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Articles

Rupam Mukherjee Determinants of Marketed Surplus of Food Crops – A Village Level Study in the North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal

Dipparna Jana Crime and State Level Per Capita Income: Exploring the Relationship for Indian States

Archana Sinha An Empirical Study of Causes, Concerns and Impacts of Migration in India: A Development Perspective and Implications

Dinesh Kumar Nayak Seasonal Migration and Spatial Diversification in Rural Labour Market

Vimal Trivedi Understanding and Addressing Livelihood Problem of Rag-Pickers in Surat City

Barnali Das Structure and Organisation of School Dental Health Service in the School Health Programme of NRHM in West Tripura District

Subhrabaran Das and Monalisa Das Economic Growth and Environmental Degradation: A Cross Country Analysis

Srinivasa Reddy and K. Hanumantha Rao Asset Management by SC Fishermen in Andhra Pradesh: A Quick Assessment

Pesala Peter and I. Maruthi Impact of MNREGA on Rural Households: Selected GPs in (North) Karnataka

M Gopinath Reddy, Bishnu Prasad Mahapatra and Jogindra Naik Current Implementation and Impacts of MGNREGS in Rural Odisha: Does this Solve the Problems of Unemployment and Migration?

Perspective

S.L. Sharma Social Development: A Liberal Sociological Formulation

Book Review



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Determinants of Marketed Surplus of Food Crops – A Village Level Study in the North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal

Rupam Mukherjee*

The aim of this paper is to investigate how different socio economic factors affect market participation and marketed surplus of food crops in some selected villages of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal in terms of a multiple regression model and to suggest different means of increasing the marketed surplus of food crops, which may enlighten the policy makers in fine-tuning their designs and applications. A systematic, multistage stratified sampling design was adopted to conduct a survey and responses of 100 farming households were documented in terms of a pre-tested structured questionnaire designed for the purpose. The study shows that the marketed surplus of food crops by farming households in the area of study increase with the increase in education of household head, perception of farmers regarding lagged market price of the product, landholding size and access to credit; whereas it falls with the increase in household size and distance from the market. All the results are statistically significant. The 't-test' is also conducted to investigate significant difference in mean value for marketed surplus of food crops between farmers when they are divided into two groups based upon different categories defined by the explanatory variables considered in this study.

Keywords: *Marketed surplus, Food crops, Survey, Multiple regression, T-test*

I. INTRODUCTION

Backdrop

Agriculture is the lifeline of the Indian economy which keeps the economy going and growing. Increase in marketed surplus of food crops is essential to meet the constant challenge of food and nutritional security of the burgeoning population of the nation over time, control of food prices led inflation and to increase the foreign exchange earnings from export. Moreover, increase in purchasing power of the farmers from the sale of agricultural produces is conducive to widening the home market for industrial products and it helps in reducing the rural-urban divide in the distribution of income and wealth and migration of people from the rural to the urban sector.

Marketed surplus is defined as the portion of production that actually enters the market irrespective of the farmers' requirements for family consumption, farm

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