

“AN EMPIRICAL ASSESSMENT OF FARMER PERCEPTIONS AND FIELD-LEVEL CONSTRAINTS UNDER THE RAITHA SIRI SCHEME IN CHITRADURGA, KARNATAKA.”

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Introduction:

Agriculture is a major source of livelihood in Karnataka, especially in drought-prone rural areas. Millets are important crops because they are drought-resistant, nutritious, and suitable for dryland farming. To support millet cultivation and improve farmer welfare, the Government of Karnataka introduced the **Raitha Siri Scheme**. The scheme aims to encourage millet farmers through incentives and support measures. **Chitradurga district** is an important millet-growing region where many farmers depend on crops like Millets such as Navane (foxtail millet), Sajje (pearl millet), Korale (little millet), Same (proso millet), Baragu (kodo millet), Oodalu (barnyard millet) ragi and jowar. Due to low rainfall, limited irrigation, and economic vulnerability, government support plays a crucial role in this region. However, many farmers face challenges such as low awareness, documentation issues, and delays in receiving benefits. These problems may reduce the effectiveness of the scheme at the field level. This study examines farmer perceptions, awareness, and implementation gaps under the Raitha Siri Scheme. It also compares the experiences of farmers across selected taluks of Chitradurga district. The study aims to understand the scheme's impact on productivity, cost reduction, and income improvement. The findings will help suggest practical improvements for better policy delivery and farmer satisfaction.

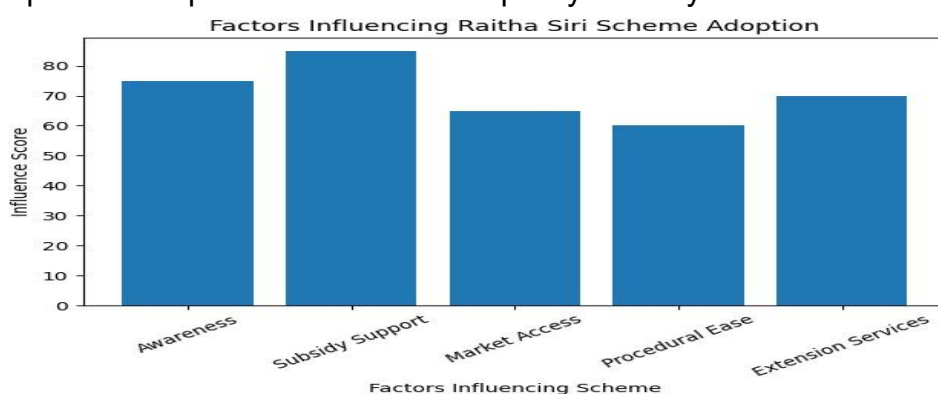


Figure 1: Factors influencing Raitha Siri Scheme Adoption

Objectives:

1. To assess the awareness & accessibility of the Raitha Siri Scheme among millet farmers in Chitradurga.
2. To evaluate the ease of subsidy application, documentation processes, and identify key implementation challenges faced by farmers.
3. To analyze the scheme's impact on crop productivity, cost reduction, and income improvement across different taluks.
4. To develop practical recommendations for enhancing the delivery, effectiveness, and farmer satisfaction of the Raitha Siri Scheme.

Methodology:

This study adopts a mixed-method empirical research design to assess farmer perceptions and field-level constraints under the raitha siri scheme in chitradurga district. The study is both descriptive and analytical, focusing on awareness, accessibility, and implementation gaps, and perceived impact of the scheme. Chitradurga district is selected purposively because it is a major millet-growing region and highly relevant to the scheme. A total sample of 120 farmers will be selected from 2–3 selected taluks of the district. Among them, 60 beneficiaries will be chosen using stratified random sampling from official beneficiary records. The remaining 60 non-beneficiaries will be selected using convenience sampling from the same villages. The study uses both primary and secondary data sources. Primary data will be collected through a structured questionnaire, personal interviews, and focus group discussions. Interviews with agriculture officials will also be conducted to understand implementation issues. Secondary data will be collected from the department of agriculture, district reports, and other published sources. The collected data will be coded, classified, and tabulated for analysis. Tools such as EXCEL / SPSS will be used for data processing and interpretation. Analytical techniques such as percentage analysis, mean, ranking, t-test, anova, correlation, and regression will be applied. The findings will help identify farmer-level challenges and evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme. Based on the results, suitable recommendations will be proposed for improving scheme delivery and farmer satisfaction.

Result and Conclusion:

The study revealed that the Raitha Siri Scheme has had a positive impact on millet farmers in Chitradurga district, particularly among beneficiaries who reported better support for cultivation. A clear difference was observed between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in terms of awareness, access, and satisfaction levels. Beneficiaries showed higher awareness about the scheme and reported reduced input costs and encouragement for millet cultivation. However, the study also identified major field-level constraints such as delay in subsidy disbursement, lack of awareness, complex procedures, and documentation issues. Non-beneficiary farmers expressed interest in the scheme but lacked proper information and support to enroll. The comparative analysis across selected taluks showed differences in implementation effectiveness depending on local awareness and administrative support. The findings indicate that while the scheme is useful and relevant, its benefits are not reaching all eligible farmers equally. The study concludes that the Raitha

Siri Scheme has good potential to improve farmer welfare and millet cultivation. However, better awareness, timely subsidy release, simpler procedures, and stronger field-level support are necessary to improve its effectiveness and farmer satisfaction.

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Future Scope:

The present study provides useful insights into farmer perceptions and implementation challenges under the **Raitha Siri Scheme** in Chitradurga district. It also offers significant scope for future research and policy improvement. The study can be extended to cover all taluks of Chitradurga and other millet-growing districts of Karnataka for broader comparison. A larger sample size can provide more reliable and region-wide findings. Future research can examine the long-term impact of the scheme on farmer income, crop productivity, and livelihood security. Comparative studies across multiple agricultural seasons can help understand sustained outcomes. There is also scope to study the role of digital platforms and DBT systems in improving transparency and efficiency. Further analysis can include the role of extension officers, FPOs, and market linkages in strengthening implementation. The findings can help policymakers improve awareness, simplify enrollment procedures, and ensure timely subsidy disbursement. Overall, the project has strong future scope in research, policy application, and rural development planning.

The future scope of this project includes:

1. The study can be extended to more taluks and districts for a wider understanding of the scheme's impact.
2. Future research can include long-term analysis of farmer income, productivity, and sustainability.
3. There is scope to explore market linkages, awareness programs, and policy improvements for better implementation of the scheme.