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## Empowering Farmers: Contemporary Challenges through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies

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Dr. Bharat Shankar Kharat<sup>1</sup> & Dr. M. A. Dixit<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Arts and Commerce College, Kasegaon Tal- Walwa Dist- Sangli  
(Maharashtra)

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Arts and Commerce College, Kasegaon Tal- Walwa Dist- Sangli  
(Maharashtra)

Corresponding Author - Dr. Bharat Shankar Kharat

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### Abstract:

*This research study investigates the role of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) in empowering farmers and tackling current agricultural concerns. With a focus on the Indian context, the paper investigates farmer concerns such as financial availability i.e. credit facilities, market guidance, climate change, and technology innovation. It looks at how PACCS, as a community-based financial institution, may empower farmers by facilitating access to money, encouraging sustainable agricultural practices, and boosting social and economic development in rural regions. The present study is based on Primary and secondary data for the study purpose, information or data collected through Questionnaire, Observations, field visits and interviews of PACCS Members (Farmers) of each society. This paper aims to identify the contemporary challenges faced by PACCS farmers and to provide recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of PACCS in addressing contemporary challenges and promoting sustainable agricultural development in India.*

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**Keywords:** Empowerment, Members, PACCS, Contemporary Challenges

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### Introduction:

Agriculture is critical to India's economy, employing a large proportion of the labor force and contributing significantly to the country's GDP. It provides a key source of income for the great majority of rural people, guaranteeing food security and supporting rural economies. However, Indian agriculture confronts several obstacles, such as fragmented landholdings, insufficient irrigation infrastructure, erratic

weather patterns, low productivity, and restricted access to loans and markets. These issues threaten farmers' livelihoods, increase rural poverty, and limit the sector's potential for long-term growth and development. These challenges threaten the livelihoods of farmers, exacerbate rural poverty, and hinder the sector's potential for sustainable growth and development.

Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) are community-based financial institutions that offer

financing and other services to farmers in rural regions. These cooperatives serve a critical role in meeting the financing needs of small and marginal farmers, who frequently lack access to traditional banking services. By organizing member savings and gaining access to institutional funding, PACCS promotes inexpensive lending, savings mobilization, and farmer education, all of which contribute to rural development and agricultural sustainability.

Despite the presence of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS), farmers in many places continue to confront substantial barriers to empowerment and agricultural sustainability. These problems include inadequate finance availability, a lack of market direction, the effects of climate change, and technical impediments. As a result, there is a need to evaluate the effectiveness of PACCS in tackling current difficulties and empowering farmers in rural communities.

### **Research Methodology:**

The present paper is written based on the findings from the study conducted in Satara District. Methodology consists of sample survey of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies Members for Knowing the status and Opinion in the context of empowering farmers and

addressing contemporary challenges in the agricultural sector.

Sample: There are 951 PACCS in Satara District. Researcher has selected 5 members from each society. Researcher has selected 10% societies for study that means 95 societies out of 951 PACCS in Satara district by using Stratified Random Sampling Method. There are 11 talukas in Satara district and the PACCS are selected at 10% from each taluka.

### **Objectives of the Study:**

1. To identify the contemporary challenges faced by PACCS farmers.
2. To provide recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of PACCS in addressing contemporary challenges and promoting sustainable agricultural development in India.

### **Data Analysis:**

The Researcher asked the questions to PACCS Members to know their views about the Challenges of Agriculture Loan Procedures and Opinion of the farmers about technology, Climate, Soil Testing, and Equipment etc. There are many challenges faced by farmers in real life but in this paper researcher has taken some sample questions. Their responses are given in the following table.

**Table: 1: Opinion of the farmers about Challenges of Agriculture Loan Procedures**

Sr. No	Problems	Stat.	SD 1	D 2	N 3	A 4	SA 5	Total	$\bar{X}$ Mean	SD
1	Delay of Loan Amount From District Bank	Freq.	46	137	51	208	34	475	3.10	1.18
		Per.	9.7	28.8	10.7	43.7	7.1	100		
2	Crop Loan Procedure is very lengthy	Freq.	15	186	46	102	127	475	3.30	1.31
		Per.	3.2	39.1	9.7	21.4	26.7	100		
3	Requirements Documents is not Available timely such as Satbara, property card etc.	Freq.	8	145	51	248	24	475	3.20	1.01
		Per.	1.7	30.5	10.7	52.1	5	100		
4	Loan Sanction procedure is manipulated	Freq.	11	183	31	119	132	475	3.38	1.30
		Per.	2.3	38.4	6.5	25	27.7	100		
5	Loan Application and Loan Sanction procedure is very Lengthy.	Freq.	13	151	38	137	136	475	3.31	1.01
		Per.	2.7	31.7	8	28.8	28.6	100		
6	Do not loan waiver Amount Paid by the Societies.	Freq.	31	116	25	154	150	475	3.49	1.27
		Per.	6.5	24.4	5.3	32.4	31.5	100		
7	Subsidy Amount and Loan waiver amount for receive is very lengthy.	Freq.	7	96	23	287	63	475	<b>3.64</b>	<b>1.05</b>
		Per.	1.5	20.2	4.8	60.3	13.2	100		

*Source: Primary data*

*(Note: SD: Strongly Disagree, D: Disagree, N: Neutral, A: Agreed, SA: Strongly Agreed)*

The above table reveals that Members Challenges or Problems of Agriculture Loan Procedures.

It needs systematic documentation, guarantee hypothecation. Availing loan is lengthy and complicated to the farmers also. This table also concern with challenges face by the farmers during loan sanction. Number of variable are included in the table like Delay of Loan Amount From District Bank, Crop Loan Procedure is very lengthy or Requirements Documents is not Available timely such as

Satbara, property card etc. Loan Sanction procedure is manipulated.

Delay of loan amount from District bank is first variable of the table which expresses whether farmers satisfied or not. 9.7 percent respondents are strongly disagree, 28.8 percent respondents are Disagree, 10.7 Percent of the respondents are neutral 43.7 percent of the respondents are agreed 7.1 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed with delay of loan amount from district Bank. Majority of farmers are agreeing with delay of loan amount from district bank. Co –operative

district banks working mechanism is very lengthy.

Crop loan is very tricky and need complicated KYC. 3.2 percent respondents are strongly disagree, 39.1 percent respondents are Disagree, 9.7 Percent of the respondents are neutral 24.4 percent of the respondents are agreed 26.7 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed with crop loan procedure is very lengthy.

Maximum number of the respondents are disagree with crop loan procedure is very lengthy.

KYC means Know Your Customers, crop agriculture loan need documentation like satbara, property card etc. 1.7 percent respondents are strongly disagree, 30.5 percent respondents are Disagree, 10.7 Percent of the respondents are neutral 52.1 percent of the respondents are agreed 5.00 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed with documentation is not available. It concluded that greatest number of the respondents is agreed with this variable.

General consideration of people is procedure manipulation is can be common practice in Indian banking system, it depends on the type of loan. 2.3 percent respondents are strongly disagree, 38.4 percent respondents are Disagree, 6.5 Percent of the respondents are neutral 25.00 percent of the respondents are agreed 27.7 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed with loan sanction procedure is manipulated.

Considered that most of the farmers are disagree with loan sanction

procedure is manipulated. Lengthy loan application procedure is major barrier to the farmers 2.7 percent are strongly disagree, 31.7 percent respondents are Disagree, 8.00 Percent of the respondents are neutral 28.8 percent of the respondents are agreed 28.6 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed with loan application and loan sanction procedure is very lengthy.

Majority of farmers Disagree with the loan application and loan sanction procedure is very lengthy. Government loan pardon gives benefits to the farmers. 6.5 percent are strongly disagree, 24.4 percent respondents are Disagree, 5.3 Percent of the respondents are neutral 32.4 percent of the respondents are agreed 31.5 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed with loan pardon amount not paid by the societies.

Most of the respondents are agree with loan pardon amount not paid by the societies.

Government procedures are always lengthy. Subsidy amount and loan waiver amount receiving is very lengthy. Sanction and issue procedure is complicated. 1.5 percent are strongly disagree, 20.2 percent respondents are Disagree, 4.8 Percent of the respondents are neutral 60.3 percent of the respondents are agreed 13.2 percent of the respondents are strongly agreed. Maximum figure of the respondents are agree with lengthy procedure for receiving subsidy and waiver amount.

**Table: 2: Opinion of the farmers about technology, Climatic, Soil Testing, Equipment**

S.No	Variables	HD 1	D 2	N 3	S 4	HS 5	N
1.	Provide Agriculture technology	248	108	19	89	11	475
2.	Guidance for Climatic conditions	90	178	26	155	26	475
3.	Cooperation for Soil Testing	30	122	19	280	24	475
4.	Provide Agriculture Equipment	18	139	42	118	158	475
5.	Agriculture marketing information and cooperation	29	134	46	123	143	475

*Source: Primary data*

It is observed that most of the farmers are does not get the agriculture technology by the societies. It is concluded that most of the members are highly dissatisfied with the support of the societies regarding agricultural technology. Currently, technology plays a very important role in the development of agriculture means that the availability of modern technology to many farmers does not come from the guidance society. Really use of modern technology seems to be very low. Next variable is cooperation for soil testing. It is clear that there are maximum farmers are not get cooperation for soil testing from the societies.

It is concluded that the most of the farmer does not have provide agriculture equipment from societies. While doing agribusiness, farmers' need various equipment's e.g. Use of plowing machine, threshing machine, harvester, sprayer, modern machinery many farmers are not

satisfied with the supply from the society. Agriculture equipment variable concluded that most of the respondents are highly satisfied for the equipment provided by the societies.

It is sum up with there are maximum farmers opinion that they are not get guidance for climatic conditions. Majority of the society members are dissatisfied with facility of the guidance for a climatic condition by the societies. Uncertainty is an important factor affecting agri-business growth in Satara district. Extremely unpredictable weather conditions affect areas like Man, Khatav, Phaltan. Either these areas are affected by drought. Extreme heat causes crop failure in the taluka and various diseases also affect crops.

Systematic planning of the agricultural marketing information and cooperation enhance agricultural production which improve income of the

farmers. The tenth variable is providing of agriculture marketing information and cooperation to the farmers.

### Conclusion:

Finally, the data offered in this study sheds light on farmers' current concerns, as well as the critical role of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS) in addressing these issues. The majority of farmers agree with a delay of the loan amount from the district bank. Co-operative district banks working mechanism is very lengthy. Considering that most of the farmers disagree with loan sanction procedure is manipulated. The subsidy amount and loan waiver amount received are very lengthy. Most of the respondents agree with the loan pardon amount not paid by the societies. It is concluded that most of the members are highly dissatisfied with the support of the societies regarding agricultural technology. It is clear that there are maximum farmers are not get cooperation for soil testing from the societies. Water Resources Guidance is very important for agribusiness. In Satara district, especially in Man, Khatav, Phaltan, Koregaon North, Karad East, Khandalatalukas, there is a shortage of water for agriculture. Special guidance is required from the society for this. Majority of the society members are dissatisfied with facility of the guidance for a climatic condition by the societies.

Access to funding, market guidance, climate change protection, and technological advancements have been

recognized as major challenges to farmer empowerment and agricultural sustainability. However, via efforts to provide low-interest loans, promote sustainable agricultural methods, and encourage technological innovation, PACCS has shown promise in empowering farmers and improving their standard of living. Moving forward, it is vital to build on these initiatives, improve PACCS ability, and foster stakeholder involvement to address farmer concerns and promote fair and sustainable agricultural growth. By implementing PACCS and addressing the root causes of farmer distress, we can pave the road for a more resilient and successful agricultural sector in India.

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