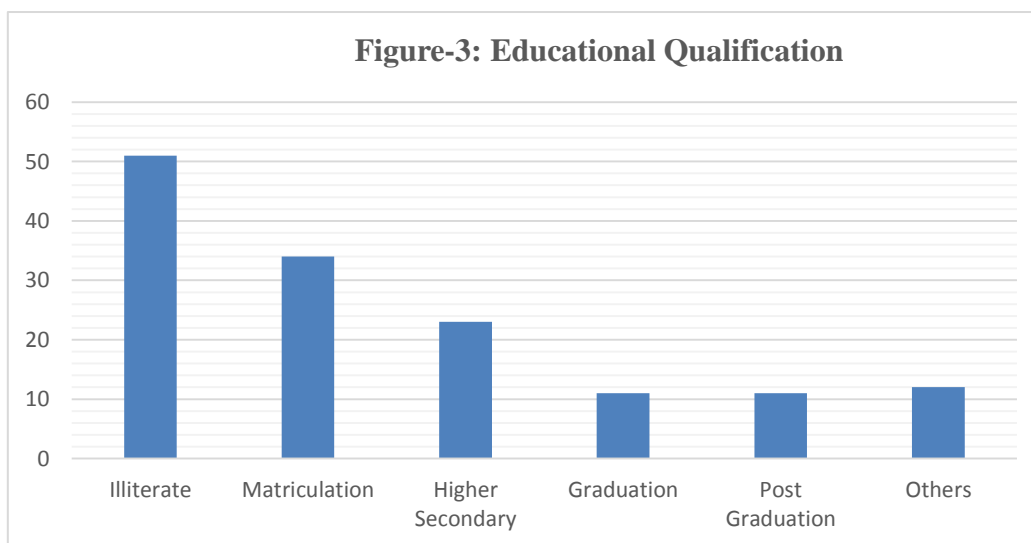
<b>Table-2: Gender</b>					
		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Male</b>	77	54.2	54.2	54.2
	<b>Female</b>	65	45.8	45.8	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



Out of the total respondents, 54.2 % are males and 45.8% are females. The involvement of males in farming activities is more than that of women in the study area.

**Table-3: Educational Qualification**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Illiterate</b>	51	35.9	35.9	35.9
	<b>Matriculation</b>	34	23.9	23.9	59.9
	<b>Higher Secondary</b>	23	16.2	16.2	76.1
	<b>Graduation</b>	11	7.7	7.7	83.8
	<b>Post-Graduation</b>	11	7.7	7.7	91.5
	<b>Others</b>	12	8.5	8.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

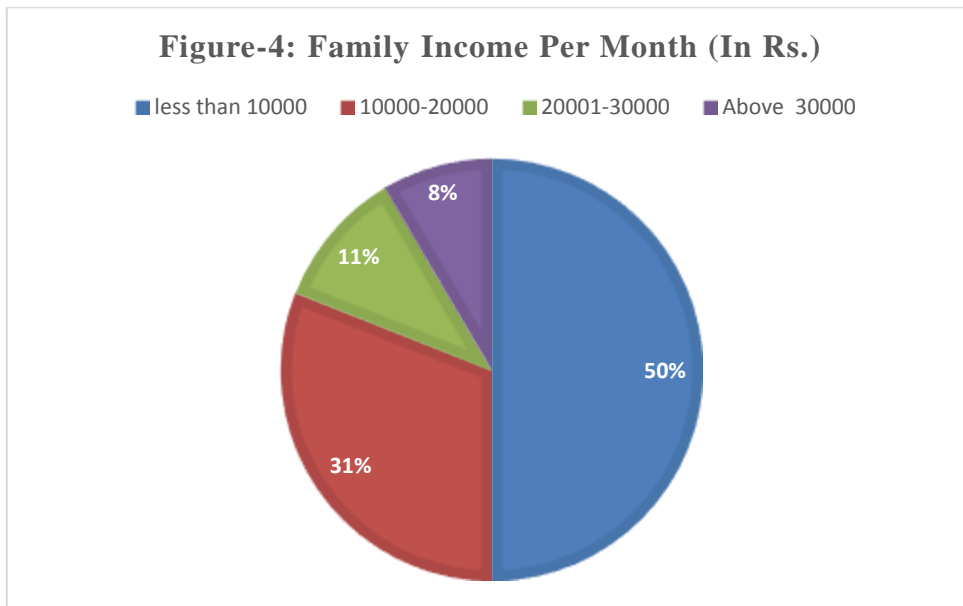


In terms of educational qualifications, 35.9 % of the respondents are illiterate, 23.9% have qualifications up to matriculation, 16.2% have higher secondary passing certificates, 7.7% in graduation and post-graduation categories and 8.5% have acquired some other qualifications.



**Table-4: Family Income (per month)**

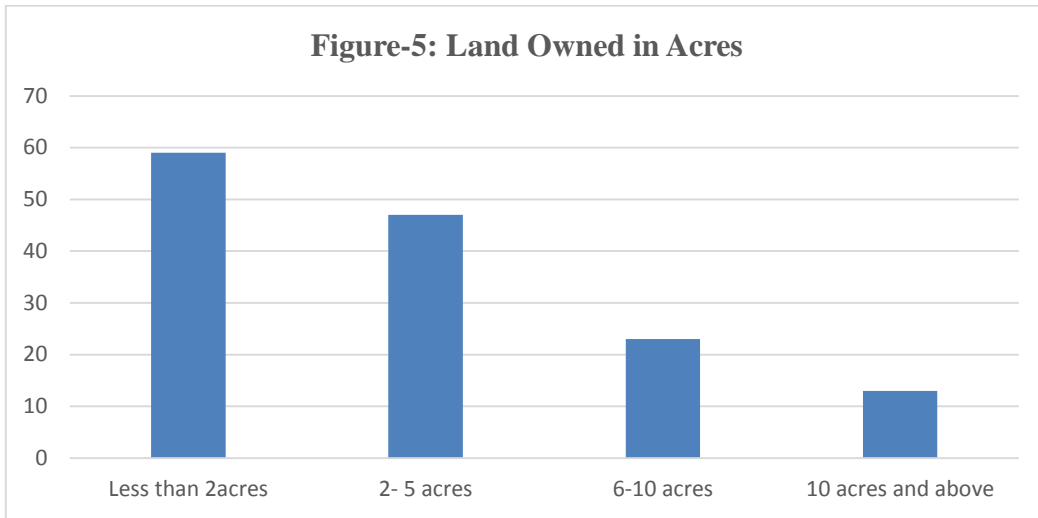
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Less than 10000</b>	71	50.0	50.0	50.0
	<b>10000-20000</b>	44	31.0	31.0	81.0
	<b>20001-30000</b>	15	10.6	10.6	91.5
	<b>Above 30000</b>	12	8.5	8.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



When we ask about family income, 50% of the farmers have a monthly income less than Rs.10000/-, 31% have an income of Rs.10000-20000 per month, 10.6% have an income above Rs. 20000 but less than RS. 30000 pm and only 8.5% have monthly income above Rs. 30000 per month.

**Table- 5: Agricultural Land Owned (in acres)**

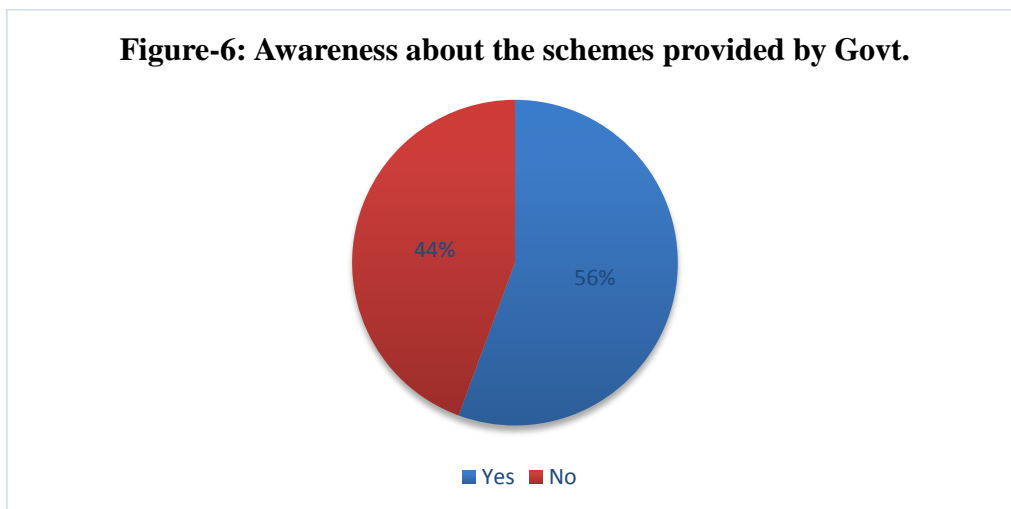
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Less than 2acres</b>	59	41.5	41.5	41.5
	<b>2- 5 acres</b>	47	33.1	33.1	74.6
	<b>6-10 acres</b>	23	16.2	16.2	90.8
	<b>10 acres and above</b>	13	9.2	9.2	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



In respect of ownership of agricultural land, we found that the highest percentage i.e., 41.5% have owned less than 2 acres and the lowest i.e., 9.2% have more than 10 acres. 33.1% of the respondents have agricultural land between 2 acres to 5 acres and 16.2% have 6 acres to 10 acres.

**Table-6: Are you aware of the schemes provided by Govt.?**

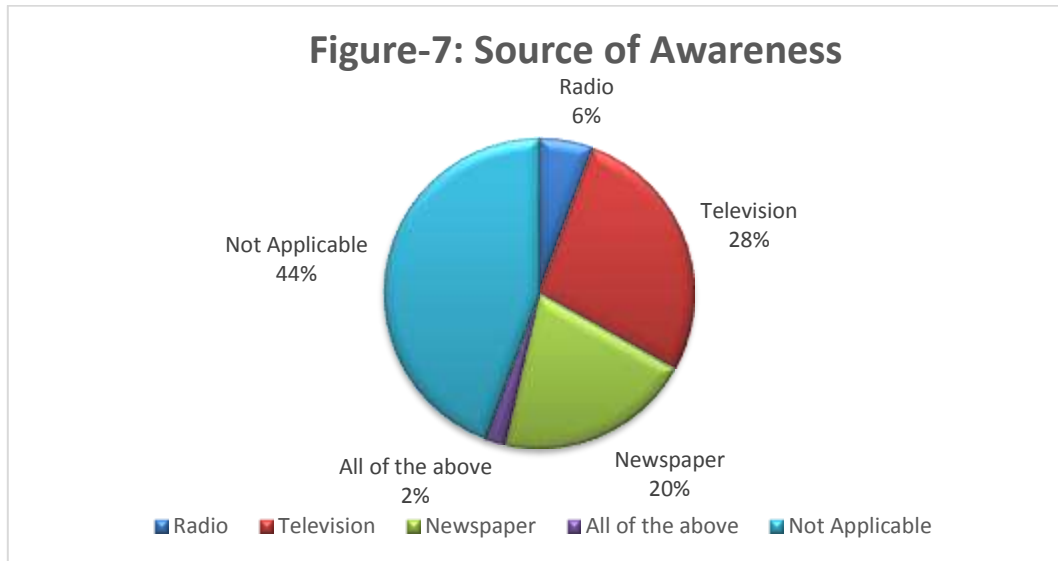
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Yes</b>	79	55.6	55.6	55.6
	<b>No</b>	63	44.4	44.4	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



From the above figures, 55.6% of respondents are aware of the schemes provided by the government for the development of the farmers and agricultural sectors. Whereas, 44.4% have no awareness of the gov. schemes.

**Table-7: Source of awareness**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Valid</b>	<b>Radio</b>	8	5.6	5.6	5.6
	<b>Television</b>	39	27.5	27.5	33.1
	<b>Newspaper</b>	29	20.4	20.4	53.5
	<b>All the above</b>	3	2.1	2.1	55.6
	<b>Not Applicable</b>	63	44.4	44.4	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	



The source of awareness is not applicable for 44.4% of respondents as they are not aware of the govt. schemes. Out of the remaining 55.6%, 27.5% are aware of television, 20.4% of newspapers, 5.6% of radio and 2.1% of all the sources.

## CONCLUSION

From the above study, it is concluded that, out of the total respondents, 55.6 % of the farmers are aware of the available govt. schemes in the study area. Out of these, the source of awareness for the majority of the farmers is television followed by newspaper and radio. They mention that their busy schedule and lack of formal education stand as a hurdle in understanding the government schemes. Proper education and training are required for availing the benefits of the welfare schemes and the overall development of the farmers.

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