IJFANS INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES
ISSN PRINT 2319 1775 Online 2320 7876
 Journal UGC CARE Listed (Group-I) Volume 12, Iss 01 Jan 2023

Globalization and the Crisis of Smallholder Agriculture: A Study on Marginal Farmers in Madurai District

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Abstract

This study examines the impact of globalization on marginal farmers in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, within the broader context of post-1991 economic reforms in India. Globalization has transformed Indian agriculture through technological advancements, market integration, and foreign investments, offering both opportunities and challenges for smallholder farmers. While policies and innovations have improved productivity, access to credit, irrigation, and hybrid seeds, marginal farmers continue to face structural constraints, including land fragmentation, labor scarcity, low education, climate vulnerabilities, and dependence on chemical inputs. The study highlights the social and economic disparities that globalization has intensified, with agriculture lagging behind the industrial and service sectors in income, productivity, and modernization. Findings underscore the need for targeted interventions, such as financial support, market access, skill development, and sustainable farming practices, to enhance the resilience, livelihoods, and socio-economic well-being of marginal farmers in the globalized era.

Keywords: Globalization, Marginal Farmers, Crisis of Agriculture, Technology Development

Introduction

Globalization, in its broadest sense, means different things to different people. In common understanding, it refers to the integration of the entire world into a single global system. The origins of the newly emerging forces of globalization can be traced to specific economic and political developments that occurred in the late 1980s and early 1990s. These developments included the end of the Cold War and the dismantling of state socialism symbolized by the fall of the Berlin Wall—all of which marked the victory of Western liberal economic thought. As a result, during the 1990s, many nations sought to imitate the West by adopting its institutions and philosophies. Nearly all governments, regardless of ideology, reduced their direct economic activities while the private sector expanded, replacing governments as major economic players on the world stage. This transformation created new markets and new actors, such as multinational corporations (MNCs). The World Trade Organization (WTO), and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), all operating under new rules and regulations (Bhalla & Singh, 2001, pp. 75–80).

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Impact of Globalization on Indian Agriculture

Globalization refers to the increasing interconnectedness and integration of economies, societies, and cultures across the world. It has influenced almost every sector of society, including agriculture. In India, globalization brought both opportunities and challenges for farmers, transforming traditional farming practices and rural livelihoods. The effects of globalization on agriculture can be understood through its economic and social impacts—both positive and negative.

Positive Impact of Globalization

Economic Impact

Globalization has empowered greater access to technological advancements in agriculture, including high-yield varieties, genetically modified (GM) crops, and micro-irrigation techniques. Foreign investments in agriculture, such as in contract farming, cold storage, and food processing, have provided farmers with new opportunities and better infrastructure. Additionally, access to foreign markets has greatly boosted Indian agricultural exports, enhancing farmers' income and productivity.

Social Impact:

Globalization has helped improve food productivity and transform rural agrarian societies. It has empowered farmers to understand, reach out to, and participate in global markets. The introduction of new technologies, especially in irrigation, has addressed rural water scarcity and made agriculture more sustainable. Moreover, it has helped change traditional attitudes in agrarian communities, encouraging the adoption of innovative and efficient farming methods.

Negative Impact of Globalization

Economic Impact

With globalization, multinational companies (MNCs) have captured Indian markets, making farmers increasingly dependent on costly hybrid seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. The lure of global markets led to a shift from traditional or mixed cropping systems to more monoculture-based and unsustainable practices. Furthermore, competition from cheaper agricultural imports pushed down prices of crops such as cotton and wheat, making farming less profitable and more vulnerable to global price fluctuations.

Social Impact:

Unsustainable agricultural practices and the inability of small farmers to compete with global imports have contributed to distress migration, weakening rural communities and traditional family structures. Dependence on MNC seeds has led to the loss of indigenous seed varieties and traditional farming knowledge. Moreover, globalization has influenced food habits, increasing the consumption of processed foods rich in fats, sugars, and proteins—contributing to the rise of lifestyle-related diseases (Brainly, 2020).

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Marginal Farmers

Marginal and small farmers play a crucial role in ensuring food security and meeting the growing food demand in developing countries. They constitute the majority of the farming population and are vital to sustainable agricultural development. The term *marginal farmer* refers to an individual cultivating agricultural land—whether as an owner, tenant, or sharecropper—up to one hectare (2.5 acres) in size. The socioeconomic status (SEC) of such farmers is often reflected through their income, education level, and occupation, which together determine their position within the social hierarchy.

In India, the agricultural structure has undergone significant transformation over the years, marked by a consistent decline in average farm size and an increase in the marginalization of landholdings. These structural changes have far-reaching implications for poverty alleviation, rural livelihoods, and overall agricultural growth (Singh, 2013).

Status of Small and Marginal Farmers in Tamil Nadu

Agriculture continues to be a major source of livelihood in Tamil Nadu, employing a significant portion of the rural population. According to the Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Centre, Tamil Nadu, hosted by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science, Technology and Environment and sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, agriculture and its allied sectors remain the backbone of the state's rural economy. Nearly one-third of rural households in Tamil Nadu depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihood, with about 93% of farmers categorized as small and marginal (ENVIS Centre: Tamil Nadu, n.d.).

The Government of Tamil Nadu has made remarkable achievements in food grain production, exceeding 100 lakh metric tons since 2011–12. The state's Department of Agriculture aims to improve the economic condition of farmers by enhancing productivity and tripling their income through sustainable and competitive agricultural growth strategies. These include initiatives such as the Second Green Revolution, promotion of micro-irrigation, and modernization of farming practices (Policy Note, 2020–2021).

Madurai district, predominantly agrarian, receives an average annual rainfall of 874.5 mm, with major crops including paddy, millets, pulses, and cotton. The Periyar–Vaigai canal serves as the main source of irrigation. As per the 2011 Census, Madurai had 205,771 marginal farmers and 401,867 agricultural laborers. Notably, Tamil Nadu is the only state providing a 100% subsidy for small and marginal farmers and 75% subsidy for other farmers, encouraging the adoption of drip and sprinkler irrigation systems (Policy Note, 2020–2021).

According to the National Agriculture Development Programme (NADP, 2017), the proportion of marginal farmers in Tamil Nadu increased from 71.34% in 1985–86 to 77.19% in 2011–12. However, these farmers cultivated only 25.88% to 35.32% of the total operational area, indicating persistent land fragmentation and marginalization. Despite this, Tamil Nadu has achieved notable progress in agricultural productivity through technological interventions such as soil fertility enhancement, integrated farming systems, dryland

agriculture development, micro-irrigation, organic farming, and digital market integration via eNAM.

The state has surpassed 100 lakh metric tons of food grain production multiple times between 2011–12 and 2018–19 (excluding drought years 2012–13 and 2016–17) and has been honored with the **"Krishi Karman Award"** four times by the Government of India for its outstanding agricultural performance (ENVIS Centre: Tamil Nadu, n.d.).

Issues and Challenges for Small and Marginal Farmers

Small and marginal farmers constitute the backbone of India's agricultural economy, yet they continue to face numerous challenges that threaten their livelihoods and productivity. According to the National Sample Survey (NSS) Farmers' Survey (2003) and the National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector (NCEUS, 2008), these farmers encounter a variety of constraints, including inadequate access to credit and markets, poor extension services, limited awareness of technology, and weak land tenure systems. Their small landholdings and dependence on rain-fed agriculture make them particularly vulnerable to economic shocks, climate change, and globalization pressures. Addressing these issues is essential for ensuring inclusive and sustainable agricultural growth in India.

Major Issues and Challenges

1. Role of Women

Women play a vital role in India's agricultural sector. Their participation has been rising steadily, with nearly 83% of rural women engaged in agriculture compared to 67.5% of rural men in 2004–05 (NCEUS, 2008). Women perform crucial tasks such as seed selection, sowing, weeding, harvesting, and livestock management. Despite their contributions, they often face denial of land rights and limited access to credit, technology, and markets. Recognizing women as farmers and strengthening property rights are essential for equitable agricultural development.

2. Social Groups

Socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are disproportionately represented among small and marginal farmers. Around 22% of marginal farmers belong to SCs and 15.6% to STs, with most owning less than half a hectare of land (NCEUS, 2008). Discrimination in access to credit, extension services, and markets exacerbates their economic vulnerability.

3. Land Issues and Tenancy Security

Land tenure insecurity is a major obstacle. Many small and marginal farmers, tenants, and tribal cultivators lack formal land titles, limiting access to institutional credit. The Planning Commission (2007a) emphasized the need for land reforms, including the registration of actual cultivators, protection of tenant rights, and the liberalization of land lease markets to ensure tenure security and enhance productivity.

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4. Low Levels of Education and Skills

Education and skill development are critical for modern agriculture. However, literacy rates and educational attainment among marginal farmers remain low—62.5% for males and 31.2% for females—compared to larger farmers (NCEUS, 2008). This knowledge gap restricts awareness of agricultural schemes, minimum support prices, and sustainable practices.

5. Credit and Indebtedness

Small and marginal farmers often rely on informal credit sources due to limited access to institutional finance. The share of formal credit for these farmers ranges from 22.6% to 58%, compared to 65–68% for large farmers (NCEUS, 2008). Dependence on moneylenders results in higher indebtedness and financial stress, particularly in states like Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, and Tamil Nadu.

6. Globalization Challenges

Globalization and trade liberalization have intensified competition for Indian farmers. Subsidized agricultural imports from developed countries have depressed domestic crop prices, particularly for cotton, oilseeds, and plantation crops. The Planning Commission (2007) highlighted the need for reducing post-harvest losses, improving market efficiency, and realigning tariffs to protect smallholder farmers from volatile international prices.

7. Impact of Climate Change

Climate change poses severe threats to agriculture, particularly for small and marginal farmers who depend on rain-fed systems. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and extreme weather events increase the risk of crop failure, livestock loss, and income instability. Climate-resilient policies, collective action, and adaptation measures are vital for mitigating these effects (MG. Ravikumar, 2015).

8. Water Problems

Water scarcity remains a key concern. Small farmers rely heavily on groundwater, which is depleting across India. Efficient irrigation management, micro-irrigation, and community water governance are necessary to sustain agricultural productivity.

9. Diversification

Agricultural diversification towards high-value crops like fruits, vegetables, and livestock offers income opportunities but involves higher risks. Infrastructure, market support, and price policies must evolve to enable safe diversification for smallholders (Mahendra Dev, 2012).

10. Risk and Vulnerability

Small and marginal farmers face multiple risks—crop failure, market fluctuations, health shocks, and natural disasters. Coping mechanisms often include borrowing, asset sales, or migration. Strengthening social protection programs such as the Public Distribution

System (PDS), employment schemes, crop insurance, and social security measures is essential to reduce vulnerability (MG. Ravikumar, 2015).

Indian Agriculture in the Post-Globalization Era (1991 Onwards) Compared with Other Sectors in 2023

The economic reforms of 1991 marked the beginning of India's integration into the global economy, leading to profound structural changes across all sectors. Globalization brought liberalization, privatization, and market openness, which stimulated industrial growth and the expansion of the service sector. However, agriculture the backbone of the Indian economy experienced slower growth due to structural and institutional constraints.

While the industrial and service sectors benefitted significantly from global trade, foreign direct investment (FDI), and technological advancements, the agricultural sector lagged behind in productivity, income, and modernization. The disparity between agriculture and non-agricultural sectors widened over the years, with agriculture's share in GDP declining even as it continued to employ a large portion of the population (Economic Survey of India, 2023; World Bank, 2023).

Table 1: Comparison of Indian Agriculture with Industry and Services Sectors (Post-Globalization Period, 1991–2023)

Indicator	Agriculture Sector	Industry Sector	Services Sector	Source (2023)
Share in GDP (2023)	17.0%	29.2%	53.8%	Economic Survey on India
Employment Share	45.8%	23.0%	31.2%	World Bank
Average Annual Growth (1991-2023)	3.2%	6.0%	8.2%	NITI Aayog (2023)
Contribution to Exports	11.5%	29.4%	59.1%	Ministry Of Commerce (2023)
FDI Inflows	< 2%	32%	66%	RBI (2023)
Technological Adoption Level	Low to Moderate	High	Very High	FAO (2023)
Productivity Growth(since 1991)	Moderate	Rapid	Very Rapid	NITIAayog (2023)
Impact Of Globalization	Limited integration, price volatility	Export-led growth, modernization	Major growth driver	Economic Survey of India (2023)

Post-globalization, India's economy diversified rapidly. The service sector became the dominant contributor to GDP, driven by information technology, communications, and finance. The industrial sector also gained through trade liberalization and FDI inflows, though its employment share remained modest due to automation.

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In contrast, the agricultural sector employing nearly half of India's workforce witnessed slower productivity growth. Although globalization introduced advanced technologies, hybrid seeds, and new export opportunities, most small and marginal farmers could not fully capitalize due to credit constraints, market volatility, and unequal access to resources.

Thus, globalization widened inter-sectoral inequalities, with agriculture lagging behind in modernization and income generation while serving as a safety net for rural livelihoods.

Review of Literature

Chattopadhyay (2018) examines the transformation of food production and consumption patterns in India in the context of globalization, highlighting critical concerns related to sustainability, food security, and social justice. The study argues that the integration of Indian agriculture into global markets has led to shifts from traditional, diverse cropping systems toward high-yield, export-oriented monocultures, often favoring commercial interests over ecological and social considerations. These changes have implications for resource use efficiency, nutritional outcomes, and the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers, who face heightened vulnerability due to market volatility and unequal access to modern inputs and technologies. Chattopadhyay emphasizes that addressing these challenges requires policies that balance productivity and export growth with equity, environmental sustainability, and protection of food sovereignty, thereby ensuring that globalization benefits are more inclusive and socially just.

Kavitha (2019) investigates the role of credit in enhancing mango production in the Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu, emphasizing how access to formal and informal credit sources influences agricultural productivity among small and marginal farmers. The study highlights that timely availability of credit enables farmers to invest in high-quality inputs, adopt improved horticultural practices, and access better irrigation and pest management technologies, which in turn significantly increase mango yield and income. Kavitha also notes that limited credit access, particularly for marginalized farmers, constrains their ability to modernize production and participate competitively in local and national markets. The findings underscore the importance of tailored financial interventions and credit support systems in promoting sustainable horticultural development and reducing the economic vulnerability of smallholder farmers in Tamil Nadu.

Methodology

To make the present study scientific, the researcher followed a systematic procedure. The study, titled *"Globalization and the Crisis of Smallholder Agriculture: A Study on Marginal Farmers in Madurai District"* began with the selection of villages and preliminary observations in 2017. This initial stage helped the researcher understand the local community, gain personal knowledge about the people, and build rapport for effective data collection. The main data collection, including group discussions and observations, was conducted January 2023. Each stage of the study was carefully planned and executed to ensure the reliability and validity of the findings.

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Research Questions

1. Whether the Marginal farmers farming system is affected by the globalization?

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the present study:

1. To examine the various issues and crisis in Marginal farming system after implementation of globalization

Area of the study

This study was conducted in 5 villages of Madurai district in south Tamilnadu in India. A brief description of the history and the geo-physical characteristics of Tamilnadu are presented below.

Sampling procedure

In this present study 5 village panchayats were selected from 13 blocks of Madurai district by adopting purposive sampling. The name of the 13 village panchayats are **Thanichyam, Ayyanarkulam, Sivarakottai, Thumabaipatti, Dhodapanayakanur.** Total 100 marginal farmers were selected from 5 village panchayats by using snowball sampling method.

Various issues and crisis in Marginal farming system after the implementation of globalization

- In India after 1990s economic growth has been progress significantly at the same time the problems generated by the implementation of globalization have not been accurately addressed by the government of India through its policies and strategies particularly to agricultural sector. The impact of globalization in the last almost 30 years indicates that there are lot of development in economic growth, foreign exchange, revolution in ITC and increase in export but the distribution of income and wealth has been unequal and only some people related to industrial and service sector were benefited more from growth.
- When analysing the opinion of the respondents regarding the supply of electricity to the marginal farmers more than half of the respondents were not satisfied with the supply of electricity. At the same time when interrogating the opinion of the marginal farmers on the central government decision on cut the free electricity to farmers a vast majority 71.3% of them aware about the decision of cut for the free electricity which decision creates lot of angry with the marginal farmers.
- The opinion of the respondents on various type of soil under cultivation shows that more than one third of the respondents (34.4%) cultivated with the black soil and more than one fourth of the respondents (26%) were doing agriculture with clay soil. Almost one fifth of the respondents (21.2%) cultivated with red soil and 9.6% of them fa0rming with sandy soil.

- When analysing the taken of soil test before going for cultivation how many farmers are concerned over soil test reveals that overwhelming of respondents 67.5% where taken test and got recommendations from Agricultural Assistant Officers (AAO). The respondents were interrogated against the use of quality of seeds more than 95% of them were informed that they have used seed with good quality reaming 5% of them only used low standard with medium price seeds.
- Among the 100 respondents a vast majority 77.1% of them have used for cultivation the seeds produced in the region with hybrid mode and almost one fifth of the respondents use seeds produced at national level because most of the marginal farmers believe that the hybrids variety of seeds only produce more yields.
- At the same time there are lot of discourses going on that genetically modified seeds have some concerns on potential harm to health of the human, environment, over domination by corporate companies (just four companies control almost 60% of the seed market), degradation of natural traditional farming practice and harm to nature due to the technology. The overall analysis reveals that 99% of the marginal farmers used seeds produced with in India.
- The relationship between possession of land and types of crop cultivated describes that a vast majority 64.2% of them possessed 1.5 - 2 acres of land among them a majority 45.5% of the respondents were cultivated paddy crop. At the same time less than one fifth (17.9%) of them having 1 – 1.5 acres of land among them nearly half of the respondents (49.5%) also cultivated paddy crop.
- When analysing the duration of the plant cultivated is concerned an overwhelming 75.4% of the respondents informed that they have cultivated the crops taking 3 months duration for harvesting and more than one fifth of the respondents (22.9%) reported that they have cultivated the crops taking 3 months duration for harvesting. Among the 520 respondents a vast majority 80.6% of them cultivated food crop only because in Madurai district most of the area depends up on the monsoon for agriculture. And more than 80% of the respondents informed that they have not received relief funds for natural calamities.
- When investigating the reasons for non-availability of agricultural laobures a vast majority 52.3% of them informed that most of the rural laboures are went for MGNREGS and that is the major reason for scarcity of laboures in rural area.
- It is understand from the examination that more than half of the respondents reported that MGNREGS is the major cause for scarcity of laboures in rural area among them each an equal number of respondents (21%) have studied up to middle school and high school level respectively. Though very meagre number of respondents studied up to more than degree level (11.3%) among them a vast majority 61% of them reported that the main cause for scarcity of labour in rural area is MGNREGS.
- The correlation between sub caste of the respondents and their opinion on reasons for scarcity of agricultural labour in the study area reveals that almost half of the respondents belonged to Piramalai Kallar sub caste (47.3%) among them a majority (43.9%) of them

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opined that MGNREGS is the major reason for scarcity of labour for agriculture. The respondents belonged to Maravar (11%) and Agamudaiyar (10.4%) is concerned a vast majority of them were also opined that MGNREGS is the major reason for scarcity of labour for agriculture.

- The link between additional occupational status of the respondents and their opinion on reasons for scarcity of agricultural laboures in the villages shows that almost 70% of the respondents were working as agricultural coolie in addition to their agricultural work most of them (59.4%) opined that MGNREGS is the major reason for scarcity of labour for agricultural work.
- Among the 100 respondents almost cent of the marginal farmers have used tractor for ploughing of their lands and more than 90% of them used rotary tiller for ploughing of land for paddy cultivation. This study clearly finds that there are scarcities for laboures for agricultural work hence more than 75% of the marginal farmers used weeding machine for agricultural work.
- When analysing the preference of type of cultivation by the respondents describes that more than half of them (54%) want rotational crop cultivation and 41.5% of them are doing mixed crops. Very meagre numbers of respondents (4.5%) only wants to do mono crop cultivation like paddy.
- The link between educational status of the respondents and their awareness on suicides of farmers in all over India describes that almost 95% of them were aware about the farmer's suicides due to loss in agriculture. More than one fifth of the respondents were studied up to middle school level more than 96% of them were aware about the farmers suicides due to loss in agriculture. The respondents studied up to more than degree level is concerned an enormous number of them (98.3%) were aware about the suicides due to loss in agriculture.
- When analysing the respondent opinion on reasons for the suicides of farmers almost half of the respondents (47.1%) were informed that most of the farmers commit suicides due to the over debt of lone due to low production in agriculture.
- The respondents were asked about their awareness on farmer's suicides nearby their area a vast majority 94% of them were informed that they do not hear about the farmer's suicides near to their home.
- The association between educational status of the respondents and their opinion on organic farming reveals that more than one fifth of the respondents (21.5%) were studied up to middle school level among them more than 97% of them were accepted that the organic farming is safe for soil and human. Almost cent per cent of the respondents were studied up to higher secondary and degree level accepted that the organic farming is safe for soil and human.
- When analysing the nature of production of fertilizers a vast majority 77.5% of them informed that they have used both self-made manures and fertilizers purchased from

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market and 13.8% of the respondents used the fertilizers purchased from market only. Very meagre numbers of respondents (8.7%) were used self-made manures only.

- As far as distribution of the respondents based on additional occupation and their opinion on organic farming is safe for soil shows that a vast majority 69.2% of them were belonged to agricultural coolies as additional occupation among them an enormous number of respondents 95.3% of them were accepted the above statement. Almost cent per cent of the respondents belonged to construction work and the respondents working in government services were opined that the organic farming is safe for soil.
- The above table exhibits the reasons for the preference of chemical fertilizers by the marginal farmers describes that nearly 30% of the respondents were informed that the use of chemical fertilizers creates more productivity in farming. Almost each 20% of the respondents were reported that easy availability of chemical fertilizers and low cost respectively are the reasons for the more preferences by the marginal farmers towards chemical fertilizers. More than one fourth of the respondents (28.1%) were informed that they have preferred chemical fertilizers due to the easy availablity, more productivity and lost cost.
- The correlation between educational status of the respondents and the reasons for preferences of chemical fertilizers by the marginal farmers reveals that almost 21% of the respondents have studied up to primary and middle school level among them 29.1% of the respondents and more than one third of the respondents each informed that they have used chemical fertilizers due to easy availability, more productivity and low cost are the reasons for the preference of chemical fertilizers respectively.
- The link between the sub caste of the respondents and their opinion on reasons for preference of chemical fertilizers by the marginal farmer's shows that nearly half of the respondents (47.3%) belonged to Piramalai Kallar sub caste among them sharply one third of the respondents have informed that they have preferred chemical fertilizers due to more productivity in the farming.
- When analysing the link between additional occupation of the respondents and their opinion on reasons for the preference of chemical fertilizers by the marginal farmers reveals that most of the respondents belonged to all occupational group having less than 2 acres land only but they want more production hence they preferred to use chemical fertilizers enormously and they informed that easy availability, more productivity and low cost are the reasons for the preference of chemical fertilizers.
- It is clear that a vast majority 83.7% of the respondents have sold their produces soon after the harvest. At the same time very meagre number of respondents having facilities to stock and sell (8.7%) during the demand (7.3%).
- When assessing the respondents opinion on profitable mode of selling a vast majority 58.8% of them informed that selling the produces with the government agencies is profitable but 40.8% of them reported that selling the produces with private sector

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through brokers is the profitable mode of selling because the same merchants purchase the produces in Regulated market and private commission shop.

- When analysing the respondents opinion on use of Agriculturists market (uzhvar sandhai) is concerned a vast majority 87.1% of them were reported that it was not used because most of the farmers having less than 2 acres of land and their family members are always working in the agricultural filed therefore they don't have time to go for Agriculturists market (uzhvar sandhai) for their selling of the produces.
- As far as the respondent's opinion on online trading and its effects among marginal farmer's shows that a vast majority 65% of them were informed that they don't know anything about online trading of agricultural produces. At the same time a majority 45.4% of them opined that the online trading of agricultural produces not affects the incomes of the farmers but very meagre numbers of respondents were informed that online trading surely affects the incomes of the marginal farmers.
- The respondents based on their problems in availing loans from banks are concerned almost 30% of the respondents were informed that getting the loan from the banks needs lot of time.
- The relationship between educational status of the respondents and problems faced by the marginal farmers on availing the loan from banks shows that more than one fifth of the respondents (21.5%) have studied up to middle school level among them more than one fourth of the respondents (26.8%) informed that getting loan from the banks is more time consuming and the respondent's studied up to primary school level (21.2%) among them almost one third of them (30.9%) were also opined that getting loan from the banks is more time consuming.
- The association between sub caste of the respondents and their problems faced by the marginal farmers in availing the loan from banks a vast majority 47.3% of the respondents belonged to the Piramalai Kallar Sub caste among them more than one fourth of the respondent informed that they have come across more time (31.3%) and more than 25% of them informed that they have faced in providing suitable surety to the bank.
- The respondents belonged to Maravar sub Caste though meagre in number (11%) among them more than half of the respondents (50.9%) reported that they have also faced the problem of time consuming. The respondents belonged to Schedule caste like Pallar and Arunthathiyar sub caste is concerned almost each one fifth of the respondents were opined that they have faced problem in providing surety to the banks.
- When analysing the like between the additional occupation of the respondents and problems faced by the marginal farmers in availing the loans from the banks a vast majority 69.2% of them were working as agricultural coolies among them more than 30% of the respondents opined that it was time consuming.
- The problems faced by the marginal farmers in the field every day that a vast majority 72.9% of them were informed that they have faced problem form money, water and cut

off electricity. At the same time when analysing the awareness on impact of globalization particularly the concept of LPG (Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization) a vast majority 66.5% of them do not Know anything about the Globalization but only one third of the respondents (33.5%) were informed that they have aware something about the globalization.

Conclusion

The study reveals that marginal farmers in Madurai district have faced multiple challenges in the post-globalization era, despite the overall economic growth in India. Issues such as irregular electricity supply, scarcity of agricultural labour due to MGNREGS, limited access to credit, dependence on chemical and hybrid seeds, low awareness of online marketing, and vulnerability to market fluctuations have significantly affected their productivity and income. While most farmers rely on traditional crops and short-duration harvests, they continue to adopt mechanization and organic practices where feasible. Awareness about the broader impacts of globalization remains limited, with only a small proportion understanding concepts like liberalization, privatization, and globalization (LPG). Additionally, problems related to input availability, marketing, and infrastructure constrain their capacity to fully benefit from technological and policy interventions. Overall, the findings underscore the need for targeted policy support, improved financial and market access, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance the resilience, productivity, and socio-economic well-being of marginal farmers in the context of globalization.

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