

## THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION AMONG THE MARGINAL FARMERS: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

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### Abstract

Globalization, as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), represents the growing interconnectedness and interdependence of people and nations, driven by open borders and institutional changes. This phenomenon has significantly influenced agriculture, particularly for small and marginal farmers in India. Marginal farmers, defined as those cultivating less than one hectare of land, play a vital role in meeting the food and livelihood needs of a growing population. The advent of globalization, particularly after India's economic liberalization in 1991, brought both opportunities and challenges. On the positive side, globalization has increased national income, employment, and trade opportunities for Indian agriculture, thanks to access to international markets, advanced technologies, and improved exports. However, it has also presented challenges, including unfair competition due to subsidies in developed nations, rising production costs, intellectual property rights issues, and increased vulnerability of small-scale farmers. Marginal farmers face additional hurdles such as limited access to credit, markets, and public resources, coupled with poor land and water management practices. These challenges highlight the need for targeted interventions to ensure equitable growth and sustainability in Indian agriculture under globalization's influence.

### Introduction

According to WHO globalization can be defined as the enlarged inter connectedness and inter dependence of peoples and countries. It can be generally understood to include two inter-related elements: the opening of international borders to increasingly fast flows of goods, services, finance, people and ideas; and the changes in institutions and policies at national and international levels that make possible or promote such stream. The term globalization has come to mean the way in which the world economy is run and occupied by multi-national corporate and the international organizations/ institutions they tend to control 'Globalization' was the zeitgeist of the 1990s and onwards. In the social sciences, it gave rise to the claim that deepening interconnectedness was fundamentally transforming the nature of human society, and was replacing the sovereign state with a multi-layered, multilateral system of global governance.

The impact globalization influence on technical progress especially in information technology, worldwide communication and global transportation. This collision not only influences on manufacturing and transportation of goods but also services and knowledge can flow much

more easily because of innovations such as the internet. The second important role is the shift in policy orientation as governments everywhere have reduced barriers that had restricted the development of domestic markets and their links to the international economy.

### Definition of Marginal farmers

Marginal and small farmers are playing a key role in meeting apart from the needs and necessities of foods and basic needs of their livelihood based on the growing population in any developing countries. The term 'Marginal farmer' refers to a farmer cultivating as owner or tenant or as a share cropper on agricultural land up to one hectare (2.5 acres) in landscape. Socioeconomic status (SES) is reflected by the individual's or household's economic and social position in relation to others, and is primarily based on the level of income and education as well as the type of occupation. In India, the agrarian structure for the past decades has undergone a process of decline in farm size and increment in marginalization of land holdings. These changes in agrarian structure also affect poverty alleviation and agricultural growth (Singh, 2013).

### Impact of Globalization on Indian Farmers

Globalization is not a new phenomenon. It began towards the end of the nineteenth century, but it slowed down during the period from the start of the First World War, suffered from great depression and until the end of Second World War. This slowdown can be attributed to the inward-looking policies pursued by a number of countries in order to protect their respective industries. However, the pace of globalization picked up rapidly during the fourth quarter of the twentieth century.

The liberalization of India's economy was adopted by India in 1991. Facing a severe economic crisis, India approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a loan, and the IMF granted what is called a 'structural adjustment' loan, which is a loan with certain conditions attached which relate to a structural change in the economy. The government ushered in a new era of economic reforms based on these conditions. These reforms (broadly called Liberalization by the Indian media) can be broadly classified into three areas: Liberalization, privatization and globalization. Essentially, the reforms sought to gradually phase out government control of the market (liberalization), privatize public sector organizations (privatization), and reduce export subsidies and import barriers to enable free trade (globalization). There was a considerable amount of debate in India at the time of the introduction of the reforms, it being a dramatic departure from the protectionist, socialist nature of the Indian economy up until then.

### Globalization is primarily of three types namely economic, cultural and political

- Economic Globalization:** No national economy is an island now. To changing degrees, national economics influence one another. One country which is capital-rich invests in another country which is poor. One who has better technologies sells these to others who lack such technologies. The products of an advanced country enter the markets of those countries that have demands for these products. Similarly, the natural resources of developing countries are shifted to developed countries that need them. Thus, globalization is predominantly an economic process involving the transfer of economic resources from one country to another country.
- Cultural globalization:** Culture has increasingly become a commodity. Popular books and films have international markets. Harry Potter has reader almost all over the world. English movies are seen almost in all countries. Western pop music has become popular in developing countries. The reverse flow of culture is irrelevant. The flow of culture is mainly from the North to the South. In the last few years the media owners of the West have shown concern in entering developing countries. For example, Murdoch has opened TV channels (STAR News, STAR Movies and STAR Plus) in India. Cultural globalization has been enabled by the information revolution, the spread of satellite communication, telecommunication networks, information technology and the internet etc. This global flow of ideas, knowledge and values is likely to flatten out cultural differences between nations, regions and individuals. As this flow of culture is mainly from the centre to the margin, from the North to the South and from the towns and cities to villages, it is the cultures of villages of poor countries which will be the first to suffer destruction.
- Political Globalization:** Since long, efforts have been on to bring the whole world under one government. The League of Nations and the UN have been the efforts in that direction. It is believed that the world under one government will be safer and freer from conflicts. The UN has belied expectations, but a number of regional organizations like European Union, ASEAN, APEC and SAARC; multicultural economic organizations such as WTO have come up. The member-states remain independent, but through their obligations and commitments, they have to some extent integrated themselves to the concerned international organizations and groups.

### Positive Impact of Globalization

- Economic Impact:** Globalization empowered greater access to technological advancements in agriculture including high yield varieties, genetically modified crops (GM crops) and micro irrigation techniques. Foreign investments in agriculture in contract farming, cold storage and food processing have helped

farmers. Access to foreign markets has greatly boosted Indian agricultural exports.

- **Social Impact:** Globalization helped improve food productivity and production and helped transform rural agrarian societies. It has empowered the farmers to understand, reach out and enter in worldwide markets. The new technologies especially in irrigation helped in lecturing rural water strain and keeping agriculture practical. It has also helped change the agrarian society's attitudes towards new technologies in farming.

### Negative Impact of Globalization

- **Economic Impact:** Multi-National Companies (MNCs) captured the Indian Markets making farmers dependent on the expensive high yield seeds and fertilizers. Attraction of global market resulted in farmers shifting from traditional or mixed cropping to unsustainable cropping practices. The competition from economy imports pushed down the prices of crops like cotton, wheat etc., and making agriculture unsustainable for many farmers.
- **Social Impact:** Unsustainable agriculture practices post-globalisation and the inability to participate against economy imports contributed to distress migration of rural farmers, destroying rural agrarian societies and traditional family structures. The dependency of MNC seeds resulted in farmers losing touch with indigenous seeds and farming methods. Globalization caused change in food habits with increased consumption of proteins, sugars and fats causing increase in lifestyle diseases.

### Issues and Challenges for small and marginal farmer

There are many issues and challenges for small and marginal holding agriculture in India. NSS Farmers' survey of 2003 brought out many issues relating to small and marginal farmers. Based on this Survey, NCEUS (2008) says that some of the general issues that confront marginal-small farmers as agriculturalists are damaged markets for inputs product leading to smaller value realizations absence of access to credit markets or lacking credit markets leading to sub-optimal investment decisions or input applications poor human resource base smaller access to suitable extension services restricting

suitable decisions regarding cultivation practices and technological know-how poorer access to 'public goods' such as public irrigation command area development electricity grids greater negative externalities from poor quality land and water management. This sub-section discusses some of the key issues and challenges relating to small and marginal holding agriculture.

### Review of Literature

**Ashokan and Singh (2001)** made an attempt to examine the problems of small and marginal farmers in India. The study revealed that there was an increasing division of landholdings, making them smaller and smaller. In the last ten years, the process had continued and if the trend persisted, in another ten years, more than four-fifth of the Indian farmers would be small farmers. The income from such small holdings was found to be very low. The cropping pattern of small farmers was overwhelmed by small food needs and the food crops occupied more than 83 per cent of the cropped area. This restricted the scope for income expansion through high valued non-food crops. Even if one assumed that farmers could cultivate the best possible crops or combination of crops in different states, the returns remained meagre. The major bottlenecks in increasing the income of small and marginal farmers were lack of credit, absence of institutions to facilitate flow of credit and poor marketing facilities for inputs. The study further indicated that the increased role of private sector in the input industries, reduction of tariff level as per the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements, removal of quantitative restrictions, withdrawal of subsidies to power and fertilizer, privatization of commercial banks, etc. would make the survival of the small farmers extremely difficult.

**Ajay and Manoj Kumer Mandal (2007)** a Study on "Globalization and Agricultural Crisis in India" examines the impact of globalization and liberalization on the growth of agricultural output and export, generation of employment and reduction of rural poverty. They used secondary data collected from agricultural statistics at a glance, area and production of principal crops in India, NSSO data published by government of India for the period of 1970-71 to 1998-99. They observed that the growth rates of food and non-food export have fallen remarkable from 3.54 and 4.84 percent per annum during the pre-reform period from 1980-81 to 1989-90 to 1.66 and

2.36 per annum during the eight year period of reforms i.e. 1990-91 to 1997-98. They stated that there are many causes for the deceleration in the growth of agricultural output and yield of major crops in India. The most important among these was the sharp deterioration in total investment and more so in public sector investment in agriculture. It is observed that the agro-exports registered a negative growth during the post- reforms period to pre-reform period. The most significant causes for deterioration in agricultural exports are the increases of non-competitiveness in the global market. It is noted that after liberalization rate of unemployment and poverty ratios significantly increased.

**Mohanasundaram (1993)** in Tamil Nadu, there is a positive discrimination in favour of poor- small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and rural artisans. Initially, the beneficiaries were supplied with assets like cattle, bullock carts, its tools, electric motor pump sets and under minor irrigation schemes, financial help was provided to dig a new well, deepening of well and for laying pipelines. To acquire these assets and to improve the farming activities, the loans were provided along with a subsidy. But it is necessary that the beneficiaries repay the loans. Now, at this point, the expected coordination between the three major functionaries is proved to be absent. The bank branch receives a list of beneficiaries from the block office or DRDA suggesting it to sanction the loans. Once the loan and subsidy is released and the beneficiary is supplied with an asset, the block machinery withdraws from the scene and the onus of recovering the loan falls on the bank branch. And the bank has to chase the beneficiary to recover the loan. This projects the process of failure of the institutional credit mechanism. This article has been attempt to discusses the relationship between globalization and development points out that some of the most common assumptions encouraged by its proponents are contradictory to the realism of globalization; and the globalization is resist by more than half of the globe's population because it is not proficient delivering on its promises of economic well-being and progress for all. Generally, farmers are not only benefiting from this process but sometimes victims of it as participating in it as actors. In tries context, the article tries

to analyse the how marginal farmers live are affected by globalization.

### Methodology

In order to make the present research paper has been attempt to analyze the "Impact of Globalization among the Marginal Farmers in Madurai District of Tamil Nadu in India". The descriptive research method has been adopted along with primary as well as secondary sources were used to collect the data from the respondents. The following research questions have been formulated for this research article

- Whether the local credit system has affects the marginal farmer's which impact of globalization?
- How does affect the local farming system after globalization?
- What is the issues impact of globalization in marginal farming system?
- Whether the implementation of globalization affects the local seeds varieties and problems the hybrid seeds?

For this present research paper, the following objectives have been framed for formulating research tool i.e. interview schedule

### Objective of the Study

- To find out the socio-economic background the of marginal farmers in the study area
- To examine the various issues in farming system after implementation of globalization

### Sampling Procedure

In this present study 13 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, Thamaraiipatti, Thenour, Kallampatti, Poosalapuram, M.Suppapuram, Ammapatti, Karadipatti, Dhodapanayakanur, Melakal**. Total 520 marginal farmers were selected from 13 village panchayats by using snowball sampling method.

Sl. No.	Block	Village Panchayat	Samples
1	Alanganallur	Thanichyam	35
2	Chellampatti	Ayyanarkulam	60

3	Kallikudi	Sivarakottai	30
4	Kottampatti	Thumabaipatti	37
5	Madurai East	Thamaraiipatti	42
6	Madurai West	Thenour	44
7	Melur	Kallampatti	45
8	Sedapatti	Poosalapuram	35
9	T.Kallupatti	M.Suppapuram	36
10	Tirumangalam	Ammapatti	24
11	Thirupparankundram	Karadipatti	42
12	Usilampatti	Dhodapanayakanur	35
13	Vadipatti	Melakal	55
	<b>Total</b>		<b>520</b>

### Major Findings of the Research

- The identification and analysis of the variables relevant to the impact of Globalization among the Marginal farmers in Madurai District of Tamilnadu had brought out several realities widespread among the Farmers in the rural area. The result of the analysis presented and focused on socio-economic background of the Marginal farmers, Local credit system and its effects among the Marginal farmers, Issues in forming system after the implementation of globalization. Independent variables like age, gender, educational status, occupational status, on monthly income of the respondents are some of the influencing factors in the globalized era.
- Hence it becomes inevitable for this study to analysis the objectives of the study with socio economic condition of the respondents.
- With regard to gender, out of 520 respondents interviewed a vast majority 79.2% of them were male and remaining 20.8% of them were female. The religion of the respondents portrays that a vast majority (97.3%) of the respondents are belonged to Hindu religion. Only 2.7% of the respondents were belongs to Muslim.
- While analyse the Sub caste wise distribution of the respondents shows that a vast majority 47.3% of them hailed from PiranmalaiKallar followed by Maravar (11%). Among the total number i.e. 520 of the respondents 10.4% of them belonged to the Agamudiyar and only 13.2% of them were belonged to the Schedule caste (Pallar 4.8%, Parayar 3.8% and Arunthathiyar (4.6%). The remaining major communities found in the study area are Valayar, Chettiayar, Nadar and Naidu (including all these communities 18.1%).
- Educational status of the respondents was also analysed, it was found that there were majority of the respondents studied up to middle school level (42.7%) followed by 18.1% of them were studied up to high school. Among the 520 respondents 15.2% of them were illiterates, while 11.3% of the respondents were studied up to more than graduate level.
- When analyzing the nature of facilities available in the home reveals that vast majority of the respondent's house possessed kitchen and toilet. And 93.5% of the respondent's house has a bathroom facility which shows that even in villages all the people have essential facilities in their home. Further, a vast majority 77.9% of them were having the connection of Panchayat water supply.
- Almost 90 per cent of the respondents were using Gas Stove (96.9%), Television (92.1%), Mixer Grinder (91.5%) and Cable Connection (89.4%) and more than 80% of the respondents were having mobile phone, Two –Wheeler.
- It is obvious from the analysis that very meager number of respondents having laptop 29.2% and Four wheeler 10.4% only. As far as distribution of the respondents according to their possession of land reveals that a vast majority 64.2% of them were have 1.5 – 2 acres of land followed by 17.9% of them have 1 – 1.5 acres of land. 'Marginal Farmer' means a farmer cultivating (as owner or tenant or share cropper) agricultural land up to 1 hectare (2.5 acres).
- Therefore, the present study clearly indicates that nearly 65% of them were having less than 2.5 acres of land. Very meagre numbers of respondents have 0.5 – 1 acre of land (9.8%) and less than 0.5 acres land (8.1%).
- Furthermore, when analysing the years of experience in agriculture an overwhelming majority of the respondents (94.4%) were traditionally involved in agricultural activities. Very meagre numbers of respondents involved themselves in agricultural activities for 10 years (1.3%) and remaining 3.1 percent of the respondents were doing agricultural activities for 20 years.

- It is clear from the analysis that nearly 95% of the respondents having the knowledge of agricultural practices by their heredity. The distribution of respondents based on their possession of machineries for agriculture works discloses that a vast majority more than 70% of the respondents were possessed Tractor.
- The analysis finds that more than 80% of the respondents have Power Tiller (82.9%) and Rotator (86.7%) and nearly 90% of the respondents were having Leveller. During the sowing seasons there is a huge demand for agricultural machineries for hiring. Hence it is clear from this table that nearly 80% of the respondents having their own machineries for agricultural work.
- The opinion of the respondents on various type of soil under cultivation shows that more than one third of the respondents (34.4%) were 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%) were cultivated with red soil and 9.6% of them forming 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.

#### **Various issues in 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. The information regarding various types of irrigation used by the marginal farmers reveals that more than one third of the respondents (34.8%) were doing agriculture work with bore well/ Tube well.
- 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 formers a vast majority 71.3% of them were aware about the decision of cut for the free electricity which decision creates lot of angry with the marginal farmers.
- Among the 520 respondents a vast majority 77.1% of them were used the regional hybrid seeds for cultivation. Almost one fifth of the respondents used to seeds produced at national level because most of the marginal farmers believed that the hybrids variety of seeds only give more yields. At the same time there are lot of discourse are going on that heritably 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 seeds manufacturing and marketing), degradation of natural traditional farming practice and harm to nature due to the advanced 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 vast majority 45.5% of the respondents were cultivated paddy crop. At the same time slightly less than one fifth (17.9%) of them having 1 – 1.5 acres of land among them nearly half of the respondents (49.5%) Were also cultivated paddy crop.
- When investigating the reasons for non-availability of agricultural labourer vast majority 52.3% of them

informed that most of the rural laboures are went for MGNREGS 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%) were 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 laboure in rural area is MGNREGS.

- The relationship 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 520 respondents almost cent of the marginal farmers were used tractor for ploughing of their lands and more than 90% of them were 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%) wants to rotational crop cultivation and 41.5% of them doing mixed crops. Very meagre numbers of respondents (4.5%) are only wants to do mono crop cultivation like paddy.
- When analysing the factors decides the selection of crop for the cultivation reveals that more than one-fourth of them (26.9%) wanted to select the crop for easy to farming 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 of due to loss in agriculture.
- When analysing the respondents opinion on reasons for the suicides of farmers almost half of the respondents (47.1%) were informed that most of the farmers committed 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 don't 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.
- It is clearly indicates that a vast majority 83.7% of the respondents were sold their agricultural products 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 their agricultural products with the government agencies is profitable but 40.8% of them reported that selling the products with private sector 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 (uzhvarsandhai) 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 (uzhvarsandhai) for their selling of the produces.

- At the same time when asking the opinion of the respondents regarding extensions of Agriculturists market (uzhvarsandhai) is concerned a vast majority 73.8% of them wants to extension to the sub urban areas of all over Tamilnadu because if Agriculturists market (uzhvarsandhai) is located in near to the farmers home is easy to go for the sale of their produces.
- As for as the respondent's opinion on online trading and its effects among marginal farmers 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 products 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%) were studied up to middle school level among them more than one fourth of the respondents (26.8%) were 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 were belonged to the PiranmalaiKallar Sub caste among them more than one fourth of the respondent were 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 belonging to Maravar sub Caste though meagre in number (11%) among them more than half of the respondents (50.9%) were reported that they have also faced the problem of time consuming. The respondents belonged to Schedule caste like Pallar and Arunthathiyar sub caste is concern almost each one- fifth of the respondents were opined that they have faced problem in providing surety to the banks.
- When analysing the relationship 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 were don't Know anything about the Globalization but only one third of the respondents (33.5%) were informed that they have aware something about the impact of globalization in agriculture.
- When analysing the awareness of the respondents regarding government policy on seeds and fertilizer a vast majority 81.5% of them were aware about the Schemes regarding Priceless distribution of seed and fertilizers. It is observed from the field that most of the marginal farmers were aware about the free bees given by the government but most of the schemes given by the government goes for land lords because the lenient relationship between government officials and land lords.
- At the same time when analysing the awareness about the negotiations between world trade organization and government of India regarding agricultural policy a vast majority 62.3% of them were not aware anything about the world trade organization. When asked about the opinion of the marginal farmers regarding the advantages of crop insurance schemes reveals that a vast majority 88.1%



of the respondents were accepted that the scheme of crop insurance is very use full to the marginal farmers.

### Conclusion

The findings of the study reveal the multifaceted challenges and realities faced by marginal farmers in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu, particularly in the era of globalization. Marginal farmers in this region are predominantly male, with a majority possessing limited landholdings of less than 2.5 acres, which significantly constrains their agricultural productivity and financial stability. Despite advancements in rural infrastructure and facilities, such as access to gas stoves, mobile phones, and tractors, issues related to access to credit, lack of labor availability due to schemes like MGNREGS, and inadequate irrigation facilities remain prevalent. The reliance on traditional farming practices, hereditary knowledge, and limited adoption of modern techniques underscore the importance of targeted policy interventions to bridge the gap between traditional and modern agricultural systems. Furthermore, awareness about critical global and national agricultural policies, such as those involving seed distribution, fertilizer schemes, and crop insurance, remains inadequate among a significant portion of the farmers.

Globalization, while contributing to economic growth and technological advancements, has also exacerbated inequalities within the agricultural sector. The study highlights that marginal farmers are often left out of the benefits of globalization due to their limited access to resources and lack of awareness about global trade negotiations and their impact on agriculture. Issues such as labor scarcity, water shortages, and the time-consuming process of availing loans from banks pose additional burdens. However, the study also reveals a strong inclination toward adopting hybrid seeds and modern

agricultural machinery, indicating their willingness to embrace innovations when accessible. To address these challenges, there is a need for comprehensive policy measures focusing on equitable resource distribution, improved access to credit and crop insurance, and strengthening local markets to benefit smallholder farmers. Empowering marginal farmers through education, financial inclusion, and technology adoption can pave the way for a more sustainable and resilient agricultural system.

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