An Analysis of Meri Fasal Mera Byora in Haryana

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture occupies a prominent place in the Indian economy so that government always try to uplift the farmers status by enhancing their incomes. Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB) is an initiative taken by Haryana government for the farmers to enhance their income by providing them a fair price of their crops. Under the Meri Fasal Mera Byora all the farmers who want to sell their crops at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), in the grain markets (Mandies), they need to register themselves on the portal. This study is an attempt to assess the present status and problems of the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal. The study is based on the secondary data that has been collected from the Haryana government reports. The result of the study indicates that Wheat, Mustard, Gram and Surajmukhi are the major crops grown in the Haryana in rabi season and largest number of farmers are registered on the portal for these crops. The researchers also found that the portal has lot of deficiencies so that Haryana government need to resolve these deficiencies as soon as possible and make the portal more effective and efficient for the welfare of farmers in Haryana.

Keywords: Agriculture, Indian Economy, MFMB, MSP, Haryana

1. Introduction

Agriculture is a prominent sector of the State economy and majority of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture and its allied activities. Accordingly, the State has accorded high priority to agriculture sector since its creation on 1st November, 1966. Strong infrastructure facilities i.e., roads, rural electrification, extensive network of canals, development of markets etc. were created which provided much needed impetus to agriculture development in the State. The agriculture and allied sectors have always been an important contributor to the gross state domestic product. However, as a consequence of rapid structural transition of the State's economy over the years, the contribution of the agriculture and allied sectors at constant (2011-12) prices went down to only 16.6 percent of the gross state value added (GSVA) during the year 2019-20. The economic growth of the State has become more dependent on the growth in Industry and services sectors during the past few years. However, recent experience suggests that high GSVA growth without sustained and rapid agricultural growth is likely to accelerate inflation in the State jeopardizing the larger growth process. Therefore, the growth of Agriculture and Allied Sectors continue to be a critical factor in the overall performance of the State’s economy (Economic Survey of Haryana 2019-20).

Agriculture is the primary sector in Haryana and around 80 percent of the state’s total geographical areas are under cultivation. It is the leading state for the agricultural production in the country. The state is the second largest contributor of food grains to India. The main agricultural crops produced in Haryana are Rice, Wheat, Sugarcane, Cotton, Oilseeds, Gram and Barley. The state enjoys the First position in the production of basmati rice, pearl millet and mustard. The state is popularly known as the ‘Breadbasket’ of India (4th Agriculture Leadership Summit 2019).
2. Meri Fasal Mera Byora Yojna

A key initiative was taken by the Haryana government for the welfare of the farmers of the Haryana state that is known Meri Fasal Mera Byora Yojana. Government of Haryana launched the portal on December 25, 2018. It is an online platform where Haryana government provides multiple services to the farmers on a single place. The portal has been designed to ensure that the farmers get the benefits offered by the state government including insurance cover, compensation on account of crop damage due to natural calamities and other financial assistance under different schemes. On this portal farmers are registered themselves and upload their land and crop details. Through this portal, the government will get the accurate data of area and name of the crops cultivated in various parts of the state. It brings together departments of agriculture and farmers’ welfare, revenue, food civil supplies and consumer affairs and science and technology on single platform for betterment of the farmers. It mandates farmers from the state to upload details about crops sown in their field on the portal at nearby Common Service Centres (CSCs) or Atal Seva Kendras or with the help of VLEs by end of July. It is also mandatory to the farmers to upload all the details on the portal about the non-cultivated land in case he has not sown any crop yet.

This initiative is a step forward towards realizing the vision of doubling of farmers’ income by 2022. To encourage the farmers to get registered on the portal, the government has announced an incentive of Rs. 10 per acre or part thereof subject to minimum of Rs. 20 to maximum Rs. 50 would be provided to each farmer who get registered on the portal. This amount will be directly deposited in bank accounts of the farmer. The chief minister said that an incentive of Rs. 5 will be given to the CSCs (Common Service Centre) for each entry of farmer. Now the farmers are not required to visit any offices to apply under the Meri Fasal Mera Byora. Through this portal all the government facilities will be made available to the farmers of Haryana in one place. This portal would help providing agricultural related information directly and online to the farmers. Besides, it would make the distribution of seeds, fertilizers, farm loans more transparent and easier.

3. Main Features and Objectives of MFMB

In this section we discuss the main features and major objectives of the Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB) portal implemented in Haryana state for the welfare of the farmer through enhancing their income by providing a platform where they can sell their crops on the fair prices.

A. Features of MFMB

Followings are the main features of the MFMB portal.

1. The crops of registered farmers on this portal will be purchased at the minimum support price (MSP) that is fixed by the government.
2. An incentive of Rs. 10 per acre was given to the all farmers who register themselves on this portal.
3. The incentive paid to the farmers directly into their bank accounts.
4. Under this portal, the options for selling and marketing the agricultural products are also available for making competitive returns.
5. The village level enterprises of the common service center (CSCs) located in the villages to register the crops details of the farmers online at the free of cost. For this government provide the Rs. 5 as an incentive to the CSCs for entering the detail of each farmer.

B. Objectives of MFMB

Followings are the main objectives of launching the MFMB.

1. To registering the farmers crops details and agricultural land details.
2. To provide the benefit of all government schemes to the farmers on one place and to solve the problems of the farmers.
3. To provide the all-necessary information to the farmer related to agricultural activities.
4. To provide the benefit of subsidies on fertilizer, seeds, loan and agricultural equipment’s.
5. To provide timely information to the farmers related to crop sowing time and market.

4. Discussion

From January 1, 2021, the Haryana government ensures the registration on MFMB portal mandatory for all those farmers who want to avail the benefits of subsidies given by the Haryana government on agricultural inputs. This registration process has been
starting from January 16. After registration, farmers are required to submit all important documents to the office. If farmers do not submit important documents to the office, then their registration will be cancelled. After which no claim will be accepted.

1. Farmer and Area Registered Under the Scheme

The registration process on MFMB portal started from 16 January 2021. This time Haryana government announced that family ID is mandatory for the farmers to register themselves on the MFMB portal. The registration process ends on April 6, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Season and Year</th>
<th>Total Farmer Registered</th>
<th>Total Area Registered (Acre)</th>
<th>Total Cumulative Area (Acre)</th>
<th>Percentage of Registered Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kharif 2020</td>
<td>7,80,867</td>
<td>43,08,444.97</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabi 2021</td>
<td>9,13,096</td>
<td>60,42,768.28</td>
<td>8575477.61</td>
<td>70.47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: https://fasal.haryana.gov.in

Table 1 indicates the total farmer registered, total area registered, total cumulative area and percentage of registered area in respect to total cumulative area on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal for the Rabi season in the year of 2020-21. The data reveals that only 70.47 percent of total cumulative area are registered on the portal of Meri Fasal Mera Byora. It means 29.53 percent area are still unregistered in Haryana state.

2. Crop wise Registered Farmers and Area

Meri Fasal Mera Byora started by the Haryana government in December 2018. Initially, MFMB had an objective to obtain full information about crops from the farmers and to remove problems faced by them in selling their crops in the grain market (mandi). Initially, it has been implemented for 12 crops, 17 vegetables and three fruits. Here, in this study, we have taken major crops for which the farmers have registered themselves. These crops are Wheat, Mustard, Gram and Surajmukhi (Sunflower).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmer Registered</th>
<th>Area Registered (Acres)</th>
<th>Total Farmer Registered</th>
<th>Total Area Registered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,32,858</td>
<td>46,89,312.46</td>
<td>9,13,096</td>
<td>60,42,768.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: https://fasal.haryana.gov.in

The data shows that approximately 80.2 percent of total farmer registered on the portal are registered themselves for the wheat crop. It means wheat is the major crop that grown in the rabi season in Haryana state.
Figure 1 shows the top five districts in Haryana in which highest number of farmers registered themselves and the crop area on Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal. The figure clearly depicts that Sirsa is on top position in both farmer registration as well as in area registration. In farmer registration Sirsa is followed by Hisar, Jind, Karnal and Fatehabaad whereas in area registration Sirsa is followed by Karnal, Jind, Fatehabaad and Kaithal. In area registration Kaithal is dominating Hisar district which hold the second position in farmer registration.

| Table 3: Registered Farmer and Area for Mustard Crop |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Farmer Registered | Area Registered (Acres) | Total Farmer Registered | Total Area Registered |
| 3,21,145 | 11,83,565.06 | 9,13,096 | 60,42,768.28 |

Source: https://fasal.haryana.gov.in

The data shows that approximately 35.17 percent of total farmer registered on the portal are registered themselves for the mustard crop. Mustard occupies second place in the major crops that grown in Haryana in rabi season.

Figure 2: Top Five Districts with Maximum Number of Farmer Registration and Their Area Registered for Mustard on MFMB

Figure 2 shows the top five districts in Haryana in which highest number of farmers registered themselves and the crop area on Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal. The figure clearly depicts that Mahendergarh is on top position in farmer registration and followed by Bhiwani, Rewari, Sirsa and Hisar whereas Bhiwani is on top in area registration and followed by Mahendergarh, Rewari, Sirsa and Hisar.

| Table 4: Registered Farmer and Area for Gram Crop |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Farmer Registered | Area Registered (Acres) | Total Farmer Registered | Total Area Registered |
| 25,396 | 95,210.2 | 9,13,096 | 60,42,768.28 |

Source: https://fasal.haryana.gov.in

The data shows that approximately 2.78 percent of total farmer registered on the portal are registered themselves for the Gram crop.
Figure 3 shows the top five districts in Haryana in which the highest number of farmers registered themselves and the crop area on Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal. The figure clearly depicts that Mahendergarh is on top position in both farmer registration as well as in area registration. Mehendergarh is followed by Bhiwani, Hisar, Sirsa, and Charkhi Dadri.

Table 5: Registered Farmer and Area for Surajmukhi Crop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmer Registered</th>
<th>Area Registered (Acres)</th>
<th>Total Farmer Registered</th>
<th>Total Area Registered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,831</td>
<td>28,856.71</td>
<td>9,13,096</td>
<td>60,42,768.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: https://fasal.haryana.gov.in

The data shows that approximately 0.85 percent of total farmer registered on the portal are registered themselves for the Surajmukhi crop.

Figure 4: Top Five Districts with Maximum Number of Farmer Registration and Their Area Registered for Surajmukhi on MFMB

Source: https://fasal.haryana.gov.in
Figure 4 shows the top five districts in Haryana in which highest number of farmers registered themselves and the crop area on Meri Fasal Mera Byora portal. The figure clearly depicts that Kurukshetra is on top position in both farmer registration as well as in area registration for the surajmukhi crop and it is followed by Ambala, Panchkula, Yamunanagar and Karnal.

5. Problems Faced by the Farmers

Haryana government had launched the MFMB portal on December 25, 2018 and termed it as a major achievement. The launch of MFMB had an objective to obtain full information about crops from the farmers and to remove the problems faced by them in selling crops in the grain market (mandi). But now MFMB portal has become a major problem for farmers.

The majority of the farmers complained that their land had already been registered by someone else, even though they were the original owners. Some farmers lodged complaint that their land details on the portal were not available. Even after around two year of the starting of the portal, the farmers are still facing technical glitches. The farmers are not getting a particular land detail from the joint land record. Moreover, several farmers who are cultivating on panchayat land are not getting OTP for registration from sarpanches as several sarpanches have changed their mobile numbers. Besides, due to non-uploading of cultivable land on the portal so far by the patwaris concerned, the farmers are not able to register themselves, due to which they have to face a lot of trouble.

6. Legal Status of Meri Fasal Mera Byora

There is a controversy on the legal status of MFMB portal. According to news published in a reputed newspaper Time of India the ‘Meri Fasal Mera Byora’ portal illegal and this claim by the Bharatiya Kisan Union. Based on the information received under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 regarding the ‘Meri Fasal Mera Byora’ portal, the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) Haryana Charuni group claimed that the portal was illegal. BKU (Charuni) had filed two separate RTI applications dated June 24 and 29, 2020, and sought information on 17 points regarding the legality, objective and functioning of MFMB from Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board (HSAMB).

MFMB portal is running without any organizational structure and implemented without any law. It was asked to HSAMB that the MFMB portal has been implemented under which law and the board has replied that it is without any law. The board was asked about the time table of opening and closing of the portal and it replied that it is done as per advice from the agriculture department. When asked about MFMB’s organizational structure, the board replied that there is no written information about the organizational structure and framework of this portal. It was decided to implement the MFMB portal in a meeting and applied on 12 crops, 17 vegetables and three fruits. There is no dispute redressal mechanism and the farmers have to protest for their rights. The board provided information that it is the responsibility of the farmers to get their crops registered on the MFMB portal, else their crops will not be procured at minimum support price (MSP) and they would have to sell in the open market. Now, it has become clear from the information given by HSAMB that MFMB is not for the interests of the farmers but it has been made to keep the farmers away from MSP (Times of India, March 2021).

7. Suggestions and Conclusion

On the basis of above discussion, some suggestions are given to make the portal more effective and beneficial for the farmers. First of all, government initiates to make the portal legal and establish the special office setup to deal the farmers regarding the MFMB portal. It is also important to define the proper time of opening and closing time of portal of every season and make the Girdawari of land by patwari should be done on timely. Government should organize the village level programs to aware the farmers in which benefits of the portal may share with the farmers. It is also suggested that government should take the immediate action on the fraud person who registered themselves on the land of others without the permission of the real owner and appoint a special grievance handling committee where the farmers protest their rights.

In conclusion, there are lots of deficiencies in the MFMB portal. The government should made efforts to make the portal more effective and easier so that the problems faced by the farmers may solved timely. It is also a fact that there is no legal provision regarding the portal so that there is a need to make the portal legal to protect the interest of the farmers.

References:

1. esaharyana.gov.in/en-us/Economic-Survey-of-Haryana
2. https://fasal.haryana.gov.in