ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken in Chikkaballapur and Dharwad districts of Karnataka state to assess the livelihood security of farm households and the extent of utilization of benefits from Government development programs under irrigated and rainfed situations. Eight major farming systems were identified based on a preliminary survey and previous studies in the area under study, viz, crop+dairy, crop+sericulture, crop+dairy+sericulture and crop+sheep in Chikkaballapur district and crop+dairy, crop+dairy+sheep, crop+dairy+poultry and crop+sheep in Dharwad district. The study is based on primary data from 240 farmers covering equal samples under irrigated and rainfed situation elicited for the period 2012-13 through survey method. The data were analyzed using tabular presentation, returns to rupee of investment, optimization of farming using linear programming analysis, minimization of total absolute deviation (MOTAD) technique and regression model. The results revealed that in Chikkaballapur district under irrigated situation, the net annual income realized by a household was highest in C+D+S (Rs.4,13,213.30) farming system and least in C+Sh (Rs. 78,268.79) farming system. Under rainfed situation, farmers realized a maximum net income of Rs.1,13,426.27 from crop+dairy system followed by Rs.65,205.43 from crop+sheep. In Dharwad district under irrigated situation, farmers realized the highest net income of Rs. 4,00,101.08 from crop+dairy farming system followed by Rs.3,28,204.56 from crop+dairy+sheep farming system and least in crop+sheep (Rs.65,648.34). Under rainfed situation, farmers realized the highest net income of Rs. 1,50,865.14 from crop+dairy farming system followed by Rs.1,36,581.06 from crop+dairy+poultry farming system. In Chikkaballapur district under irrigated situation, crop+dairy+sericulture system provided highest employment of 258 mandays and 375 womandays, while under rainfed situation crop+dairy system provided highest employment of 286 persondays of which 122 were mandays and 164 were womandays. In Dharwad district under irrigated situation, crop+dairy system provided highest employment of 546 mandays and 832 womandays and in the case of rainfed situation, again crop+dairy system provided highest employment of 315 mandays and 519 womandays. Linear programming results indicates that irrigated area farmer in the area under study are working close to efficiency level as their present income varies
only slightly from the optimum whereas rainfed farmers in the area under study could earn substantially raised income over the current income by reallocating their existing resources. The per capita monthly consumption of cereals and pulses in the area under study was higher than the ICMR recommended level (13.99 kg and 1.21 kg of cereals and pulses, respectively) except in the case of rainfed situation of Chikkaballapur district (0.79 g). The OLS estimates of linear regression with respect to consumption expenditure reveal that, the consumption expenditure per farm households was higher under irrigated situation (Rs.2,218.31 and Rs.3,683.01 in Chikkaballapur and Dharwad districts, respectively) than that under rainfed situation. Farm households under irrigated situation are more secured in terms of health, education and habitat compared to those under rainfed situation. Public Distribution System contributed greatly to food security of farm households in the area under study. Irrigated area farmers are utilizing relatively more benefits from development programs than rainfed area farmers. The livelihood security was better among irrigated area farmers in the area under study. Under irrigated situation, high wage rate for agricultural operations was the major constraint in achieving livelihood security, while under rainfed situation irregular rainfall in Chikkaballapur district and lack of remunerative prices for farm produce coupled with price fluctuations were the major constrains in achieving livelihood security in Dharwad district. The crop+dairy+sericulture farming system in Chikkaballapur district and crop+ dairy farming system in Dharwad district need to be popularized among farmers through extension programs of the Development Departments to strengthen the farmers’ livelihood security is one of the major policy suggestions.