



Exploring the Socioeconomic Benefits of the Rythu Bandhu Scheme: A Case Study of Wanaparthy District, Telangana

C Mannemanna^a

^aDepartment of Economics, Government Degree College for Women, Wanaparthy, Telangana, India-509103.

ABSTRACT :

The Telangana state has initiated a new era of governance focused on development and welfare, with the Rythu Bandhu Scheme, launched in 2018, playing a crucial role in supporting farmers. The scheme provides financial assistance for seed and agricultural input purchases, improving farmers' access to technology, market linkages, and infrastructure. This study evaluates the implementation of the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Wanaparthy District, Telangana, assessing its effectiveness and impact on farmers' socioeconomic well-being. The research also proposes steps for future improvements, such as enhancing awareness, ensuring transparent fund distribution, and integrating modern agricultural practices. The study contributes to sustainable agricultural development and rural welfare, ultimately supporting the vision of a prosperous Golden Telangana.

Keywords: Beneficiaries; credit; debt; impact; investment support and Rythu Bandhu.

Corresponding Author; Phone: +91 9989306207

E-mail address: cmannemanna09@gmail.com (Dr. C Mannemanna).

Introduction

India, the second-largest global producer of fruits, vegetables, rice, and wheat, has a stable and diversified GDP growth. However, it still houses 176 million impoverished individuals. Telangana has 54.75% of agricultural land, with 50% irrigated. India has made significant progress in reducing poverty, with a 46% decrease over two decades to 13.4% in 2015. Despite this, the country still faces challenges in sustainability, improved growth, financial inclusion, and social development [1].

In India, small and marginal farmers make up 86.21% of operational holdings and 47.34% of the operated area [2], making up the largest group in agriculture. In Telangana, 85% of farm holdings are small and marginal [3,4]. Despite their knowledge of local agriculture and low-cost access to family labor, these farmers face challenges such as high transaction costs for non-labor transactions [5].

Small and marginal farmers in India face challenges such as lack of access to credit and insurance services [6], climate vulnerability, pests, and other risks. Access to agricultural credit is crucial for a successful crop cycle and providing support during adversity. The Telangana state government launched the 'RythuBandhu' investment support scheme in 2018 to address these issues. The scheme provides ₹5000 per acre per farmer each season through direct benefit transfer (DBT) into beneficiaries' bank accounts. The objectives include supporting input purchases, labor, and investments in farmers' field operations. The scheme also aims to relieve farmers of debt burdens and prevent them from falling into the debt trap again [7]. The government recognizes the importance of agricultural credit in addressing these challenges.

Methodology:

In order to compile the data and insights for this study, information was gathered from a variety of reliable sources. These sources include:

1. **District Agriculture Office:** The official records and reports from the District Agriculture Office provided comprehensive data on the implementation and impact of the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Wanaparthy District, including the number of farmers assisted, the financial support provided, and other relevant statistics.
2. **Farmers:** Feedback and insights were obtained directly from the farmers who benefited from the scheme. Interviews and surveys were conducted to understand their experiences, challenges, and the impact of the financial assistance on their productivity and livelihoods.
3. **Lecturers:** Agricultural experts and lecturers from local educational institutions were consulted to provide an academic perspective on the effectiveness of the Rythu Bandhu Scheme. Their expertise helped to contextualize the data and offered valuable insights into the broader implications of the scheme on agricultural practices.
4. **Google:** Online resources, including government publications, articles, and research papers, were accessed through Google to gather additional data and information on the Rythu Bandhu Scheme, its objectives, and its impact on farmers and the agricultural sector.

By combining information from these diverse sources, a comprehensive understanding of the Rythu Bandhu Scheme was developed, allowing for a well-rounded analysis of its effectiveness and impact on the farming community.

Observations and Results:

- In the year 2018, during the Yasangi season, a total of 134,141 farmers in Wanaparthy District received assistance under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme, amounting to Rs. 1,374,517,430.
- In the year 2019, during the Vanakalam season, 142,023 farmers were provided assistance, with a total of Rs. 1,790,753,812 disbursed under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Wanaparthy District.
- In the 2019 Yasangi season, 130,381 farmers received assistance, with a total of Rs. 1,623,230,772 allocated under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Wanaparthy District.
- During the 2020 Vanakalam season, 148,426 farmers received assistance, amounting to Rs. 1,790,960,036 under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Wanaparthy District.
- In the 2020 Yasangi season, 152,044 farmers were provided assistance, totaling Rs. 1,820,794,171 under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Wanaparthy District.
- In the 2021 Vanakalam season, 157,663 farmers received assistance, with a total disbursement of Rs. 1,825,897,536 under the Rythu Bandhu Scheme in Wanaparthy District.
- The highest number of eligible farmers are from Pangal Mandal, while the least number of eligible farmers are from Srirangapur Mandal.
- It was observed that among the 14 Mandals, Pangal farmers received the highest amount of assistance, primarily due to their larger landholdings.

Cropping Intensity Calculation:

- Cropping intensity refers to the ratio of the total area cropped to the area sown in one season. It is generally expressed as a percentage and is used to measure the intensity of cropping patterns in a specific region.

To calculate the cropping intensity based on the data provided, the following formula can be used:

$$\text{Cropping Intensity} = \left(\frac{\text{Total Area Cropped in All Seasons}}{\text{Gross Cropped Area}} \right) \times 100$$

- In the context of the Rythu Bandhu Scheme data, cropping intensity could potentially be calculated based on the total number of farmers and the amount of assistance distributed over different seasons. However, the exact area cultivated in each season (both Yasangi and Vanakalam) isn't directly provided in the given data. To estimate cropping intensity, you would typically need to know the total area sown in these seasons and the proportion of land under cultivation.
- If you have the area sown for each season or additional data points (such as the total gross cropped area or the specific land area per farmer), you can calculate the cropping intensity more precisely.
- Based on the observations and results, we can say that the increasing number of farmers receiving assistance and the amount of financial support in successive years (such as the increase in assistance from Rs. 1,374,517,430 in 2018 to Rs. 1,825,897,536 in 2021) could suggest an increase in cropping intensity as farmers may be encouraged to cultivate more land or multiple crops in a year.

Conclusion:

- The Rythu Bandhu Scheme provides essential financial assistance to farmers twice a year, aimed at supporting their agricultural activities and improving their economic conditions. The fundamental goal of this scheme is to enhance the productivity of farmers by providing them with timely financial support, enabling them to invest in necessary resources such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and labor. This, in turn, is expected to lead to an increase in crop yields, which will contribute significantly to the overall agricultural output of the state.
- The scheme specifically targets both Rabi and Kharif crops, which are critical to the agricultural cycle in the region. By focusing on these two main cropping seasons, the scheme ensures that farmers have the financial means to sustain their agricultural activities throughout the year, allowing them to maximize their productivity during both planting seasons.
- Furthermore, the scheme provides an opportunity for the general public to contribute to the welfare of farmers through donations. These contributions will help further strengthen the support provided under the scheme, ensuring that farmers are better equipped to face the challenges of modern agriculture. By encouraging public participation, the scheme aims to create a collective effort in improving the livelihoods of farmers and boosting agricultural development in the state.
- Ultimately, the Rythu Bandhu Scheme is designed to foster a more resilient and prosperous agricultural sector, benefiting not only farmers but also the entire state's economy by increasing food production and improving the standard of living for rural communities.

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