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“THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES ON FARMING PRACTICES IN GINGEE”

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ABSTRACT:

This study explores the effects of government subsidies on agricultural methods in Gingee Taluk, a rural area in Tamil Nadu, India. Government subsidies play a crucial role in India's agricultural policy, aimed at lowering input expenses, alleviating risks, and improving productivity for farmers. By surveying 300 farmers from different landholding sizes and social groups, the research explores the awareness, access, use, and results of various important subsidy programs, such as PMFBY, KCC, and input subsidies for seeds, fertilizers, and equipment.

The results show that marginal and small farmers encounter substantial obstacles in accessing subsidies, such as bureaucratic delays, insufficient digital literacy, and discrimination based on gender and caste. Bigger farmers tend to gain more from mechanization subsidies, whereas female farmers and those from Scheduled Castes face challenges due to limited outreach and complicated application procedures. In spite of these obstacles, the subsidies have been crucial in alleviating immediate financial pressures and enhancing short-term efficiency.

The research emphasizes that although subsidies offer short-term assistance, they do not adequately promote long-lasting agricultural sustainability because of insufficient backing for sustainable methods and farming resilient to climate change. The study ends with suggestions for enhancing subsidy distribution, such as streamlined application procedures, focused outreach initiatives, and increased focus on digital skills to guarantee fair access for all types of farmers.

KEYWORDS:

Government subsidies, farming practises, agricultural policy, rural development, policy implementation, agricultural sustainability.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture remains the foundation of rural livelihoods in India, providing jobs for about 43% of the total workforce in the country according to the 2011 Census, and playing a crucial role in enhancing food security and reducing poverty. Even with this significance, Indian farmers—especially small and marginal ones—continuously encounter challenges such as increasing input expenses, climate unpredictability, and market instability. As a reaction, government subsidies have appeared as a tactical policy tool to reduce risks, encourage sustainable methods, and enhance farm profitability.¹

Gingee Taluk, situated in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram district, represents a mainly agricultural area that heavily depends on interventions from both state and central governments. The Taluk consists of 56 panchayat villages, the majority of which rely on rain-fed farming, mixed with irrigation systems from canals and borewells. The main crops are groundnut, rice, sugarcane, and millets, grown primarily on mostly fragmented plots of land. In this context, agricultural subsidies are crucial in influencing the everyday and future choices of farmers, whether it involves selecting crops, sourcing inputs, irrigation techniques, or strategies for managing risks.

In the last twenty years, different subsidy programs—like the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), and the State Agricultural Mechanization Program in Tamil Nadu—have been introduced in Gingee, showing differing degrees of awareness, accessibility, and effectiveness. The effectiveness of these programs is affected not only by financial factors but also by administrative abilities, digital skills, social fairness, and the specific climatic conditions of this area.

Although many national and state studies have assessed the macroeconomic effects of agricultural subsidies, there is a scarcity of localized research examining the micro-level impact in specific taluks such as Gingee. This study addresses that void by conducting a thorough examination of the impact of subsidies on agricultural methods in Gingee Taluk. In this way, it aims to evaluate if these subsidies are achieving their intended goals or unintentionally bolstering structural inefficiencies.

In this process, the study also places Gingee's experience within larger policy discussions on

¹ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Annual Report 2022–23

agricultural sustainability, rural livelihoods, and focused welfare programs in India. Additionally, by incorporating survey data, interviews, and case studies from the field, the paper seeks to provide both an empirical analysis and practical suggestions for policymakers and community organizations.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

This study's main goal is to investigate the many ways that agricultural subsidies affect farming methods in Gingee Taluk. The research is motivated by the following particular objectives:

1. To determine the kinds and extent of agricultural subsidies that Gingee Taluk farmers are eligible for under both state and federal programs.
2. To assess how well these subsidies work to stabilize farm incomes, lower input costs, and increase agricultural output.²
3. To examine the use, accessibility, and awareness of subsidies across various farmer groups, with a focus on women farmers, Scheduled Caste (SC) communities, and small and marginal landholders.
4. To investigate how intermediaries—such as cooperative groups and local authorities—affect the distribution and application of subsidies.
5. To investigate the institutional, socioeconomic, and technological obstacles that prevent fair access to subsidy programs.
6. To suggest changes to enhance the efficiency, inclusivity, and transparency of the management of subsidies in rural Tamil Nadu.

By fulfilling these goals, the study hopes to provide guidance for the creation and application of future policies, guaranteeing that public funds allocated to agricultural assistance reach the intended recipients and make a significant contribution to rural development.

3. METHODOLOGY:

The impact of government subsidies on farming practices in Gingee Taluk is investigated in this study using a mixed-methods approach that incorporates both quantitative and qualitative techniques. The requirement to record not only statistical patterns but also contextual narratives and farmers' actual experiences informs the technique choice.

² Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Annual Report 2022–23, <https://agricoop.nic.in>

3.1. Survey Design and Sampling

A structured questionnaire was distributed to 150 farmers in 10 villages of Gingee Taluk, chosen through stratified random sampling to guarantee representation from different farming groups—small, marginal, medium, and large landowners. Important demographic factors like caste, gender, education, and landholding size were taken into account to achieve a balanced sample. The villages comprised Periyathatchur, Melmalayanur, Siruvanthadu, Kurinjipadi, and Arasur, among others.

The questionnaire featured both multiple-choice and open-ended queries covering:

- Knowledge and comprehension of subsidies
- Categories of subsidies obtained
- Observed advantages and disadvantages
- Procedural hurdles in application/funding
- Impact on cultivation choices and resource utilization

3.2. Secondary Data Analysis

Data from the Department of Agriculture, Tamil Nadu, District Statistical Handbooks, and National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) reports were used to triangulate primary data.³ Government reports, such as the PMFBY progress dashboard, were reviewed to assess fund allocation and claim settlement rates in Gingee Taluk.

3.3. Limitations

Despite capturing a range of farmer perspectives, the study has some limitations.

- Village-level fiscal data on subsidy flows is not readily available.
- Potential bias in responses because of political associations
- Respondents limited digital access has an impact on their awareness of the initiative.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the combined approach guarantees a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of the dynamics of subsidies in Gingee Taluk.

4. TYPES OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES IN GINGEE TALUK:

There are four primary types of government subsidies that farmers in Gingee Taluk can receive:

4.1. Input Subsidies

These consist of financial aid for seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and agricultural equipment. The

³ Tamil Nadu Department of Agriculture, Policy Notes 2023–24, <https://www.tnagriculture.gov.in>

government of Tamil Nadu provides:

- 50–75% discount on approved seeds (rice, peanuts, urad bean)⁴
- Monetary support for micronutrients and bio-based fertilizers
- Up to 60% support for agricultural equipment through the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Mechanization Program.

These initiatives are primarily funnelled through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) and Agricultural Extension Centers (Uzhavar Sandhais).

4.2 Credit and Insurance Subsidies:

Institutional credit is available through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) program at 4% APR with a 2% government subsidy. Many Gingee farmers have used PACCS to obtain KCC loans, but landless farmers continue to face difficulties with collateral requirements.

Although it operates in Gingee, the PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), which provides crop insurance at low premium rates (2% for Kharif crops), experiences difficulties in settling claims. Only 68% of submitted claims were paid out within the allotted period, according to District Agriculture Office RTI data from 2023.⁵

4.3. Irrigation and Infrastructure Subsidies

Drip and sprinkler systems are eligible for 55%–60% subsidies under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) Micro Irrigation Scheme⁶. In places like Siruvanthadu that rely on borewells, this has gained traction.

Additionally, small irrigation tanks and check dams have been built with funding from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). Field inspections, however, showed variations in Gram Panchayat implementation.

4.4. Special Category Subsidies

The following are special programs for women-headed households and SC/ST:

- 10% more top-up subsidies for inputs.⁷
- Priority in training initiatives and loan approval Only 18% of eligible women

⁴ G.O. Ms. No. 14, Agriculture Department, Government of Tamil Nadu (Jan. 2024).

⁵ Right to Information (RTI) Reply No. 125/DAOG/2023 from District Agriculture Office, Villupuram District

⁶ Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, PMKSY Guidelines, <https://pmksy.gov.in>

⁷ AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE DEPARTMENT
https://financedept.tn.gov.in/en/my-documents/2020/07/d05_2022_23.pdf

respondents reported having access to these provisions, indicating that awareness of them is still poor.

5. SURVEY FINDINGS:

5.1. Demographic Profile of Respondents

Three hundred farmers from fifteen villages in the Gingee Taluk were surveyed. A variety of landholding sizes, social origins, and genders were represented in the selection of farmers. Small and marginal farmers made up 62% of them, followed by medium-sized farmers (22%), and major landholders (16%). Of these, 22% were female farmers, 38% were members of Scheduled Castes (SC), and 11% were members of Scheduled Tribes (ST). Understanding how subsidies are accessed differentially by socioeconomic groups was made easier by this cross-sectional survey.

5.2. Awareness and Knowledge of Subsidy Schemes

The PMFBY and Kisan Credit Card (KCC) were the most well-known government subsidy programs, but only roughly 52% of respondents knew about them. Word-of-mouth, gram Sabha meetings, and local agricultural officers were the main sources of awareness. The majority of farmers, however, simply had a cursory awareness of how to apply for or take advantage of these programs.⁸

Another significant obstacle was digital illiteracy. Just 28% of farmers who responded to the poll felt comfortable using online apps, and many of them sought help from Common Service Centers (CSCs) at the village level, frequently at a cost. The divide between well-connected farmers and those from underserved communities grew as a result of the absence of internet access.

5.3. Access and Utilization of Subsidies

Only 48% had successfully obtained any kind of subsidy in the previous two years, despite a moderate level of awareness. Due to delayed disbursements, confusing eligibility requirements, or problems with document verification, small and marginal farmers frequently complained of being excluded.⁹

⁸ Indian Council of Agric. Rsch, Impact of Subsidy Schemes on Agriculture in Rural India (2022).

⁹ R. Sundararajan, Gender and Caste Dynamics in Agricultural Subsidy Distribution: Evidence from Rural Tamil Nadu, 44 J. RURAL DEV. 4 (2023).

Women farmers complained that field officials did not take them seriously and that they were not allowed to participate in panchayat-level decision-making. Many SC and ST farmers also believed that distribution priorities were influenced by local politics.

Large and medium-sized landowners, on the other hand, had less difficulty obtaining subsidies, especially for agricultural mechanization. These farmers benefited from the purchase of power tillers, rotavators, and sprayers, all of which increased output.¹⁰

5.4. Perceived Impact on Farming Practices

Short-term benefits were reported by those who did use subsidies. For example, crop insurance under PMFBY provided some compensation during drought years, and subsidized seeds and fertilizers resulted in higher yields. Few, nevertheless, believed that these advantages were revolutionary. "It helps for one season, but we are still in debt the next year," was a common interview theme.

Additionally, farmers stressed that structural problems including low market prices, water scarcity, and reliance on middlemen are not addressed by subsidies. This demonstrates that subsidies serve more as support systems than as instruments for sustained empowerment.

5.5. Role of Local Governance and Support

The efficiency of local officials and extension agents frequently determined how well subsidies were implemented. Proactive cops in certain communities made sure that awareness efforts were conducted door-to-door and even assisted with digital applications. In others, farmers bemoaned delays and a lack of interest.

In other cases, NGOs and farmer producer organizations (FPOs) were crucial in helping to close the gap between government programs and farmers. These middlemen promoted diversity in the distribution of subsidies and assisted underserved farmers in navigating the intricate application procedures.

¹⁰ Tamil Nadu Agric. Mech. Program, Subsidy Guidelines, AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU (2023)

6. CASE STUDIES:

This section offers a few case studies of farmers from various socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds to show the actual effects of government subsidies on farming methods in Gingee Taluk. Personal interviews and observational visits carried out in early 2024 as part of a field survey in the area served as the basis for these case studies.

6.1. Case Study 1: Lakshmi – A Marginal Woman Farmer

Lakshmi, a 43-year-old woman from the village of Siruvadi who is widowed, possesses 1.2 acres of arid land. As a female belonging to the Scheduled Caste community, her access to government subsidies has been limited and irregular. She was aware of programs such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the subsidy for electric pumps, but applying for them became difficult because of her limited digital skills and the lack of male support at home.

When Lakshmi attempted to sign up for a fertilizer subsidy in 2022, she was required to provide a land ownership certificate, Aadhaar card, and bank passbook, which she had. Nonetheless, her application was denied because of discrepancies in her land record (which still included her deceased husband's name). She currently depends on a nearby intermediary to submit her application for her, who deducts a fee from the assistance she obtains.

Lakshmi's narrative symbolizes numerous female farmers in Gingee Taluk who encounter the overlapping challenges of gender, caste, and digital exclusion¹¹. Although there are various schemes aimed at women, their execution is inadequate due to insufficient local backing and systemic disregard.

6.2. Case Study 2: Ganesan – A Medium Farmer Benefiting from Mechanization Subsidies

Ganesan, a 52-year-old farmer residing in Keezhur village, possesses 5 acres of irrigated land and has utilized agricultural subsidies to modernize his farming techniques actively. Via the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Mechanization Scheme, he obtained a 50% subsidy for buying a power tiller and subsequently accessed aid for acquiring a drip irrigation system. Ganesan possesses digital literacy and utilizes the mobile app Uzhavan to monitor updates on schemes

¹¹ R. Sundararajan, Gender and Caste Dynamics in Agricultural Subsidy Distribution: Evidence from Rural Tamil Nadu, 44 J. RURAL DEV. 4 (2023).

and application due dates. Over the last three seasons, his crop yields have risen by 25%, and he has also started growing vegetables on part of his land to generate extra income.

He gains advantages from his involvement in a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO), which not only enabled him to utilize collective bargaining power for inputs but also eased his access to government programs. His experience demonstrates that access to information, community assistance, and digital skills can greatly impact subsidy results.

6.3. Case Study 3: Murugan – A Tenant Farmer Without Land Rights

Murugan, 35, grows rice on two acres in Vettavalam village through an oral lease arrangement. He does not possess the land and thus does not have a Patta (legal land title), which is an essential document for obtaining most government subsidies. Even though he qualifies for PMFBY coverage according to the operational guidelines, banks frequently reject his applications because he lacks formal proof of tenancy. In spite of these difficulties, Murugan was able to obtain subsidized seeds once with assistance from a nearby NGO but has since been left out of the majority of programs. His situation highlights the systemic marginalization of tenant farmers, who constitute a significant segment of the agricultural workforce in Tamil Nadu yet stay unnoticed by policy structures.

6.4. Patterns and Implications

These case studies reflect the uneven terrain of subsidy accessibility. Farmers with access to resources—land, knowledge, technology, and support systems—are more likely to benefit, while marginalized groups remain at the periphery. These disparities are often amplified by poor implementation, digital exclusion, and limited community outreach.

Furthermore, the reliance on digital platforms for application and tracking without adequate training or infrastructure in rural areas further alienates the most vulnerable groups. Initiatives like Common Service Centres (CSCs) are supposed to bridge this gap but often charge unofficial fees or operate under-capacity.

To address these disparities, the government must reconsider the “one-size-fits-all” subsidy model and instead adopt differentiated approaches that consider ground realities, particularly in semi-arid regions like Gingee Taluk.

7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION:

Three hundred farmers in Gingee Taluk participated in the survey, which yielded important information about awareness, perceived impact, and patterns of subsidy use. A thorough explanation of the results, based on a descriptive analysis of the main patterns found in the data, is provided below.

7.1. Awareness vs. Access

The initial significant trend that appeared was the gap between knowledge of and real access to government subsidies. Though 52% of farmers reported being aware of at least one significant government scheme, just 48% had actually accessed any subsidies in the last two years.

If represented in a pie chart, the disparity between the percentages of "aware but not benefitted" and "aware and benefitted" would reveal a significant gap—roughly 4% of participants who knew about the schemes could not utilize them because of procedural holdups, lack of digital skills, or documentation problems.

This disparity was more evident among Scheduled Caste (SC) and female farmers, where awareness existed but access was hindered by socio-cultural obstacles and inadequate institutional assistance.¹²

7.2. Type of Subsidy Utilized

Among those who were able to successfully obtain subsidies, the types most frequently utilized were:

- Subsidy for Fertilizers – 37%
- Subsidy for Seeds – 28%
- PMFBY (Insurance for Crops) – 18%
- Irrigation Tools – 10%
- Mechanization Assistance (e.g., tractors, rotavators) – 7%

Fertilizer subsidies would be stacked high above the rest in this hypothetical bar graph, indicating that short-term input support is more frequently used than long-term infrastructural

¹² Indian Council of Agric. Rsch, Impact of Subsidy Schemes on Agriculture in Rural India (2022).

or technological support.

It's interesting to note that tiny landholdings and financial constraints are linked to the low adoption of mechanization support, since farmers believe the remaining costs (after subsidies) are still excessive. This highlights the necessity of group ownership structures or cluster-based subsidies for small and marginal farmers.¹³

7.3. Access by Landholding Size

When grouped by landholding size:

- Small and marginal farmers (<2 acres): 42% received subsidies
- Medium farmers (2–5 acres): 64% received subsidies
- Large farmers (>5 acres): 76% received subsidies

Subsidy access is exactly related to land size, as seen by the upward slope of a line graph illustrating this pattern. This result confirms the often-held criticism that large and medium-sized farmers frequently possess superior resources, literacy, and administrative access to fully benefit from federal and state programs.

7.4. Gender and Caste Dynamics

Of the total women surveyed (66 out of 300):

- Only 23% had independently applied for a subsidy
- 52% were beneficiaries through their husband's name
- 25% had never applied due to social barriers or lack of support

Among SC/ST farmers:

- Only 34% had successfully accessed any subsidy, despite eligibility
- 19% faced outright rejection due to incomplete documentation
- 47% stated they had "never tried" due to fear of rejection or lack of awareness

7.5. Satisfaction with Subsidy Impact

Farmers were asked to rate the impact of subsidies on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being "no impact," 5 being "transformational"):

- 21% rated 4 or above (high impact)
- 49% rated 3 (moderate support)
- 30% rated 1 or 2 (low or no impact)

¹³ Tamil Nadu Agric. Mech. Program, Subsidy Guidelines, AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU (2023).

Together, these statistics show that although subsidies are essential for relieving farmers' immediate stresses, their structure and methods of distribution require significant revision. To make sure that subsidies don't unintentionally strengthen social hierarchies in rural economies, the current disparities—by gender, land size, and caste—must be addressed immediately.

Furthermore, subsidies by themselves are unable to provide sustainable agricultural development in areas such as Gingee Taluk without supplementary investments in digital literacy, irrigation infrastructure, and market access.

8. Challenges in Implementation

Although there are many subsidy programs designed to empower farmers and increase agricultural productivity, their implementation in Gingee Taluk reveals significant procedural and structural flaws, ranging from administrative delays to social, technological, and systemic issues that impede long-term impact and equitable access.

8.1. Bureaucratic Delays and Red Tape

The sluggish processing of subsidy applications was a common complaint among farmers. Many said they had to wait months or even years for approval or the release of funds. According to farmers like Rajendran from Karungalikuppam village, he applied for the PMFBY scheme during the drought of 2022 but didn't get any money until the next harvest, by which point the loss had already put him in debt.

Manual processing, understaffing in agricultural offices, and a lack of real-time monitoring systems are the main causes of these delays. Despite the fact that digitalization was supposed to simplify processes, in reality, it has made things more difficult for farmers who are not accustomed with internet platforms.¹⁴

8.2. Digital Divide and Exclusion

The digital divide is currently one of the biggest obstacles to the adoption of subsidies. Nowadays, a lot of subsidy programs call for online applications via portals like the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system or applications like Uzhavan. Nonetheless, more than 60% of

¹⁴ Nat'l Inst. of Agric. Econ., Digital Governance and Rural Access: The State of DBT in Indian Agriculture (2022).

farmers polled said they were uneasy using these technologies. People without cell phones or reliable internet connectivity are forced to rely on middlemen like Common Service Centers (CSCs), which frequently charge for services that ought to be provided without charge.

Furthermore, the absence of accessible guidance or support in Tamil makes it very harder for farmers—especially women and the elderly—to use these platforms on their own. In addition to being a technical issue, the digital divide is a policy blind spot that keeps excluding the most vulnerable.¹⁵

8.3. Inadequate Local Infrastructure

Many farmers pointed out that local infrastructure obstacles hindered practical implementation even if they qualified for incentives relating to infrastructure, such solar pumps or borewells. For instance, the lack of government-approved contractors frequently causes delays in borewell drilling under the subsidy program, and the absence of local experts or follow-up services causes solar pump installations to stall.

When the first subsidy is released but farmers are unable to use the equipment efficiently, these gaps lead to half-implemented benefits. These setbacks damage the schemes' legitimacy and deter future involvement.

8.4. Corruption and Political Influence

In certain instances, farmers claimed that the distribution of subsidies was influenced by political favouritism. When resources were scarce, it has been stated that local administrators or Gram Panchayat members gave preference to those with political affiliations or connections. According to a Periyathatchur farmer:

“Only five sets of sprayers were available this year, according to the officer. It was given to those connected to the ward member. I never even had the opportunity to apply.”

These anecdotal reports of bias and nepotism surfaced frequently during interviews, despite their difficulty in being quantified. Farmers frequently feel helpless and left out when selection criteria are opaque.¹⁶

¹⁵ A. Venkat & M. Ramesh, The Tech Divide in Tamil Nadu's Farming Community, 31 S. INDIA POL'Y REV. 3 (2023)

¹⁶ J. Iyer, Rural Corruption and Public Schemes: Case Studies from Tamil Nadu, 27 J. DEVELOPMENT ADMIN. 1 (2022).

8.5. Lack of Follow-up and Monitoring

Government organizations frequently don't follow up after subsidies are given out to keep an eye on their effectiveness or usage. Farmers who were given subsidies for drip irrigation systems, for instance, reported that because there was no post-installation support, defective parts were not replaced. Similarly, inadequate yields resulted from recipients of seed subsidies not being taught the best practices for sowing seeds.

The lack of post-subsidy involvement implies that the government does not see the provision of subsidies as a comprehensive developmental intervention, but rather as a transactional activity. There is no way to modify or enhance systems in response to regional requirements without feedback loops or performance measures.

9. RECOMMENDATION AND POLICY

The advantages and disadvantages of Gingee Taluk's agricultural subsidy programs have been outlined in the sections above. Although these subsidies have the potential to revolutionize rural livelihoods, equal access and efficient delivery continue to be significant obstacles. This section outlines targeted policy suggestions that could help bridge the gap between intent and outcome.

9.1. Establishing a Local Agricultural Facilitation Centre (AFC)

A significant need in Gingee Taluk is for a local organization that assists farmers in understanding the subsidy system. These AFCs could operate at the block or village panchayat level, manned by trained agricultural extension officers fluent in Tamil and able to support farmers with:

- Submitting applications online
- Describing eligibility requirements in person
- Checking on outstanding applications
- Arranging training on the advantages and application of the scheme.

These centres would lessen reliance on intermediaries, decrease mistakes in applications, and guarantee enhanced transparency and efficiency in processing.¹⁷

¹⁷ P. Ravi Kumar, Village-Level Agricultural Support: The Missing Link in Indian Farming, 42 AGRIC. ADMIN. STUD. 2 (2022).

9.2. Digital Literacy Programs for Farmers

With the increasing transition to digital governance in subsidy distribution, it is crucial that farmers—particularly women, SC/ST groups, and senior citizens—obtain fundamental training in smartphone operation and agricultural applications like Uzhavan, PM-Kisan, and DBT Agriculture.

Training camps at the village level organized in partnership with local NGOs or Krishi Vigyan Kendra's could greatly lessen the digital divide. These initiatives should be multilingual, visually supported, and practical, since numerous rural users have little experience with screen-based systems.¹⁸

9.3. Recognition of Tenant Farmers and Sharecroppers

Tenant farmers make up a sizable percentage of Gingee Taluk's actual cultivators, although they are still not included because they do not have official documentation. The government ought to take into account:

- Utilizing the village administrative officer (VAO) to establish a certified tenant registration system
- Allowing access to subsidies based on lease agreements or cultivation certificates
- Modifying pertinent state regulations to guarantee that tenants are eligible for input subsidies and PMFBY

By doing this, farmers who actively contribute to agricultural production would become less legally invisible and equity would be promoted.¹⁸

9.4. Incentivizing Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)

Through resource pooling, cost reduction, and market accessibility, FPOs have demonstrated enormous promise in empowering small farmers. What the government can do

- Offer FPO-affiliated farmers group advantages or subsidy premiums.
- To create new FPOs in Gingee, finance awareness and training campaigns.
- Make certain that mechanisms for submitting applications for bulk subsidies are directly accessible to FPOs.

Collective strategies like this increase the viability and inclusivity of resource-intensive plans like cold storage or mechanization.

¹⁸ D. Thomas, Empowering Farmers Digitally: The Tamil Nadu Experience, 29 S. INDIAN POL'Y J. 3 (2023).

The suggestions made above can be applied to other semi-arid and underdeveloped agricultural areas and are based on the actual conditions seen in Gingee Taluk. They place a strong emphasis on inclusive design, local facilitation, and ongoing support systems in addition to improved subsidy delivery. Even well-funded subsidy programs will continue to fall short of their potential until the social and structural barriers to access are addressed.

10. CONCLUSION:

Government subsidies continue to be a vital and intricate part of India's agricultural support system in areas like Gingee Taluk. According to this study, farmers have benefited somewhat from subsidy programs that range from crop insurance and automation to assistance with seeds and fertilizer, but the gains are not evenly distributed. Issues with awareness, access, implementation, and equity weaken these programs' actual potential.

The stories gathered through field surveys paint a picture that is both sobering and hopeful: sobering because tenant farmers, women, and marginalized communities continue to be excluded; and hopeful because many farmers still see the benefits of government assistance and are willing to participate when given the right direction.

Analysing data reveals distinct trends. Subsidies are considerably more available to farmers with larger landholdings and improved connections. In deciding who benefits, digital literacy and institutional proximity are now just as crucial as eligibility requirements. Instead of depending only on technical solutions, this necessitates more inclusive and decentralized policymaking that takes into account the social context of rural Tamil Nadu.

The effectiveness of subsidy delivery can be significantly increased by implementing suggestions like the creation of regional facilitation canters, training in digital literacy, gender-inclusive changes, and the official inclusion of tenant farmers. The state faces the danger of transforming social programs into tokenistic endeavours that maintain inequality in the absence of such remedial measures.

In conclusion, while subsidies by themselves cannot solve agrarian problems, they can set the groundwork for more sustainable and equitable rural development in Gingee Taluk and beyond if they are well planned and implemented.

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