

## Identification of Felt Needs of Farmers through Participatory Approach with Special References to Faisalabad District

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**Abstract:** The study was conducted to identify the felt needs of the farmers in the project area. Thirty respondents from each wheat and sugarcane growers were selected and the data were collected by personal interview method. According to the results water shortage was the most important problem both for wheat and sugarcane growers where as the results were mentioned both in tabular and diagrammatic form.

**Key Words:** Felt Needs, Participatory, Intensity

### Introduction

Pakistan enfolds the famous land of Indus valley civilization and is blessed with ideal climate and vast alluvial plain along with a network of river system capable of supporting higher levels of productivity. The economy of Pakistan drives its strength from the agricultural sector. It would not be wrong to say that the future of this country to a large extent is linked with its rural sector. The villages which are the lifeline of our economy presents a gloomy and dismal picture of poverty, illiteracy, alarmingly high rate of population growth, uneconomic holdings, poor infra structure and absence of people organizations at the gross root levels (Ashraf, 1993). Further more the farming community which accounts for 60% of the rural population provides food and fiber to the rest of the economy. At the same time they are deprived of the basic necessities of life. (Economic Survey, 1998-99). They are confronted with problems like water logging, salinity, low levels of input use, inadequate credit facilities etc. for the betterment of the production increasing facilities. The identification and manipulation of these is essential for proper planning. Identification of real needs and their extent is inevitable to achieve this goal. Moreover, the area and beneficiary needs are to be distinguished. Area needs are related to poverty encompassing the needs of an entire territory and all of its inhabitants. Beneficiary needs are directly related to group and family level poverty.

The thrust in rural development is on people's participation in the process. People should not be treated as passive spectators but must be involved as motivating and guiding them to play their role effectively. Facilitator of rural development must get down to the people, get into their frame of thinking and formulate programmes matching their resources and ability to put in practice. Participatory development in its broadest sense is a process which involves the participation of the people at the gross root level to build their economic development resource base for breaking out of poverty nexus so as to transform the traditional rural economy into the modern one (Dixon and Singh, 1995). The major objective of the study was to assess the felt needs of the farmers through

participatory approach and then to suggest policy measures.

### Materials and Methods

Merton (1958) referred methodology as logic of scientific procedures. The study was based on the primary data collected from four villages of Faisalabad (80 J.B., 84 J.B., 86 J.B. and 88J.B.) Then the data were collected in the following sequence:

- Identification of the groups having common interests in the wheat and sugarcane growing.
- Then to assess the problems on the basis of felt needs. In it we include information like:
  - a Limiting factors: Problems caused by biological and climatologically factors.
  - b Inefficient resource use: problems caused by insufficient and inefficient use of resources.
- Ranking of the problems on the basis of percentage of population affected and Seriousness of the problems. Results were calculated by frequency and scores referred to the problems.

Frequency	Score
0-----20%	1
20-----40%	2
40-----60%	3
60-----80%	4
80-----100%	5

- Construction of cause effect diagram.

Then the results were drawn by using the percentage and arithmetic mean.

### Results and Discussion

The area of research is located in mixed cropping zone where all major crops are grown except rice while wheat and sugarcane are found to be the main crops grown by the farmers in the sample villages which represents the overall picture of the rural sector. The farmers studied were classified into wheat and sugar cane growers on the basis of resources used for their crops.

An overall ranking of the identified problem had made on the basis of comparisons and combined intensities of each problems related to the wheat growers in

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**Table 1:** The Ranking and Scores of Identified Problems

Problem	80 J.B.	84 J.B.	86 J.B.	88 J.B.	Avg. score	Ranking
Water shortage	9	8	8	9	8.5	1
Weeds	7	8	9	8	8.0	2
Lack of cash for inputs	7	8	7	8	7.5	3
Poor fertilizer mgt.	8	6	7	7	7.25	4
No use of improved seed	6	7	7	7	6.75	5
Poor extension services	7	6	7	7	6.75	5
High prices of inputs	7	6	6	7	6.50	6
Marketing problems	6	6	6	6	6.00	7
Poor land preparation	5	7	5	6	5.75	8
Less plant population	5	5	5	6	5.25	9
Harvesting and threshing	4	4	5	4	4.25	10
Problems						
Diseases	4	3	3	5	3.75	11

**Table 2:** Estimation of Problems Felt by the Farmers

Problem	80 J.B.	84 J.B.	86 J.B.	88 J.B.	Avg. Score	Ranking
Water shortage	9	10	10	10	9.75	1
Lack of cash for inputs	8	8	8	9	8.25	2
Low prices of sugarcane	7	8	8	7	7.50	3
No use of improved seed	7	6	8	6	6.75	4
Disease and insect attack	7	7	6	7	6.75	4
High prices of inputs	6	6	7	6	6.25	5
Poor fertilizer management	5	7	6	7	6.25	5
Weighing problem	6	6	6	6	6.00	6
Less plant density	5	5	6	7	5.75	7
Poor land preparation	6	5	7	5	5.75	7
Poor availability of inputs	4	6	5	5	5.00	8
Delay payments	5	4	6	4	4.75	9
Lack of proper hoeing	4	5	5	3	4.25	10
Transportation problems	3	4	3	4	3.50	1

prescribed four villages. According to overall ranking water shortage was found to be the most serious problem with an average score of 8.5 while in individual villages this magnitude was found as 9, 8, 8 and 9 respectively. The second and third problem identified was the presence of weeds and lack of cash for inputs use. These problems got average scores of 8.0 and 7.5 respectively. The ranking and scores of other problems are given in the Table 1.

The problems, causes and their interaction are clearly depicted in the cause effect Fig. 1.

Fig. 1. presents the causes of the main problems related to wheat growers in the project area. As is evident from the overall ranking of the problems, water shortage was the main problem. Water is one of the fundamentals required for raising a bumper crop. Less rain fall, poor quality of ground water, high percentage of water losses and improper working of the warabandi system were the main constraints mentioned by the wheat growers. Saline soils were the main reason of the poor quality ground water while political interference was the main cause of poor working of warabandi system. Influential farmers took more water turns while small farmers had faced the crisis of water. According to the ranking, weeds were the second

important problem faced by the wheat growers. No use of weedicides and poor cultural practices were the main reasons of poor weeds manipulation. Non availability and high prices of quality weedicides were the main factors of no use of weedicides while lack of technical knowledge was the cause of the poor cultural practices. Timely availability of the finance is necessary for the farmers for getting the inputs in time. Lack of cash for the inputs was the third important problem to increase the per acre yield of the wheat. Low income, less saving and poor credit facilities were the lack of cash for the inputs. The detail description of the other problems had been mentioned in the Fig. 1.

The comparison and combined intensity of the problems related to sugarcane growers in prescribed four villages is given in the Table 2. According to overall ranking the water shortage was the most important problem mentioned by the ninety percent sugarcane growers. The problem of water shortage got the maximum average score of 9.75 while its scores in four villages were 9, 10, 10 and 10 respectively. Lack of cash for inputs purchase like fertilizer, seed, pesticide herbicide etc. was ranked second in the list of the problems with an average score of 8.25. while the

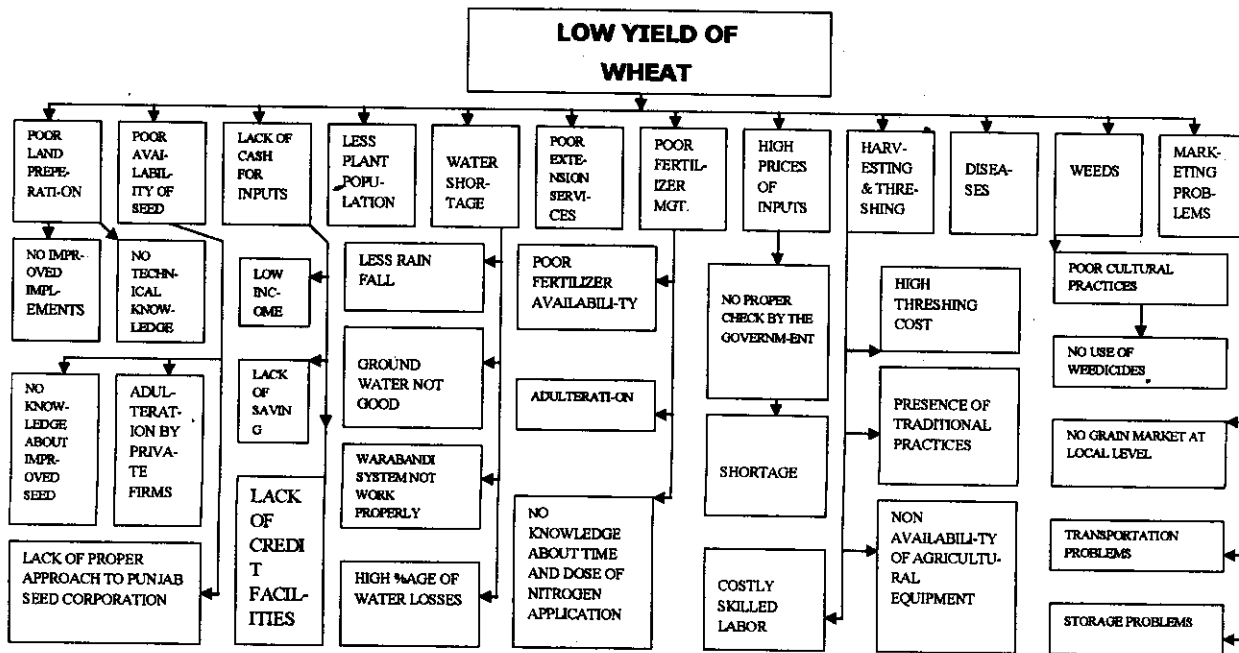


Fig. 1

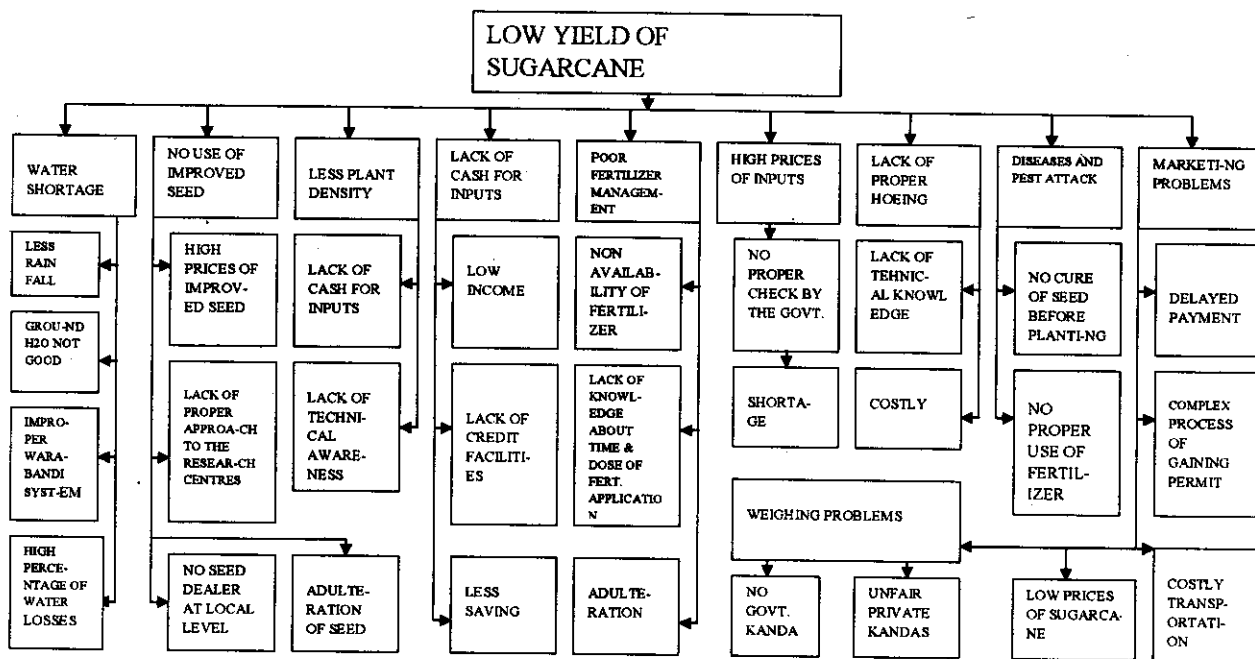


Fig. 2

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scores it got in four villages was 8, 8, 8 and 9 respectively. Sixty percent of the total farmers mentioned this problem. The third important problem was the low prices of the sugarcane and this got an average score of 7.50 while scores it got in four villages was 7, 8, 8 and 7 respectively. The other Problems felt by the farmers interviewed along with their magnitude (scores) are presented above in the Table 2.

Fig. 2. reflects the causes of the problems related to the sugarcane growers in the project area. Water shortage was the most acute problem faced by the sugarcane growers. Sugarcane is a water loving crop so any sort of water deficiency causes a major damage to the per acre yield. Less rain fall in the kharif season, poor quality of ground water, high percentage of water losses were the main factors of the water shortage. Improper cleaning of the water courses was the main cause of the high percentage of the water losses. Saline soil was the main reasons for poor quality ground water. Political interference and mismanagement of water were the main reasons for poor working of the warabandi system. Tails of almost all the canals received less water and in some cases, tails were dry. Outlet tampering, frequent movement of control structure without looking on its consequences on down stream was also usual practices. Lack of cash for inputs was ranked second in the list of problems. The main causes of this problem were low income, less saving and lack of proper credit facilities. Low prices of the produce were the third important problem. Mostly growers in the area had not enough resources, so that they cannot access to the sugar mills. Most of them were compelled to sell their produce to the middlemen who manipulated the rates and other factors to their own advantage.

Based upon the cause effect analysis of the data collected from the farmers for wheat and sugarcane crops, it was concluded that if the judicious use of the limited productive resources are ensured by facilitating the farmer's access to those, would enable them to

achieve the desired goal of higher productivity and economic development of rural areas.

### Suggestions:

- It was revealed that farmers have limited land and water resources and individual farmer either lacks knowledge or resources to increase return from their use. It, therefore, seems imperative that all Possible measures or technologies be made available to the farmers for increasing yield per acre of these crops in particular and other crops general.
- As the impact of the financial resources has a great impact on the purchase and use of the farm production resources such as fertilizers, new improved seeds, farm implements and machineries etc. So the practical steps should be taken to ensure their availability in time and in right amount to improve the financial status of the farmers
- The timely availability of quality inputs of all kinds is essential to show its bearing on the use and production. So appropriate measures are needed to ensure the supply and use of these inputs which will ultimately enable to achieve the desired results.

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