

OPINION OF FARMERS ABOUT FUNCTIONING OF RYTHU BAZAARS

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The major objective of rythu bazars is to provide remunerative price to the produce of farmers, cheap and fresh vegetables to the consumers by the elimination of middlemen. Has more than 2 years have elapsed since the establishment of RBs, it is essential that a study is conducted aimed at assessing the functioning of RBs from the producers point of view and eliciting their responses in order take RBs amore functional. The present investigation has been conceived, planned and conducted with the following specific objective.

To know the opinion of the participating farmers about functioning of rythu bazars.

Material and Methods

Exploratory research design was adopted for the study. The study was conducted in the Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh. Among RBs, 6 RBs whose weekly arrivals are more than 1000 quintals were selected. A sample of 60 farmers i.e., 10 from each RB were selected for the study by using random sampling technique to know the opinion of participating farmers about fun functioning of RBs.

Opinion of farmers was operationalised as the positive or negative feeling of respondents towards the functioning of R.Bs in terms of issue of D cards, facilities provided, price mechanism, supervision by officials, utilisation of RB, funds, encouragement of middlemen by RB officials to participate in RB and advantages of RBs over traditional markets. A pre-tested interview schedule was used to know the opinion of the farmers about the functioning of RBs and data was analysed by using frequency and percentages.

Results of the study

Table 1 revealed that all the farmers expressed satisfactory opinion about the mode of selection of farmers for issue of ID cards and it also shows

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that 85.00% of the farmers expressed that they did not face any problem in getting ID cards whereas 25.00 per cent of farmers stated that the officials were not giving ID cards timely.

Table 1: Distribution of farmers according to their opinion on issue of ID cards **n = 60**

SNo.	Opinion items	Respondents	
		F	%
1.	Selection of farmers for issue of ID cards for selling vegetables in RBs	60	100.00
	a. Satisfactory		
	b. Not satisfactory	--	--
2.	Problems in getting ID cards	9	15.00
	a. Faced problems		
	b. No problems	51	85.00
	Total	60	100.00

From table 2, it can be inferred that, all the farmers were satisfied with the location of i3s, providing of weighing scales, power supply, sweeping facility and supply of seeds at subsidized rates in RBs followed by the method of allotment of stalls (91.66%), toilet and bathroom facility (83.33%), transport system (80.00%), stall space provided (78.34%), advisory services rendered (7 1.66%) and drinking water facility (66.67%) provided at RBs.

Table 2: Distribution of farmers according to their opinion on facilities provided in RBs **n = 60**

S.No.	Facility provided	Satisfactory responses	
		(F)	(%)
1.	Location of RB	60	100.00
2.	Transport system	48	80.00
3.	Method of allotment of stalls	55	91.66
4.	Stall space	47	78.34
5.	Provision of weighing scales	60	100.00
6.	Provision of power supply	60	100.00
7.	Provision of bathroom and toilet facility	50	83.34
8.	Provision of sweeping facility	60	100.00
9.	Provision of drinking water facility	40	66.67
10.	Storage facility for pay over produce	--	--
11.	Seed supply at subsidized rates in RBS	60	100.00
12.	Advisory services rendered at RBs	43	71.66

An insight into table 3 shows that about 76.66 per cent of the farmers opined that the Estate Officer and participating farmers were responsible for fixing of sole prices to the commodities and equal per cent of the farmers stated that the officials of RB fixing sale price as Rs. 1/-, Rs. 3/- more than the wholesale market prices, whereas other 76.66 per cent of farmers opined that officials of RB were fixing remunerative prices for commodities and they were also satisfied with the mode or price fixing mechanism (70.00%).

Table3: Distribution of farmers according to their opinion on price fixing mechanism n = 60

S.No.	Opinion items	Yes	
		F	%
1.	Estate Officer and participating farmers were responsible for fixing sale prices for commodities	46	76.66
2.	Officials of RB fixing Rs. 1/- to Rs. 3/- more than wholesale prices	46	76.66
3.	Officials are fixing remunerative prices	46	76.66
4.	Price fixing mechanism is satisfactory	42	70.00

From table 4, it could be observed that, the officials of RBs were supervising the RBs regularly for checking prices, to curb malpractices in weighments (96.66%) to check facilities (75.00%) and to *avoid* entry of middlemen (66.66%).

Table 4: Distribution of farmers according to their opinion on supervision of RBs by officials of RBs

S.No.	Opinion items	F	%
1.	To check prices	60	100.00
2.	To curb malpractices in weighments	58	96.66
3.	To check the facilities	45	75.00
4.	To avoid entry of middlemen	40	66.66

Table 5, reveals that 96.66 per cent farmers opined that the officials were properly utilizing the RB funds for sanitation of RB, for purchase and repairs of weighing scales (93.33%) and for providing other facilities (75.00%).

Table 5: Distribution of farmers based on their opinion on utilization of RB funds

SNo.	Opinion items	F	%
1.	For sanitation of RBs	58	96.66
2.	For purchase and repairs of weighing scales	56	93.33
3.	For other facilities	45	75.00

On observation of table 6, it can be seen that, 75.00 per cent of the farmers opined that the officials of RBs were not encouraging middlemen to participate in RBs, whereas 25.00 per cent of them opined that they were encouraging the middlemen to participate in RBs.

Table 6 : Distribution of farmers according to their opinion on encouragement of middlemen by RB officials to participate in RBs

SNo.	Opinion	F	%
1.	Officials were encouraging middlemen to participate in RBs	15	25.00
2.	Not encouraging	45	75.00
	Total	60	100.00

From table 7, it can be observed that a majority (96.66%) of the farmers opined that small category farmers were getting benefited due to participation in RBs followed by medium category(45.00%).

Table 7: Distribution of farmers according to their opinion on category of farmers getting benefited due to their participation in RBs

SNo.	Category	F	%
1.	Marginal farmers	04	6.66
2.	Small farmers	58	96.66
3.	Medium farmers	27	45.00
4.	Large farmers	03	5.00

It is clear from table 8 that all the farmers stated that the main advantages of RBs were no commission and remunerative price followed by immediate cash after sale (91.66%), self satisfaction (50.00%), and no middlemen (31.66%). These findings conform with the findings of Balakrishnan and Ramaswamy (2000), Naseerudeen *et al.* (2000), Kalra *et al.* (2000) and Radhakrishnan and Karthekeyan (2000).

Table 8: Distribution of farmers based on their opinion on advantages of RBs over traditional markets

S.No	Advantages	F	%
1.	No commission	60	100.00
2.	Remunerative prices	60	100.00
3.	Immediate cash after sale	55	91.66
4.	Self satisfaction	30	50.00
5.	No middlemen	19	31.66

Conclusion

From the above results, it can be concluded that farmers were satisfied with the issue of ID cards, facilities provided, price fixing mechanism, supervision of RBs by officials, utilisation of RB funds. They also expressed that absence of commission and remunerative prices are main advantages of RBs.

Reference

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