

# INDIAN JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



(Organ of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics)

Vol. 69	JULY-SEPTEMBER 2014	No. 3
---------	---------------------	-------

CONFERENCE NUMBER

- \* \* \* -

PAPERS READ

AT THE

SEVENTY FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

INDIAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

Department of Agricultural Economics,  
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University,  
Aurangabad-431 004 (Maharashtra)

December 18-20, 2014

## SUBJECTS

1. Livestock Marketing and Supply Management of Livestock Products
2. Labour Scarcity in Agriculture and Mechanisation
3. Subsidies in Agriculture and Their Implications on Trade and Environment

## **Farm Mechanisation is an Alternative for Labour Scarcity in Agriculture Sector - A Comparative Study of Manual v/s Mechanical Harvesting of Chickpea in North Karnataka**

**S.M. Mundinamani\*, B. Madhusudan\*\* and M. Upasana\***

The role of pulses in Indian agriculture needs hardly any emphasis; India is a premier pulse growing country. One of the major hurdles growing pulse crops by the farmers is the lack of mechanisation of various farming operations especially harvesting. An attempt has been made in the present paper to assess the benefits and constraints in mechanical harvesting of chickpea in north Karnataka. Multistage sampling procedure was adopted for the selection of study areas, namely, Gulbarga and Dharwad and the sample farmers. Tabular and budgeting techniques were employed to analyse the data. The primary data pertained to the agricultural year 2012-13. The dominant chickpea varieties grown by majority of the sample farmers were Annigeri-1, JG-11 and KAK. The cost incurred per acre of chickpea harvesting engaging labour was found to be Rs. 1255.83 and the cost of threshing with machine was Rs. 1110.83. The total cost of harvesting and threshing per acre worked out to Rs. 2366. The cost incurred harvesting of chickpea with machine was Rs.1050. The net return realised by mechanical harvesting of per acre of chickpea was around Rs. 1300. The major constraints in adoption of mechanical harvesting of chickpea by the farmers in the study area were non-availability of suitable machines, non-availability of suitable varieties, non-availability of machines on time and splitting or damage of grains. To promote mechanical harvesting of chickpea in the region, efforts should be made to popularise the erect type chickpea varieties among the farmers with the help of large scale demonstrations in the major chickpea growing regions of the state and also research efforts should be made to evaluate the feasibility of investment in custom hiring of machines for mechanical harvesting of the crop to encourage the farmers for the adoption of the same to save cost on labour and enhance efficiency in timely harvesting of chickpea crop.

---

\*Professor and Post Graduate Student, respectively, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and \*\*Principal Scientist, RP-MIP, ICRISAT, Hyderabad.