

INFLUENCE OF MODERN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY ON RESETTLED JENUKURUBA COMMUNITY

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Abstract

This paper examines the influence of modern agricultural technology with special focus on resettled Jenukuruba community. The Jenukuruba Community are concentrated in the districts of Mysore and Chamarajanagara bordering the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. Habitually Jenukuruba Community are traditional honey collectors by profession. The Jenukuruba Community have been evicted from forests in the name of Tiger Reserves in Nagara Hole & Bandipur. Some of them have been repositioned outside the forest boundaries. The Jenukuruba Community have fought against the Government of Karnataka Forest Law, for their traditional rights over land and forest resources, but they are denied access to forests main land, and forest resources as they did earlier. Their unflinching demand for share of land in reserved forests Under the Forest Rights Act has become fruitless. Government of Karnataka has supported the Jenukuruba community resettlement with cultivable and arable land in nearby area. But, young Jenukuruba community farmers are far behind in utilizing the mechanization techniques. Technology in agriculture affects many areas of agriculture along with farm mechanization; farmers will be able to achieve self sufficiency in food grain production by employing chemical fertilizers, pesticides, Hi- breed seeds and improved irrigation methods. With the advent of digital technology the scope for mechanized agriculture has become more rewarding.

Key words: Modern Agricultural Technology, Jenukuruba Community, Influence

Introduction

Indian agricultural sector forms 18 % of the GDP while 65% of the total work force is involved in agriculture. Agricultural in India is largely dependent on nature, but recently, climatic changes and increasing issues of global warming have made agricultural sector

unproductive and unpredictable. Even though modernization has been introduced in place of traditional agriculture practices the prospects are highly volatile. Technology has a major role in farming and agricultural practices are undergoing transformation since the introduction of modern equipment in agricultural production. Technology in agriculture affects many areas of agriculture along with farm mechanization; farmers are able to achieve self sufficiency in food grain production. This was achieved by following chemical fertilizers, pesticides, Hi-breed seeds and improved irrigation canals. The green revolution was successful to an extent in making Indian traditional agriculture more advances and mechanized.

Jenukuruba Community

Jenukuruba Community are a tribal group –from the Nilgiris , Tamil nadu numbering around 40,000. The Jenukuruba Community are concentrated in the districts bordering the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. **Jenu** means honey in Kannada, referring to their traditional occupation as collectors of honey in the forest. Habitually Jenukuruba Community are honey collectors by profession. In the early 20th century Jenukuruba Community lived in self made huts in and around forests bordering present day Bandipur and Nagarahole forests in Karnataka.

The Jenukuruba Community have been evicted from forests in the name of tiger reserves in Nagara Hole & Bandipur. Some of them have been relocated outside the forest boundaries. But, majority of them are working as daily wagers and agricultural labourers. Most of them work as daily wage earners in coffee plantations in **Kodugu, Hassan & Chickamangalore** districts.

The Jenukuruba Community are in utter poverty after their eviction from forests main land and are resettled near the forest borders, by the **Government of Karnataka**. The Jenukuruba Community have fought against the **Government of Karnataka Forest Laws**, for their traditional rights over land and forest resources, but they are denied access to forests main land, and forest resources as they did earlier. Their demand for share of land in reserved forests Under the **Forest Rights Act** has become a call in the wilderness. An estimated 20 thousand people have been evicted from forest main land. These evictions are supported by **World Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)**, in the name of **Tiger Reserve** forest land.

The Jenukuruba Community & Traditional acquaintance with forest -The Jenukuruba Community people are connected with the forest and consider themselves as an integral part of the forest. They are proficient in forest resources to the extent that they have

nearly 25 different names for forest. Jenukuruba community are on familiar terms with every minute detailing of the flora and fauna of the jungle. They consider tiger as their ethnic god and believe in conserving the forest resources as their own property. They have unique practices of collecting honey without disturbing the honey bees' life cycle. They are experts in conserving forest produce according to their seasonal value.

Government of Karnataka came up with **Tiger Reserve Project** in 1973, the area of Nagarahole forest was enlarged to include nearby forest areas and forest communities were forced to evict out of the border lands. The Jenukuruba community people started to protest against the orders of Government of Karnataka. After severe protests, Government of Karnataka published the relocation of the evicted Jenukuruba community.

Government of Karnataka & measures for resettlement- Government of Karnataka supported the Jenukuruba community resettlement with cultivable and arable land. The young Jenukuruba community farmers are far behind in utilizing the mechanization techniques. Jenukuruba community

Nagarahole Adivasi Forest Rights Establishment Committee is fighting for **Adivasi** rights. **Nagarahole** was declared as a tiger reserve in 1999. Nearly 1/3 of the 2785 families in **Nagarahole** have been relocated. Scheduled tribes and other traditional dwellers recognition of forest rights act 2006 recognizes the Adivasi relation with the forest and provides a set of community and individual rights used forest produce. By 2022, 84% of the **Adivasi** families' applications have been rejected by Government of Karnataka. Besides there are five tiger reserve projects taken up by Government of Karnataka

1. Bhadra Tiger Reserve- Chickamangalore District
2. Dandeli Tiger Reserve – Uttara Kannada District
3. Male Madeshawara Tiger Reserve in Bandipur &
4. Biligiri Ranganatha in Chamarajanagara District

Wildlife protection Act of 1972, tribal local communities are asked to move out of the forest. Besides, Land given to them under relocation Act, is un fertile, and unproductive. The use of mechanised agriculture is a dream for majority of the farmers because, the water links to irrigation canal is very poor. The bore wells are failing because of diminishing ground water level.

The food habits of the younger generation have changed. The sustenance and healthy food habits of the elderly people of the community is a forgotten past, they have been displaced

by junk food and fast food pattern .As the young generation have transformed to modern food habits , they are also becoming prey to modern health disorders.

Impact of mechanization -

As a result of forced eviction of the communities and relocation, the traditional method of farming has been almost untraceable. Traditional methods honey collection is a rare phenomenon. Old people who followed traditional methods of agriculture and forest produce collection are rarely seen. Traditional methods of agriculture have given way for modernization and mechanization. The agricultural practices of the Jenukuruba community which were time-honoured and long established have been now substituted by induction of modern agricultural technology. But, of late, the reliance on nature has been replaced by dependence on tractors and hi-breed cultivation practices. The younger generation of the community have transformed themselves along with the new trends of life style.

Considerations-

1. Young Farmers can leverage scientific data and technology to enhance crop yields. Weather forecasting Apps, climatic variations Apps, rainfall calculations Apps, soil fertilization mapping Apps, etc, are available for support of modern farmers.
2. Young Farmers can keep themselves progressive with cutting edge methods of modern farming. Such as use of tillage and tractor machines, soil value increasing methods etc.
3. The young farmers of the community need to be made aware of the fact that mechanization of agriculture would support in efficient tilling, efficient harvesting, reduction in manual labour and reduced crop wastage.
4. The Karnataka government has made several irrigation canal support systems and transportation systems which will support through improved processing machinery has reduced agri-wastage and helped to achieve sustainability.

The role of modern technology is significant in agriculture development and with the advent of digital technology the scope has widened. The introduction of tractors, tillage equipments, harvesting equipments, water lifting mechanisms, seeding equipments, dryer, pulses cleaning machines etc can be given at subsidized rates for the young farmers of the community. The young farmers need to be made aware of the influences of mechanised agriculture which would lead to improved quality of food production.

Challenges for jenukuruba community

Thus, the Jenukuruba community is facing challenges of identity. The younger generation of the community are already challenged by traditional thoughts being washed away in the stream of digital communication revolution. The agri-traditions of the forest people are fast vanishing. It is time that modern generation of young people who, are running away from conservative methods of farming are motivated to adopt themselves into modern farming mechanisms.

Conclusion:

Thus, the Jenukuruba community is undergoing a phase of transformation in Agricultural practices. Traditional methods of farming have been absent and given way for modern technology. But, the Young Farmers can leverage scientific data and technology to enhance crop yields and keep them progressive with modern farming equipments.

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