

# Business Practices and Sustainability

Editors

Samir Ghosh

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Abhijit Sinha

Brajaballav Pal



Department of Commerce

**VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY**

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# Business Practices and Sustainability

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# Determinants and Challenges in Increasing Marketed Surplus of Food Crops to Raise Farm Income for Sustainable Agriculture in West Bengal

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Rupam Mukherjee\*

## Abstract

*Indian agriculture is suffering from distress for the last two decades . Shrinking farm sizes, low productivity, the rising cost of cultivation and climate change have put farming at risk. The problem has become more acute for small and marginal farmers, constituting about 85% of the farming community of the nation, having very minimal access to input, credit and output market. The extreme manifestation of this agrarian distress has been reflected in terms of the unending chain of farmers' suicides in different parts of the nation recently. To address this problem, the Central government has announced its intention of doubling farm income by 2022. Many State governments have undertaken financial support and loan waiver schemes to empower farmers and to bring them out of the vicious circle of poverty. But to raise farm income, increase in marketed surplus of farm output is imperative. This paper aims to identify the different socio-economic factors that affect the marketed surplus of food crops of the farmers in the Barabheria village of Amdanga Block of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal in terms of a multiple regression model. The paper also tries to rank the importance of different problems associated with the marketing of farm produce in the area of study in terms of Garret method, that will enlighten the policymakers in fine-tuning their policy designing. A systematic multistage stratified sampling design was used to conduct a survey and the responses of 120 respondent 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 increases with the increase in size of operational landholdings and access to formal credit, whereas it falls with the increase in household size. The study also reveals that the existence of a long chain of mediators*

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*in agri-business, the loss for damage of crops due to lack of store-housing facilities and lack of market information are the major problems associated with the marketing of farm produce in the area of study.*

**Key words :** Marketed surplus, determinants, survey, multiple regression, Garret method

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