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Agriculture Policies in Telangana State- A Study in Jangoan District

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Abstract:

Agriculture plays a vital role in the socio-economic development of Telangana, especially in rural areas where most people depend on farming and allied activities for their livelihood. It provides employment, ensures food security, and supports the rural economy. However, agriculture in the state faces several challenges such as irregular rainfall, water scarcity, small and fragmented landholdings, and increasing farmer indebtedness. These issues make farming uncertain and affect farmers' income and stability. After the formation of Telangana in 2014, the government introduced several farmer-oriented policies to address these problems. Schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, crop loan waiver, irrigation projects, and input subsidies aim to provide financial support, reduce risks, and improve agricultural productivity. These initiatives also focus on improving irrigation facilities and ensuring timely assistance to farmers. In this context, the present study examines the implementation of agricultural policies and their socio-economic impact on farmers in Jangaon district. The study focuses on aspects such as landholding patterns, cropping trends, indebtedness, irrigation access, productivity, and farmer satisfaction.

Keywords: Agriculture, Telangana, Farmer Welfare, Rythu Bandhu, Irrigation, Socio-economic Impact

Introduction:

Agriculture is the backbone of Telangana rural economy and plays a very important role in the lives of people living in villages. A large number of families depend on farming and related activities such as dairy, poultry, and livestock rearing for their income. In many rural areas, agriculture is the main source of employment, especially for small farmers, agricultural labourers, and women. It also helps in ensuring food security and supports local markets and



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rural development. Even though other sectors like industry and services are growing, agriculture still remains central to the state's overall development.

At the same time, agriculture in Telangana faces many challenges. The state mostly has a semi-arid climate, which means rainfall is not only low but also irregular and uncertain. Farmers depend heavily on the monsoon, and any delay or failure of rains can lead to crop losses. Droughts and water scarcity are common problems in several regions. Another important issue is that most farmers own very small and fragmented pieces of land. Because of this, they find it difficult to invest in better seeds, fertilizers, machinery, or irrigation facilities. Many farmers also depend on loans, which increases their financial risk. All these factors make agriculture a risky activity and reduce farmers' income stability.

To address these problems, the Government of Telangana has taken several important steps after the formation of the state in 2014. The state adopted a farmer-friendly and welfare-oriented approach to agriculture. One of the most important initiatives is providing direct financial support to farmers so that they can meet their cultivation expenses without depending too much on moneylenders. Along with this, the government has invested heavily in irrigation projects to ensure water availability throughout the year. Programs for restoring traditional tanks and improving water management have also helped increase the irrigated area. In addition, the government has introduced reforms to improve administration and service delivery. Digital systems have been developed for maintaining land records, identifying beneficiaries, and transferring money directly into farmers' bank accounts. Agricultural extension services have also been strengthened to guide farmers on better farming practices, crop choices, and use of technology. These measures have helped improve transparency, reduce delays, and ensure that benefits reach farmers more effectively.

Within this broader context, Jangaon district provides a clear picture of how agriculture functions at the local level. It is mainly a rural district where farming is the primary occupation for most people. The district is dominated by small and marginal farmers who depend largely on seasonal rainfall and government support. The main crops grown in the district are paddy, cotton, and maize. In recent years, due to better irrigation facilities and support from government schemes, paddy cultivation has increased significantly.



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The impact of government policies is clearly visible in Jangaon district. Farmers are increasingly depending on schemes that provide financial assistance, subsidies, and market support. These schemes help them purchase inputs on time, reduce dependence on private loans, and ensure some level of income security. At the same time, the expansion of irrigation has allowed farmers to cultivate more land and even grow more than one crop in a year.

Agriculture Policies in Telangana:

Rythu Bandhu Scheme:

The Rythu Bandhu Scheme which is now called as Rythu Bharosa is a flagship program of Telangana that provides direct financial assistance of ₹5,000 per acre per season (₹10,000 per acre per year) to farmers. The main objective is to support farmers with investment needs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and labour costs. It was started in 2018, initially the government was given 4000/- acre each season. This scheme reduces farmers' dependence on private moneylenders and ensures timely cultivation.

Rythu Bima (Farmers Group Life Insurance)

Rythu Bima is a social security scheme that provides life insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh to farmers. In case of the farmer's death, the amount is directly transferred to the nominee's bank account. This scheme ensures financial protection for farmer families and reduces economic vulnerability.

Crop Loan Waiver Scheme

Under this scheme, the Telangana government waives crop loans up to ₹2 lakh per farmer. The aim is to reduce the burden of agricultural debt and provide relief to farmers facing financial distress, especially due to crop failures or market fluctuations.

Input Subsidy Scheme

The Input Subsidy Scheme provides financial assistance of around ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 per hectare to farmers who suffer crop losses due to natural calamities such as droughts, floods, or pest attacks. This support helps farmers recover and continue agricultural activities.

Free Power Supply to Agriculture

The government provides free electricity for agricultural purposes, often up to 24 hours supply. Although there is no direct cash transfer, the financial benefit to farmers is significant, as it reduces irrigation costs and improves access to water for cultivation.

Mission Kakatiya

Mission Kakatiya focuses on the restoration of traditional tanks and water bodies. The scheme improves groundwater levels, enhances irrigation facilities, and supports sustainable agriculture, especially for small and marginal farmers.



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Micro Irrigation Scheme (Drip & Sprinkler)

This scheme promotes water-efficient irrigation methods by providing 75% to 100% subsidy on drip and sprinkler systems. It helps conserve water, reduce costs, and increase crop yields, particularly in water-scarce areas.

Soil Health Card Scheme

Under this scheme, farmers receive free soil testing services along with recommendations on fertilizer use. Although there is no direct monetary transfer, it helps farmers reduce input costs and improve soil fertility and productivity.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) Procurement

The government procures crops at a fixed minimum price to protect farmers from market fluctuations. For example, paddy is procured at around ₹2,100–₹2,300 per quintal. This ensures income stability and fair returns for farmers.

Review of Literature:

1. P. S. Rao (2018) conducted an in-depth study on farmer welfare schemes in India with reference to Telangana and observed that state intervention has significantly improved farmers' access to institutional resources such as credit, subsidies, and extension services. The study emphasized that the introduction of digital systems, particularly in land records and direct benefit transfers, has enhanced transparency and reduced leakages in the delivery of benefits. However, it also pointed out that implementation at the grassroots level remains uneven due to administrative inefficiencies, lack of awareness among farmers, and issues related to data accuracy.
2. K. S. Reddy (2020) analyzed irrigation policies and major water management initiatives in Telangana. The study found that large-scale irrigation projects and tank restoration programs have played a crucial role in increasing the irrigated area and stabilizing agricultural production. As a result, farmers were able to cultivate more land and adopt multiple cropping patterns. However, the study also raised concerns about the increasing preference for water-intensive crops such as paddy, which may lead to long-term environmental challenges including groundwater depletion and soil degradation.
3. S. Kavitha (2021) examined the socio-economic conditions of rural farmers and highlighted that agricultural policies have contributed to improvements in income levels, consumption patterns, and overall living standards. The study particularly noted that small and marginal farmers have benefited from government support schemes. At the same time, it brought



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attention to persistent inequalities, especially gender-based disparities, as women farmers often lack land ownership and therefore have limited direct access to policy benefits.

4. K. Mahender (2023) evaluated the effectiveness of recent agricultural investment support schemes in Telangana. The study concluded that direct financial assistance has helped farmers meet input costs without relying heavily on informal credit sources, thereby reducing indebtedness and financial stress. It also observed that such schemes provide a sense of income stability. However, the study critically pointed out that the per-acre distribution of benefits tends to favor large landowners, leading to unequal distribution and limiting the inclusiveness of these policies.
5. R. Srikanth (2025) focused on the role of digital governance in agricultural administration, particularly the use of technology in land record management and benefit transfer systems. The study found that digitalization has improved efficiency, accountability, and transparency in policy implementation. Farmers are able to receive benefits directly into their bank accounts with minimal delay. Despite these advantages, the study identified challenges such as technical errors in data, digital illiteracy among farmers, and limited access to technology in rural areas.

Objectives:

1. To examine the implementation of Agriculture policies in Jangaon district.
2. To assess the socio-economic impact of these policies on farmers.

Hypothesis:

H1: Agricultural policies are effectively implemented in Jangaon district, ensuring access to benefits for the majority of farmers.

H2: Agricultural policies have a positive impact on the socio-economic conditions of farmers by increasing income, productivity, and reducing indebtedness.

H3 (Null Hypothesis): There is no significant relationship between agricultural policy implementation and the socio-economic status of farmers.

Methodology:

The present study was conducted in Jangaon district. A **descriptive research design** was adopted to understand the implementation of agricultural policies and their impact on farmers. The study is based on both primary and secondary data sources. A total sample of **70 farmers** was selected using a **simple random sampling method** to ensure unbiased representation.



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Primary data were collected through a **structured interview schedule**, which helped in gathering detailed information on farmers' experiences, access to government schemes, and socio-economic conditions. Secondary data were collected from various sources, including **government reports, agriculture department records, research articles, journals, and official statistics**. These sources were used to support and validate the findings of the study. The collected data were systematically analyzed using simple statistical tools such as **percentages and tabulation** to draw meaningful conclusions.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

1. Land holding Size:

Size	Number	Percentage
Below 1 Acre	07	10%
1-3 Acres	24	34.3%
3-5 Acres	29	41.4%
5-10 Acres	08	11.4%
10 Acres and more	02	2.9%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that most farmers in Jangaon district have small landholdings. The highest number of farmers (41.4%) has land between 3–5 acres. Next, 34.3% of farmers have 1–3 acres, which also shows that many farmers are small farmers. Only a few farmers have larger land. About 11.4% have 5–10 acres, and only 2.9% have more than 10 acres. Also, 10% of farmers have less than 1 acre, which shows the presence of very small or marginal farmers. Overall, the table shows that most farmers are small and marginal, and very few are large farmers. This means they need more support from government schemes for farming.

2. Cropping Patterns

Crop	Number	Percentage
Rice	37	52.9%
Maize	04	5.7%
Cotton	23	32.8%
Any Other	06	8.6%
TOTAL	70	100%



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From the above table, it can be understood that rice is the major crop grown by farmers in Jangaon district. A majority of farmers (52.9%) cultivate rice, which shows its importance in the district due to better irrigation facilities and government support. Cotton is the second major crop, grown by 32.8% of farmers, indicating its role as an important commercial crop. A small number of farmers (5.7%) grow maize, while 8.6% cultivate other crops. Overall, the table shows that farming in the area is mainly dominated by rice cultivation, followed by cotton, with very limited crop diversification.

3. Debts Before Money Transfer Scheme

Response	Number	Percentage
High	14	20%
Moderate	39	55.7%
Low	17	24.3%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that before the implementation of the money transfer scheme, most farmers in Jangaon district were under moderate debt. A majority of farmers (55.7%) reported moderate levels of debt, showing that debt was common among farmers. About 20% of farmers had high levels of debt, indicating serious financial burden on a section of farmers. At the same time, 24.3% of farmers had low levels of debt. Overall, the table shows that a large number of farmers were facing financial pressure before the scheme, with many depending on loans for agricultural activities.

4. Debts are reduced with Rythu Bandhu / Rythu Bharosa

Response	Number	Percentage
Highly Reduced	14	20%
Moderately Reduced	42	60%
Not Reduced	14	20%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that Rythu Bandhu / Rythu Bharosa has helped in reducing debts for many farmers in Jangaon district. A majority of farmers (60%) reported that their debts were moderately reduced, showing that the scheme provided some financial support. About 20% of farmers said their debts were highly reduced, indicating strong benefits for a smaller group. However, another 20% reported that their debts were not reduced, which may be



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due to insufficient support or other financial needs. Overall, the table shows that the scheme has a positive impact on reducing farmer debt, but its effectiveness varies among farmers.

5. Impact of Runa Mafi

Response	Number	Percentage
High Impact	39	55.7%
Moderate Impact	22	31.4%
No Impact	09	12.9%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that the Runa Mafi (loan waiver) scheme has had a strong impact on farmers in Jangaon district. A majority of farmers (55.7%) reported a high impact, showing that the scheme significantly reduced their debt burden and provided financial relief. About 31.4% of farmers experienced a moderate impact, indicating that the scheme was helpful but not fully sufficient to meet all their needs. However, 12.9% of farmers reported no impact, which may be due to ineligibility or limited benefits. Overall, the table shows that the loan waiver scheme has been effective for most farmers, helping them reduce financial stress and continue agricultural activities.

6. Impact of 24 hours Free Power Supply

Response	Number	Percentage
High Impact	29	41.4%
Moderate Impact	32	45.7%
No Impact	09	12.9%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that the 24 hours free power supply has had a positive impact on farmers in Jangaon district. A large number of farmers (45.7%) reported a moderate impact, while 41.4% experienced a high impact, showing that the scheme has been beneficial for irrigation and reducing farming costs. However, 12.9% of farmers reported no impact, which may be due to lack of access or other issues. Overall, the table shows that free power supply has helped most farmers by improving irrigation facilities and reducing expenses, thereby supporting agricultural activities.



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1. Any Changes in Irrigation Water Source after Mission Kakatiya and Lift Irrigation Schemes:

Response	Number	Percentage
Highly Improved	34	48.6%
Moderately Improved	28	40%
No Change	08	11.4%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that irrigation water sources have improved after the implementation of Mission Kakatiya and lift irrigation schemes in Jangaon district. A majority of farmers (48.6%) reported that irrigation facilities are highly improved, showing a strong positive impact of these schemes. About 40% of farmers observed moderate improvement, indicating that the schemes have been beneficial to a large section of farmers. However, 11.4% of farmers reported no change, which may be due to location-specific issues or lack of access. Overall, the table shows that most farmers have experienced improvement in irrigation water availability, which supports better agricultural activities and crop production.

2. Changes in Productivity after Policies

Response	Number	Percentage
Increased	24	34.3%
No Change	41	58.6%
Reduced	05	7.1%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that the impact of agricultural policies on productivity in Jangaon district is mixed. A majority of farmers (58.6%) reported no change in productivity, indicating that the policies have not significantly affected output for many farmers. However, 34.3% of farmers experienced an increase in productivity, showing that some farmers benefited from the policies. At the same time, 7.1% of farmers reported a decrease in productivity. Overall, the table shows that while policies have helped improve productivity for some farmers, a large number have not seen noticeable changes.

3. Levels of Satisfaction

Response	Number	Percentage
Highly Satisfied	14	20%
Moderately Satisfied	47	67.2%
Neutral	05	7.1%



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Not Satisfied	04	5.7%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that most farmers in Jangaon district are satisfied with the agricultural policies. A majority of farmers (67.2%) reported moderate satisfaction, showing that they are generally happy with the schemes and support provided. About 20% of farmers are highly satisfied, indicating strong positive impact for some. A small number of farmers (7.1%) are neutral, while 5.7% are not satisfied. Overall, the table shows that most farmers have a positive opinion about the policies, though there is still some scope for improvement.

4. Overall Impression on Telanagana Agriculture Policies

Response	Number	Percentage
Good	27	38.6%
Average	32	45.7%
Poor	11	15.7%
TOTAL	70	100%

From the above table, it can be understood that farmers in Jangaon district have a generally moderate opinion on Telangana's agricultural policies. A majority of farmers (45.7%) rated the policies as average, indicating that they find the schemes somewhat useful but not fully satisfactory. About 38.6% of farmers gave a good rating, showing a positive perception among a significant group. However, 15.7% of farmers rated the policies as poor, which reflects dissatisfaction among some farmers. Overall, the table shows that while many farmers view the policies positively, most consider them average, suggesting the need for improvements to better meet farmers' needs.

Key Findings:

The study conducted in Jangaon district reveals several important findings regarding the implementation and impact of agricultural policies:

1. The majority of farmers are small and marginal landholders, with most owning less than 5 acres, indicating limited resource capacity and high dependence on government support.
2. Rice is the dominant crop cultivated by farmers, followed by cotton, showing a trend towards water-intensive cropping patterns with limited diversification.



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3. Before the introduction of money transfer schemes, most farmers were under moderate to high levels of debt, highlighting the financial vulnerability of the farming community.
4. Schemes like Rythu Bandhu and Rythu Bharosa have contributed to reducing farmer indebtedness, though the level of impact varies among farmers.
5. The Runa Mafi (loan waiver) scheme has had a strong positive impact, significantly reducing debt burden for a majority of farmers.
6. Free power supply for agriculture has helped farmers by improving irrigation access and reducing input costs, benefiting most respondents.
7. Irrigation facilities have improved considerably due to Mission Kakatiya and lift irrigation projects, leading to better water availability for farming.
8. The impact of agricultural policies on productivity is mixed, with a majority of farmers reporting no significant change, while some experienced improvement.
9. Most farmers expressed moderate satisfaction with agricultural policies, indicating general acceptance but also scope for improvement.
10. Overall perception of agricultural policies is average to good, with a significant number of farmers acknowledging benefits, while some remain dissatisfied.

Testing of Hypotheses

The hypotheses of the study are tested based on the data collected from farmers in Jangaon district using percentage analysis and interpretation.

Hypothesis 1 (H1):

Agricultural policies are effectively implemented in Jangaon district, ensuring access to benefits for the majority of farmers.

Testing:

The data shows that a large number of farmers have access to schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, loan waiver, and free power supply. Majority of farmers reported moderate to high impact of these schemes. Irrigation facilities have also improved significantly after Mission Kakatiya and lift irrigation projects.

Result:

H1 is accepted. This indicates that agricultural policies are being implemented effectively to a considerable extent.



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Hypothesis 2 (H2):

Agricultural policies have a positive impact on the socio-economic conditions of farmers by increasing income, productivity, and reducing indebtedness.

Testing:

The findings show that:

- Many farmers reported reduction in debt due to Rythu Bandhu and loan waiver schemes
- Free power supply reduced input costs
- Irrigation improvements supported farming activities
- However, a majority (58.6%) reported no change in productivity

Result:

H2 is partially accepted. This shows that policies have improved financial conditions, but their impact on productivity is limited.

Hypothesis 3 (Null Hypothesis - H0):

There is no significant relationship between agricultural policy implementation and the socio-economic status of farmers.

Testing:

The study shows clear improvements in debt reduction, irrigation access, and satisfaction levels due to policies. These indicate a relationship between policy implementation and farmers' socio-economic conditions.

Result:

H0 is rejected. There is a significant relationship between agricultural policies and farmers' socio-economic status.

Suggestions:

1. There is a need to include tenant farmers and landless cultivators in major schemes like Rythu Bandhu, as many of them are currently excluded due to lack of land ownership.



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2. The government should encourage crop diversification by promoting crops other than paddy, such as pulses, oilseeds, and millets, to reduce water usage and improve sustainability.
3. Efforts should be made to improve productivity by providing better extension services, modern technology, and training programs to farmers.
4. Awareness programs should be strengthened so that all farmers clearly understand the benefits and procedures of various schemes.
5. Irrigation facilities should be further expanded and maintained properly to ensure equal access to water for all farmers, especially in remote areas.
6. Timely implementation of schemes and payments should be ensured to avoid delays and increase farmer confidence.
7. Market support should be improved by strengthening Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement and providing better storage and marketing facilities.
8. Special focus should be given to small and marginal farmers by providing additional financial and technical support.
9. Digital systems like land records and direct benefit transfers should be made more user-friendly, and support should be provided to farmers who lack digital knowledge.
10. Continuous monitoring and evaluation of schemes should be carried out to identify gaps and improve policy implementation.

Conclusion:

The present study on agricultural policies in Jangaon district highlights the significant role of state intervention in supporting farmers and improving rural livelihoods. Agriculture continues to be the main source of income for a majority of the population in the district, with small and marginal farmers forming the largest group. This makes government support essential for sustaining agricultural activities and ensuring economic stability. The findings of the study show that various schemes such as Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bima, loan waiver, free power supply, and irrigation projects have contributed positively to the farming community. These policies have helped in reducing indebtedness, improving access to irrigation, and providing financial security to farmers. In particular, schemes like Runa Mafi and direct income support have reduced financial stress and enabled farmers to continue cultivation with less dependence on private loans. At the same time, the study reveals that the impact of these policies is not uniform across all areas. While many farmers reported moderate to high benefits, a large number indicated no significant change in productivity. This suggests that financial support alone is not sufficient, and there is a need to focus more on improving agricultural efficiency, technology



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adoption, and extension services. The study also identifies important challenges such as exclusion of tenant farmers, unequal distribution of benefits, overdependence on water-intensive crops like paddy, and limited awareness among farmers. These issues highlight the need for more inclusive and sustainable policy measures. Agricultural policies in Telangana have made considerable progress in improving farmer welfare and stabilizing the rural economy. However, for long-term development, policies must focus on inclusiveness, sustainability, and productivity enhancement. A balanced approach that combines financial assistance, irrigation development, market support, and capacity building will be essential to ensure better outcomes for farmers in the future. Thus, the study concludes that while agricultural policies in Telangana have had a positive impact in Jangaon district, there is still scope for improvement to achieve equitable and sustainable agricultural development.

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