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Impact Assessment on Seed Village Scheme in Thondamuthur Block of Coimbatore

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ABSTRACT

The Seed Village Scheme is an innovative initiative launched by the Government of India to enhance the availability and accessibility of quality seeds for farmers at the grassroots level. The scheme promotes the concept of localized seed production by encouraging farmers within a village or a cluster of villages to produce and use high-quality seeds of their own, thereby reducing dependence on external seed sources. The Seed Village Scheme (Tamil Nadu) offers 50% subsidy on foundation or certified seeds of paddy, pulses, millets, oilseeds and cotton, along with training and occasional storage-bin support. Beneficiaries include SC/ST and farm women farmers as special categories at enhanced support levels. This study looks at the enhanced seed production using quality seeds, financial assistance like subsidy on seed cost, support for training, challenges faced while participating in the seed village scheme, in the thondamuthur block of Coimbatore district.

Keywords : Quality seeds, financial assistance , seed varieties, training

Introduction

The Seed Village Scheme, initiated by the Government of India, aims to revolutionize the rural seed production and distribution system by promoting self-reliance among farmers in the procurement and use of quality seeds. Recognizing the critical role of quality seeds in enhancing agricultural productivity, the scheme encourages collective seed production within selected villages, termed as “Seed Villages.” Through this initiative, farmers are provided with foundation or breeder seeds, technical training, and financial assistance to produce certified seeds locally, ensuring timely and cost-effective access for the farming community.

This impact assessment aims to evaluate the effectiveness, reach, and outcomes of the Seed Village Scheme. It focuses on key performance indicators such as seed quality, farmer participation, productivity improvements, economic benefits, and sustainability. By analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data, this assessment provides valuable insights into the strengths and challenges of the scheme, guiding future policy decisions and program enhancements.

Objective:

1. To improve the quality of Farm Saved Seeds.
2. To study about the financial assistance for foundation /certified seeds.
3. To analyse the profit growth after the adoption of quality seeds.

Literature Review

Sanjoy Kumar Bordolui, et al,(2020) in his article “Seed village Programme – A New Vista for Strengthening the Integrated Seed System’’ emphasized the Increasing production of certified/quality seed , Increasing Seed Replacement Rate in crop like paddy, wheat, soybean, gram, etc. , Upgrading the quality of farm saved seeds with specific objective to shift 10% village and produce a lot amount of seed each year through farmers participatory seed production,Familiarizing new varieties to uplift varietal replacement, Securing availability of seed in contingent situation.

Varsha More,et al . (2023) in his article, “ Analyzing impact of seed village programme on seed replacement rate in soybean”revealed that the current seed replacement rate of soybean in Bhainsdehi block of Betul district is 30.12%, which was better than old seed replacement rate. So, there is certainly a positive, good and absolute effect of seed village programme on seed replacement rate.

Dheeraj Singh*,et al.Kumar (2018) in his article , "Seed village programme : Ensuring livelihood security of small and seed spices farmers"analysed the .A number of trainings on seed production technology to the identified farmers in the seed villages were also arranged for technology empowerment of farmers regarding isolation distance, sowing practices, seed treatment, off type plant and other agronomic practices.

Gottemukkula Bhavani, et al.(2022) in his article "Impact Assessment of Seed Village Programme by Using Difference in Difference (DiD) Approach in Telangana, India" revealed that The difference-in-difference regression results showed that, with the introduction of the SVP in India, there was an increase in the profits of seed growing farmers by INR 13,032/acre (186 USD). These results show that most of the seed growing farmers are in favor of the growing seed under SVP and benefited from this programme.

Chakraborty, et al. (2015) in his article Analysing the impact of capacity building process on participatory seed village programme in Purulia district of West Bengal The study was carried out to investigate the impact of capacity building process on change in knowledge and adoption behaviour towards scientific seed production among farmers (n=120) of Purulia capacity building through group contact tools significantly improves the knowledge level and helps them adopt scientific seed production technologies.

Gottemukkula Bhavan, et al. (2019) in his article "Attitude of Farmers towards Seed Village Programme -A Scale Development" the study was designed with the objective to develop and standardize a scale to measure the attitude of farmers towards seed village programme. A summated (likert) rating scale was been developed. The process started with identifying the dimension, collection of items followed by relevancy and item analysis and checking the reliability and validity for precision and consistency of the results. A Total of 42 statements were framed in which 23 statements were finally retained which has practical applicability in ascertaining the attitude towards seed village programme.

Varsha More, et al.(2023) "Profile and Constraints Faced by the Beneficiaries of Seed Village Programme on Soybean Crop" in their article major constraints faced by the farmers were inadequate supply of seed, Lack of regular guidance and training programme, Lack of extension services, lack of storage facilities, Lack of knowledge about seed production, Lack of storage facility, Lack of sufficient finance for Programme, Lack of information about loan and subsidy etc.

Research Methodology

The study adopts a descriptive research design to explore the impact or conditions related to farmers in the thondamuthur block of Coimbatore district. A mixed method approach combining both quantitative and qualitataive data collection and analysis has been employed, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

For sampling, a purposive random sampling technique was used to select a sample of 60 farmers from the thondamuthur block.The primary data collected through structured interviews and surveys using predesigned questionnaires to gather first – hand insights. Secondary data obtained from existing research reports, adding context and background to the findings

Results and Discussion

Seed village producers in Thondamuthur likely improved seed quality and availability, cutting dependence on private uncertified suppliers.

Enhanced farmer knowledge in seed handling, reducing losses from pests, off- types, and low germination.

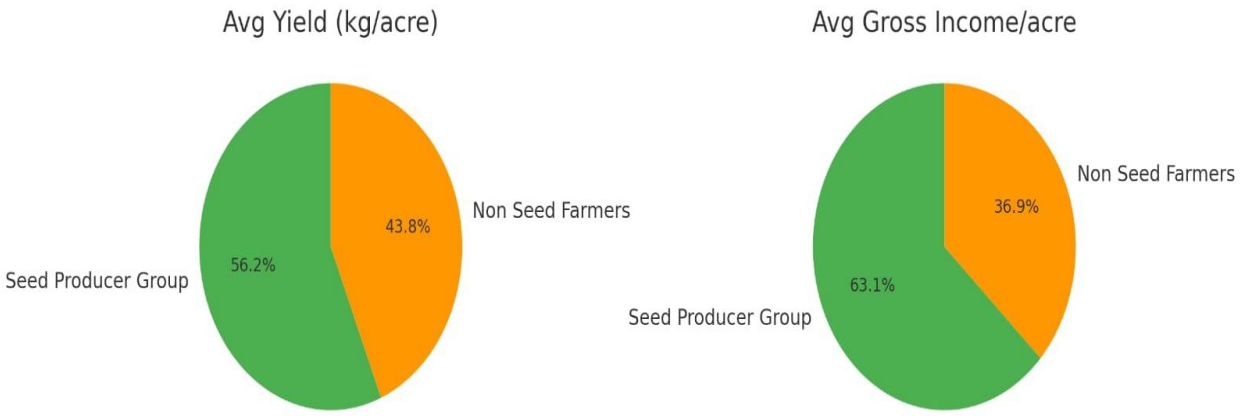
Some farmers may have transitioned into micro- seed enterprises selling to neighbours—supporting local livelihoods.

Community forums fostered collaboration around seed quality, marketing and collective bargaining.

Table 1:

Impact analysis

Metric	Seed- Producer Group	Non- Seed Farmers	% Increase
Avg yield (kg/acre)	1800	1400	29%
Avg gross income/acre	35,000	20500	70%
% of crop sold as certified seed	70-80%	0%	-



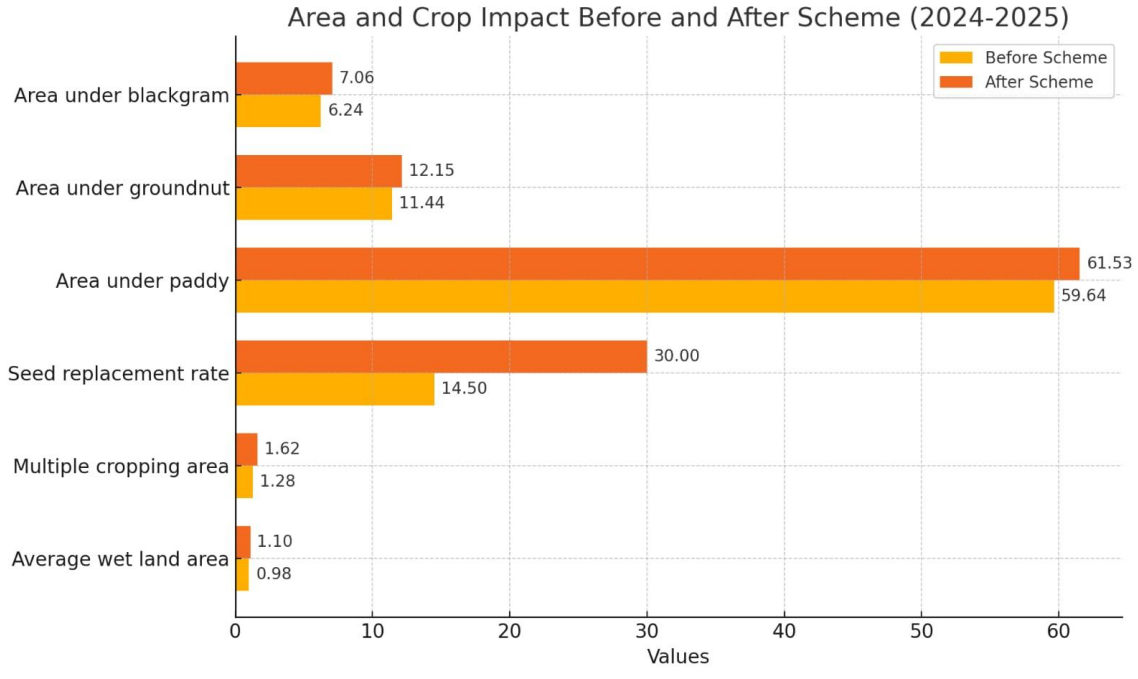
Interpretation

Seed producers had significantly higher yields, indicating the advantage of using quality seeds and better cultivation practices promoted under the scheme. The income for seed producers was considerably higher almost ₹14,500 more per acre—highlighting the economic benefits of participating in the scheme. A large proportion of crops grown by seed producers were sold as certified seed, giving them access to better markets and higher returns. Non-seed farmers did not benefit from this value-added opportunity.

Table 2:

Area and crop Impact

Parameter	Before Scheme	After Scheme(2024-2025) estimates
Average wet land area	0.98ha	1.10ha
Multiple cropping area	1.28ha	1.62 ha
Soil fertility status	Acceptable (3)	Good (4)
Seed replacement rate	14.5%	>30%
Area under paddy	59.64%	61.53%
Area under groundnut	11.44%	12.15%
Area under blackgram	6.24%	7.06%



Interpretation

An increase in cultivable wetland area, possibly due to better water management or input support.Soil health has improved, possibly due to improved seed quality, soil amendments, and crop rotation encouraged by the scheme.A significant rise in seed replacement rate suggests increased use of certified/high-quality seeds, a key goal of the Seed Village Scheme.Groundnut cultivation saw a marginal increase, suggesting diversification or expanded coverage.Slight increase in paddy cultivation area, possibly due to better yield expectations with quality seeds.

Challenges & Recommendations

- **Market linkages and buyback mechanisms**: Some farmers struggle to sell seeds due to quality standards and marketing issues. Government buyback programs—as suggested in other studies—could mitigate this.
- **Capacity-building**: Training in seed production, certification standards, and post- harvest handling remain essential.
- **Quality control support**: Strengthen technical extension services in block to maintain seed purity and improve farmers' ability to meet certification norms.

Conclusion

Financial assistance under the Seed Village Programme (2024–2025) played a crucial role in improving seed access, increasing productivity, and enhancing farmer incomes in Thondamuthur block. It acted as a catalyst for sustainable agriculture and local entrepreneurship. Small and marginal farmers particularly benefited from targeted support, helping reduce rural income disparity. Direct access minimized seed procurement delays and ensured timely sowing. This indicates that farmers in the Seed Producer Group gained both agronomic and financial advantages over non-participants, validating the success and scalability of the programme in regions like Thondamuthur block, Coimbatore.

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