

Recent Trends And Growth of Primary Agricultural Co-Operative Societies In India- A Study

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Abstract- As per 2011 census, about 68.8 percent of the population resides in rural areas, depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture is the foundation of the Indian economy because of its high contributes to in employment. The share of this sector to the gross domestic product (GDP) is however declining very quickly and is presently about 17.32 percent (in 2016-17) and this sector is also showing deceleration in growth rates. This paper highlighted the recent trends and growth of PACS in India.

Keywords- PACS, Agriculture, Livelihood, GDP.

I. INTRODUCTION

The co-operative banks in India play an important role in even today in rural financing. These are registered under the Co-operative Societies Act and also regulated by the RBI. They are governed by the “Banking regulation Act-1949” and Banking Laws (Co-operative societies) Act 1965. The business of co-operative banks in urban area also has increased in recent years due to sharp increase in the number of primary co-operative banks. The co-operative movements was stated in India largely with a view to providing agriculturists funds for agricultural operations, at low rates of interest and protect them from the clutches of money lenders.

As per 2011 census, about 68.80 percent of the population resides in rural areas, depending directly or indirectly upon agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture is the mainstay of the Indian economy because of its high share in employment. The contribution of this sector to the gross domestic product (GDP) is however declining very rapidly and is presently about 17.32 percent (in 2016-17) and this sector is also showing deceleration in growth rates. At present up to 2015 in India, there are 92789 Cooperative credit societies including FSS and LAMPS (Farmers service societies) and (Large sized Adivasi multipurpose societies) functioning. The running of the co-operative movement all over the world clearly demonstrates that there is hardly any economic require that cannot be met by organizing co-operative societies and hardly any form of social or political

organization with which they cannot be reconciled or integrated.

Main objectives of PACS

1. For the membership of Co-operative credit societies member should be belong to located village of Co-operative societies.
2. The work of co-operative societies should limited to its village only.
3. The liability of Co-operative credit societies be should unlimited.
4. Co-operative credit society is liable for to the deposits and loans in its account.
5. Co-operative credit society should be providing loans to its member only.
6. Loan repayment schedule can be deciding by the co-operative society as per the importance purpose of the loans.
7. Primary Co-operative credit societies provide the loan only for medium and short term purpose.

Main functions of PACS

1. Assessment of credit needs.
2. Disbursement of credit to members.
3. Recovery of credit.
4. Promote the economic interests of the members.

Role of PACS in Agricultural Credit before Independence

The Cooperative Credit Societies Act 1904 permitted only to form PACS, which laid more highlighting on the encouragement of agricultural credit. The Cooperative Credit Societies Act of 1912 removed the defects of 1904 Act and was made appropriate to both credit and non-credit cooperative societies. The peculiarity between rural and urban societies was abolished and provision was made for societies with limited or unlimited liability. In this way, the 1912 Act paved the way to expand the Cooperative Credit Structure. With the introduction of Reforms Act of 1919, the transfer of Cooperation to Provincial Governments was the primary step.

Henceforth, the Provincial Governments were empowered to have their own Cooperative Societies Act to make 28 the path of credit movement smooth and sound." As a result, some Provinces passed their own 'Cooperative Societies Acts. The Bombay Province took the lead and passed an Act in 1925 followed by Madras Province in 1932 and Bihar and Orissa in 1935 and Bengal in 1941. "Though the number of societies increased from 17,729 in 1915-16 to 91786 in 1929-30, there had been a parallel growth of over dues to loan outstanding from 17 percent in 1915-16 to 25 percent in 1929-30." High density of population, limited scope for employment, problems in agriculture and discontinuity of incomes affected the cash incomes of poor farmers. The farmers were unable to settle their debts and became defaulters, which in turn, questioned the viability of many PACS. So, the Government formed number of committees and commissions to observe the efficiency of cooperative credit system. Royal Commission on Agriculture in India examined that "the causes for excess of expenditure over income incurred by the farmer-borrowers included illiteracy, small size of holdings, defective systems of accounts kept by debtors and lack of saving habit among the cultivators." Central Banking Enquiry Committee focused on "poverty, extravagance, growth of population, opportunities to borrow because of moneylender's influence and the revenue system of a fixed demand, high interest rates and ancestral debt, as responsible for a greater debt burden." The Agricultural Finance sub-committee observed that "debt was incurred because of social expenditure, consumer requirements and distress circumstances, while debt for capital expenditure was stated to be unimportant. Thus, the main causes for 29 borrowing in the pre-independence period were associated with physical resources and socio-cultural environment. The movement touched only 6 percent of the population in 1938-39. As the rural societies would not help to cater the credit necessities of rural households, they had no other option except to fall on moneylenders."

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Biswa swarup and Misra (2009) this research paper focused the credit performance of co-operatives in India. As an integral part of the multi-agency framework for credit delivery, cooperatives were institutionalized in India through the enactment of the co-operative credit societies Act (1904). The short-term co-operative credit structure in India consists of the state co-operative banks at the apex level, district central co-operative banks at the apex level, district central co-operative banks at the middle level, and about 1, 06,000 Primary Agriculture credit societies(PACS) at the base level. Farmer Service Societies (FSS), Service Co-operative Societies (SCS), and Large-sized Adivasi Multi-purpose Societies (LAMPS) are clubbed together with the PACS at the

base level. Especially this research paper was focus on the PACS. This study aimed at identifying the factors which may have led to the precarious financial condition of the PACS. The study made an attempt to identify the factors which contribute to the financial health of the PACS. The result of the study indicates that the government contribution to the share capital of the co-operatives adversely affects the recovery performance.

Karee mullah (2013) this study investigated the status of primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies and its whole functions analyzed by state wise. Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACs), along with Farmer Service Societies (FSS) and large sized Adivasi Multipurpose Co-operative societies (LAMPS), form the lowest base of the co-operative credit system in India. These base level institutions are affiliated to the district central co-operative banks at the district level, which in turn are affiliated to the state co-operative banks at the state level. Besides the credit business, PACs are also involved in non-credit business like agricultural inputs, public distribution system. Over the several decades of their establishment barring the construction of rural godowns under the national co-operative development corporation's scheme, no significant development has taken in the case of PACs. Of course, the business development plans a little enthusiasm, but not for long. In view of these, this paper attempts their prospects, particularly in the context of their competitive environment.

Bharat Shankar Kharat (2015) this study measured the performance of Primary Agricultural Co-operative credit societies in western zone. Primary Agricultural Co-operative credit societies (PACs) actively engaged in provision of integrated service to the farmers and serve as a point of dissemination of the technology and the improved cultivation practices. Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative societies were registered under the respective state co-operative societies act. The societies would be registered under the by-law of the society, which contained all the regulations relating to the working of the society. Agriculture co-operative credit societies are working positively. This research paper highlighted the functions of PACs.

Khoichung Rangamlian (2017) this paper assessed or measured the sustainable development and growth of Kamrup (Rural) District of Assam through the Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies. The design used for the study is basically descriptive and analytical. Interviewing method was used for gathering the required information from the board of directors, secretary and staff of the society. The most important objective of the society is distribution of essential commodities among the members at reasonable price. The

society has adequate infrastructure, assets and is involved in Public Distribution System (PDS) business successfully. The society is maintaining the spirit of co-operative philosophy and ideology. The members as well as non-members of the society are directly getting benefit to fulfill their daily requirements.

III. OBJECTIVE THE STUDY

1. To study the recent trend of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies in India.
2. To study the contemporary growth rate of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies in India.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The study is based on Secondary data. The data has been collected from books, magazines, Journals, Articles and websites.

Table No. 1. Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) Including Large sized Adivasi Multi-Purpose Societies & Farmer Service Societies

Particulars	Years	
	2013-2014	2014-2015
Total No. of PACS	95,042	92,789
Village Covered by PACS	95.33%	94.32%
Viable PACS	71.56%	72.22%
Potentially Viable PACS	21.89%	21.48%
Total Membership (Million)	130.12	121.09
Scheduled Caste Members	14.01%	13.80%
Scheduled Tribe Members	7.17%	7.68%
Small Farmers to Total Membership	30.38%	33.37%
Marginal Farmers to Total Membership	42.43%	39.60%
Rural Artisans to Total Membership	5.49%	5.49%
Average Membership per PACS	1399	1305
Total Share Capital	Rs. 97888 million	Rs. 110683 million
Average Share Capital per PACS	Rs. 1052.084	Rs. 1192845
Government Participation	7.60%	7.54%
Total Deposits	Rs. 818949 million	Rs. 846163 million
Average Deposit per PACS	Rs. 8801929	Rs. 9119219
Total Reserves	Rs. 91355 million	Rs. 106066 million
Average Reserve per PACS	Rs. 981868	Rs. 1143087
Total Loans Advanced	Rs. 1714196 million	Rs. 1590503 million
(a) ST Loans Advanced	82.86%	80.83%
(b) MT Loans Advanced	17.14%	19.17%
Of Total Short Term Loans Advanced to		
(a) Scheduled Caste Members (SC)	14.19%	6.05%
(b) Scheduled Tribes (ST)	7.43%	3.03%
Of Total Medium Term Loans Advanced to		
(a) Scheduled Caste Members (SC)	1.05%	1.49%
(b) Scheduled Tribes (ST)	0.20%	0.45%
Loans Advanced for Agri. Purpose (Total)	42.03%	47.96%
Loan Advanced Non-Agri. Purpose	34.83%	39.02%
Loans Advanced for Other Purpose	23.14%	13.02%
Average Loans Advanced per PACS	Rs. 18.42 million	Rs. 17.14 million
Total Borrowings	Rs. 958,358 million	Rs. 999,801 million
Total Borrowers	48.08 million	49.86 million
Borrowers to Total Members	36.95%	41.17%
SC Borrowers to Total Borrowers	12.31%	12.75%
ST Borrowers to Total Borrowers	7.08%	6.83%
SF Borrowers to Total borrowers	35.75%	35.91%
Other Borrowers	39.06%	37.39%
Working Capital	Rs. 2124292 million	Rs. 2237106 million
Demand	Rs. 1558531 million	Rs. 1596238 million
Over dues	Rs. 296319 million	Rs. 357906 million
Percentage of Over dues to Demand	19.01%	22.42%
Percentage of Over dues to Demand-Short term	18.42%	19.19.73%
Percentage of Over dues to Demand-Medium term	21.43%	32.97%
PACS with Godowns (Numbers)	55,122	55,455
PACS in Profit	46.37%	47.05%
PACS incurring Losses	40.48%	40.35%
Employment in PACS	177,036	164,432
Trained Employees	44.58%	43.63%

Table No. 2. Total Number of PACS in India, (Total and Type wise) during 2014-2015

Name of the states/union territories	Total no. of Pacs	Viable	Potentially viable	Dormant	Defunct	Others
1. Andaman and Nicobar	46	39	5	0	2	0
2. Andhra Pradesh	2807	2266	491	5	7	38
3. Arunachal Pradesh	34	20	5	4	5	0
4. Assam	766	709	57	0	0	0
5. Bihar	8463	8463	0	0	0	0
6. Chandigarh	17	12	0	0	5	0
7. Chhattisgarh	1177	1057	120	0	0	0
8. Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Goa	79	64	8	7	0	0
10. Gujarat	8605	4828	3068	543	92	74
11. Haryana	663	663	0	0	0	0
12. Himachal Pradesh	2135	476	1582	51	6	20
13. Jammu And Kashmir	765	275	173	96	219	2
14. Karnataka	5625	3905	1178	218	75	249
15. Kerala	1642	974	578	30	34	26
16. Madhya Pradesh	4457	3663	720	4	0	70
17. Maharashtra	21199	16132	3008	55	4	0
18. Manipur	223	233	0	0	0	0
19. Meghalaya	179	34	123	22	0	0
20. Mizoram	136	15	5	0	0	116
21. Nagaland	1719	457	228	655	379	0
22. Odisha	2701	1585	740	10	1	365
23. Pondicherry	53	22	31	0	0	0
24. Punjab	1609	1308	119	0	82	100
25. Rajasthan	5671	4852	699	44	21	55
26. Sikkim	170	158	12	0	0	0
27. Tamil Nadu	4490	3078	1136	112	78	86
28. Tripura	268	200	68	0	0	0
29. Uttar Pradesh	8929	7115	1269	382	163	0
30. Uttarakhand	759	494	249	7	9	0
31. West Bengal	7402	3929	2257	576	408	232
All India Total	92789	67016	19929	2821	1590	1433

Above table no. 2 shows that total and type wise PACS in India during 2014-2015. In 2014-2015, 67,016 PACS are functioning viably, 19,929 PACS are functioning in the category of potentially viable, and remains were dormant, defunct and other categories. Totally 86,945 PACS are functioning absolutely in India.

Table No. 3. Membership of PACS in India, during 2014-2015
(in thousands)

Name of the states/union territories	Total Membership	Scheduled Caste (SC)	Scheduled Tribes (ST)	Small Farmers	Rural Artisans	Others & Marginal Farmers
1. Andaman and Nicobar	11	0	0	11	0	0
2. Andhra Pradesh	12056.37	2162.76	666.03	6069.57	1279.51	1878.3
3. Arunachal Pradesh	21	0	21	0	0	0
4. Assam	3034.41	415.58	487.34	821.3	144.19	1196
5. Bihar	9765	0	0	0	0	9765
6. Chandigarh	3.7	2.13	0	1.09	0	0.48
7. Chhattisgarh	3281.5	340.57	739.84	1453.26	234.11	513.72
8. Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0
9. Goa	74.38	0	0	0	0	74.38
10. Gujarat	3032.65	209.1	204.78	1301.59	150.36	1166.82
11. Haryana	3710	584	0	1296	344	1486
12. Himachal Pradesh	1447	301	42	806	32	246
13. Jammu And Kashmir	144.22	35.33	21.9	58.24	5.75	23
14. Karnataka	5191.68	741.52	401.87	1839.52	718.7	1470.07
15. Kerala	20797.49	1978.43	202.33	6877.13	1552.15	10187.45
16. Madhya Pradesh	5249.47	699.7	1037.61	1936.71	278.21	1297.24
17. Maharashtra	13933	877	853	3091	257	8855
18. Manipur	127.86	0	0	0	0	127.86
19. Meghalaya	94.73	2.97	76.61	9.62	0	5.53
20. Mizoram	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
21. Nagaland	13.68	0	6.84	6.84	0	0
22. Odisha	5281.66	905.38	935.18	2205.26	117.39	1058.45
23. Pondicherry	177	21	0	138	2	16
24. Punjab	719.46	135.23	8.19	300.77	17.94	259.33
25. Rajasthan	4742.66	969.46	703.75	1250.11	250.75	1568.59
26. Sikkim	31.19	1.47	8.2	0	0	21.52
27. Tamil Nadu	11695.91	2047.51	236.4	4965.76	600	3846.24
28. Tripura	224.63	63.18	110.05	42.1	5.6	3.7
29. Uttar Pradesh	2748	2230	117	401	0	0
30. Uttarakhand	1285	208	57	825	62	133
31. West Bengal	12193.16	1786.31	2364.05	4674.68	547.38	2820.76
All India Total	121087.81	16715.63	9300.97	40401.53	6649.04	48020.64

Above table no .3 shows the membership of PACS during 2014-2015. The total number of membership of PACS was 121, 087,810 out of which 68.85% were Indian rural population and SC&ST membership In PACS is 16,715,630&9,300,970 out of 16.63%&8.61% of India's total population. Remains are small farmers, rural artisans and other & marginal farmers.

Table No. 4. Number of Villages and Blocks covered by PACS in India, during 2014-2015

Name of the States/Union Territories	Total Number of Villages	Total Number of Blocks	Number of Villages Covered by Pacs	Villages Covered as Percent to Total (%)
1. Andaman and Nicobar	556	3	128	23.02
2. Andhra Pradesh	30047	993	27463	91.4
3. Arunachal Pradesh	3863	17	500	12.94
4. Assam	24590	38	23422	95.25
5. Bihar	45098	38	45098	100.0
6. Chandigarh	18	1	12	66.67
7. Chhattisgarh	17252	125	13662	79.19
8. Delhi	0	0	0	0
9. Goa	270	8	82	30.37
10. Gujarat	19759	225	15046	76.15
11. Haryana	7082	NA	7082	100.0
12. Himachal Pradesh	17882	12	17882	100.0
13. Jammu And Kashmir	6839	95	6710	98.11
14. Karnataka	29222	30	29222	100.0
15. Kerala	1453	N	1453	100.0
16. Madhya Pradesh	56568	359	54349	96.08
17. Maharashtra	41095	35	33467	81.44
18. Manipur	2390	N	2390	100.0
19. Meghalaya	6839	11	3768	55.1
20. Mizoram	830	8	830	100.0
21. Nagaland	969	12	969	100.0
22. Odisha	53740	269	51606	95.03
23. Pondicherry	323	4	323	100.0
24. Punjab	7583	65	6687	88.18
25. Rajasthan	41353	232	39570	95.69
26. Sikkim	987	4	987	100
27. Tamil Nadu	19569	373	18285	93.44
28. Tripura	1040	8	914	87.88
29. Uttar Pradesh	112804	901	112804	100.0
30. Uttarakhand	15761	95	15761	100.0
31. West Bengal	101910	165	99306	97.44
All India Total	667692	4126	629778	94.32

Above table no .4. Shows the number of villages and blocks covered by PACS in India during 2014-2015. In the year 2014-2015, 629778 villages covered by PACS out of 667692 villages.

Table No. 5. Performance of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (2014-2015) Value Rs in Lakhs

Name of States	Paid up Share Capital		Total Deposits	Working Capital	Total Borrowings
	Total	Government			
1. Andaman and Nicobar	1179.00	26.78	153.12	428.46	300.00
2. Andhra Pradesh	60516.00	1463.00	126019.00	3504330.00	549120.00
3. Arunachal Pradesh	334.73	122.96	0.00	1939.85	1277.68
4. Assam	1536.00	996.00	0.00	11123.00	0.00
5. Bihar	9542.72	3183.00	17532.91	50816.28	50115.00
6. Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.60	8.14	N.A
7. Chhattisgarh	27444.46	2316.11	51114.52	407873.82	197453.60
8. Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9. Goa	220.00	12.00	2749.00	7079.00	3288.00
10. Gujarat	115379.83	881.60	76484.97	1173604.46	888604.46
11. Haryana	61507.55	6320.02	49718.05	1122640.74	749417.30
12. Himachal Pradesh	10964.79	1645.17	228320.47	2878280.3	10002.14
13. Jammu And Kashmir	641.00	329.00	119.00	7872.00	3719.00
14. Karnataka	132924.00	8178.00	602449.00	1767803.00	852100.00
15. Kerala	133280.06	11255.63	5890841.15	7770083.50	659335.23
16. Madhya Pradesh	64236.00	5479.00	81731.00	645546.00	1052410.00
17. Maharashtra	236251.00	685.00	18773.00	1521847.00	1219224.00
18. Manipur	434.11	0.00	0.00	618.39	0.00
19. Meghalaya	887.84	707.11	814.15	3698.39	1926.77
20. Mizoram	15.96	9.70	330.87	25857.26	62.28
21. Nagaland	255.08	100.74	6419.23	11245.50	903.99
22. Odisha	40280.05	6614.27	118152.57	4575360.01	1465749.00
23. Pondicherry	1167.33	791.62	11551.60	18771.71	4656.89
24. Punjab	4078.61	2775.42	43433.21	120585.68	155467.55
25. Rajasthan	4617.48	7847.98	139527.24	701522.60	537690.29
26. Sikkim	208.00	59.83	N.A	1339.45	N.A
27. Tamil Nadu	98919.03	8951.82	713433.21	190026.30	1231880.96
28. Tripura	1150.26	287.56	1093.06	11333.86	3448.18
29. Uttar Pradesh	19247.00	4250.00	6820.00	125926.99	97076.36
30. Uttarakhand	10078.51	1650.46	84847.67	188799.84	82842.34
31. West Bengal	27779.29	6466.22	189104.31	462971.48	179940.01
All India Total	1106828.69	83406.00	8461632.91	22371056.74	9998011.03

In the above table no.5. Shows the Performance of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies during 2014-2015. In the year 2014-2015 total paid up share capital of

PACS was Rs. 11,068,286,900 contribution of government in the paid up share capital is only Rs.834060000. The working capital of PACS was Rs.223,710,567,400, total borrowings Rs.99,980,110,300 and total deposits Rs.84,616,329,100 in 2014-2015.

Major Findings of this study:

1. PACS were functioning 94.32% viably in 2014-2015. PACSs' SC&ST membership were 13.80%&7.68% (16,715,630&9,300,970) in 2014-2015 it was very less. The government contribution in PACS was very less. PACS was providing short-term and medium-term loans to SC&ST people were 6.05%&3.03% and 1.49%&0.45% respectively. In this study period 47.05% of PACS were functioning profitably and 40.35% of PACS were functioning in loss. PACS have 43.65% trained employees in 2014-2015.
2. In this study period totally 92,789 PACS were running but 67,016 PACS were functioning in the viable category and 19,929 of PACS were running in the potentially viable category, remains were in the dormant, defunct and others categories.
3. The total membership of PACS were 121,087,810 and number of members of SC&ST in PACS were 16,715,630&9,300,970, other members in the category of small farmers, rural artisans, others and marginal farmers.
4. In 2014-2015 totally India has 6, 67,692 villages and 4,126 blocks but 6, 29,778 villages only covered by PACS. Arunachal Pradesh (12.94%), Andaman and Nicobar (23.02%), Goa (30.37%), Meghalaya (55.10%), and Chandigarh (66.67%) of villages were covered by PACS but Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Pondicherry, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand of villages were hundred percentage covered by PACS.
5. Total Paid up share capital of PACS in 2014-2015 was Rs. 11,068,286,900 but government contribution was Rs. 834,060,000.

Suggestions:

1. Government has created more awareness about the advantage of co-operation and PACS. PACS have motivated the SC&ST people to join for their membership.
2. Government has to increase its financial assistance to PACS and also increase its contribution -term and medium term loan providing amount to weaker section.
3. PACS have increased its number of godowns and also provide modernized facility.

4. PACS have appointed well trained and skilled employee. It has conduct training programmes to employees.

V. CONCLUSION

The co-operative movements was stated in India mainly with a view to providing agriculturists funds for agricultural operations, at low rates of interest and protect them from the clutches of money lenders. Agriculture is a dominant sector of our economy and credit plays an important role in increasing agricultural production. In all India level short term and Medium term loans is the main source of finance to farmer. It plays very important role of Agricultural development it proves the above tables statistics. The results indicate that as the PACS have drifted from some of the core principles of cooperation, their recovery performance has suffered. As membership size has grown over the years in case of the PACS, their recovery has taken a beating because peer pressure, which ensures recovery, has gradually weakened. Thus there is a need to relook into the issue of optimal member size of the cooperatives in the interest of their viability. This is a neglected aspect in the present-day literature on cooperatives but merits attention from all stakeholders. In conformity with popular perception, government's contribution to the share capital is found to be detrimental for the recovery performance of the PACS. Government's contribution in share capital not only gives it a hand to meddle with the affairs of the PACS; it might also be inducing indulgence amongst members because of the comfort of government bail out in case of difficulty. The latest amendment in the Vaidyanthan Committee's recommendation that Government can retain 25 per cent of equity capital in case of PCAS needs to seriously given a second thought. The attempt should be either to completely dislodge government equity in the PACS or not to consider the PACS as cooperatives but to accept them as quasi government ventures for which the parameters of performance needs to be revisited. The study also found that as deposits grow in proportion to borrowings, the recovery performance is adversely affected. This is perhaps for the reason that non-borrowing members form the majority of the members who does not have a voting right in the PACS. This makes a case for allowing the depositors of the PACS to be given voting rights so that they can have a say in the management of their own funds. This will also make the base level cooperatives more democratic in nature.

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