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## **Identifying role of Agribusiness in employment creation in Udham Singh Nagar District of Uttarakhand**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*This study was aimed at assessing the role of agribusiness in employment creation in Udham Singh Nagar district, Uttarakhand state. Specific objectives of the study was :identifying types of agribusinesses in which youth are working and determining roles of agribusinesses in employment creation for youth in the study area. The data were collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data for this study was collected from 160 youth through application of appropriate statistical procedures.*

*From sampled 160 respondents,it was found in the study area that youths are mainly involved in **Agricultural Products Business (42 per cent),Agricultural Equipment Business Or Agricultural Machinery Business (12 per cent),Agricultural seed production (21 per cent) and Agro-allied Business (25 per cent).***

*In the study area it was observed that agribusiness is playing somewhat important role in employing youth. From the survey result, it was found that agribusiness have created employment opportunity for 45.8% of respondents.*

*It was reveled from the study that providing improved system of credit provision, distributing available land, improving quality extension system and changing way of their thinking about agriculture can help to accelerate the participation of youth in agribusiness.*

*Key : Agribusiness, employment, youth*

### **Introduction:**

Youth unemployment is now a global issue following the world economic crisis of 2009. Global economic growth in 2019 is estimated to stand at 3.5%, 0.2 percentage points lower than the figure of 2018 (Economics Times 2/13/2019). The downward revision is a result of recessions that were deeper than expected in some key emerging commodity. IMF has lowered its global economic growth forecast for this year from 3.7 percent to 3.5 per cent. The "four clouds" is described as the main factors undermining the global economy (1) the risks include "trade tensions and tariff escalations, (2) financial tightening, (3) uncertainty related to (the) Brexit outcome and (4) spillover impact and an accelerated slowdown of the Chinese economy.

As the long-term global economic outlook remains modest despite stronger than expected growth in 2017, the report attributes the positive trend between 2017 and 2018 mainly to the strong performance of labour markets in developed countries, where the unemployment rate is projected to fall by an additional 0.2 percentage points in 2018 to reach 5.5 per cent, a rate below pre-crisis levels.

Unemployment Rate in India increased to 6.10 in 2018 from 3.52 percent in 2017. Unemployment Rate in India averaged 4.12 percent from 1983 until 2018, reaching an all time high of 8.30 percent in 1983 and a record low of 3.41 percent in 2014.

India has one of the highest youth populations in the world with an estimate high of 356 million youth. 500 million Indian citizens are expected to be under the age of 25 by 2020. If its 500 million youth, around 64% of our population will be added to our workforce and the country's socio-economic development will witness an unprecedented rise. Economists believe such favorable demographic dividend could add a significant 2% to the GDP growth rate.

This shortage of jobs is compounded by depressed wages, with 82% of men and 92% of women earning less than Rs 10,000 per month.

The report also notes that the growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) hasn't resulted in a commensurate increase in employment. "A 10% increase in GDP now results in less than 1% increase in employment," Global labor force participation rates of youth are following a long-term downward trend, from 53.6% in 2000 to 45.8% in 2016. The increasing opportunity to pursue upper secondary education, with a global gross enrolment rate of close to 75%, is the main driver for falling participation rates among youth and should hence be seen as a positive development that allows them to expand their skill sets and knowledge in anticipation of better jobs in the future.

For young people between 20 and 29 years of age, the lack of viable employment opportunities is often the primary factor discouraging their participation in the labor market. As youth unemployment rates remain persistently high and transitions from education into work become increasingly difficult, a growing share of youth are neither employed, nor in education or training, a status which carries risks of skills deterioration, underemployment and discouragement. Survey evidence for some 28 countries around the globe shows that roughly 25% of the youth population aged between 15 and 29 years old are categorized as neither employed, nor in education or training (ILO, 2016).

Agriculture is an important business sector in the economy of the almost all developing countries throughout the world. According to CIA Factbook, sector wise Indian GDP composition in 2017 are as follows : Agriculture (15.4%), Industry (23%) and Services (61.5%). With production of agriculture activity of \$375.61 billion, India is 2nd larger producer of agriculture product after China. India accounts for 7.39 percent of total global agricultural output. GDP of Industry sector is \$560.97 billion and world rank is 6. In Services sector, India world rank is 8 and GDP is \$1500 billion.

Contribution of Agriculture sector in Indian economy is much higher than world's average (6.4%). Contribution of Industry and Services sector is lower than world's average 30% for Industry sector and 63% for Services sector.

Even though agriculture has potential of employment opportunities, youth tend to stand away from this sector by considering agriculture as dirty and rigorous type business. Potential of agriculture to offer employment for the youth is being recognized throughout the world. But the review literature reveals that there is a decline of youth interest in farming even though young people are most productive class of community and are in the prime of their lives mentally and physically and agriculture is important business (Mangal, 2009).

Despite the promise or opportunities of agricultural sector for employment creation and income generation, youth involvement in agriculture is declining. This is because agriculture is not attractive to the youth due to risks that may happen in it, intensive nature and low profitability of the sector (FAO, 2012).

According to population census 2011, India had total youth population of 325.2 millions, which is 35% of the total population. Out of this, about 70% were rural youth and remaining 30% were urban youth. As majority of the youth comes from rural areas, they are considered as the nation builders of tomorrow. This important section of the rural population can respond to

the needs of country only if they are offered fruitful opportunities for growing up as useful citizens. With a growing world population and a decreasing agricultural productivity in combination with a rural exodus, India is losing more than 2000 farmers every single day and that since 1991, the overall number of farmers has dropped by 15 million (Sainath, 2013). This has several implications for the future of Indian agriculture and India's food security. Rural youth can play an important role in ensuring food security if they are encouraged to involve in farming and the challenges they face are addressed. Over the past few years, rural youth have been shying away from agriculture and globally there is an increasing interest in finding ways of engaging youth in agriculture (IFAD, 2012; Paisley, 2013). Currently, there is a challenge of retaining youngsters in agriculture due to various socio-economic factors, including profitability in agricultural pursuits. It has become imminent to reorient agricultural practices to make them intellectually satisfying and economically rewarding for the youth. Nearly 70% of India's population is below the age of 35 years making India the youngest nation in the world and interestingly 70% of them live in rural areas. In 2020, the average Indian will be only 29-years-old, whereas in China and the United States of America the average age is estimated to be 37 years. We may utilize this demographic dividend for taking Indian agriculture to new heights by channelizing the creative energies of the youth through development of skills, knowledge and attitudes. Study which was taken in Patan block, Jabalpur district, Madhya Pradesh, revealed that maximum of rural youth had favourable attitude regarding participation in agricultural activities. Though youth have desirable qualities that can promote agriculture, most of them have strong apathy toward it. The age, caste, type of family, size of family, education, marital status, farming experience, involvement in decision making, social participation, annual income, cosmopolitanism, contact with extension agent, source of information, economic motivation, scientific motivation and risk preference had significant association with attitude of rural youth regarding participation in agriculture, only size of land holding found to be non significant. This study revealed that various constraints were found among the rural youth. So, categorizations were made i.e. in social constraints, participation in other social activities and lack of inclination towards traditional job considered to be the major social constraints. Similarly, in psychological and technical constraints, lack of patience and lack of appropriate technology and its use considered to be the major one. Further in economical, extension related and other constraints, price fluctuation, untimely reaching of message and migration of rural youth considered as major constraints.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

With production of agriculture activity of \$375.61 billion, India is 2nd larger producer of agriculture product. India accounts for 7.39 percent of total global agricultural output. Contribution of Agriculture sector in Indian economy is much higher than world's average (6.4%). It is a fact that the efforts to advance the national economy based on agricultural production has to be taken seriously in deal. Youth are the future of a country with their limitless energy and aspiration about the future.

Currently there is job scarcity in more established fields such as government as well as the private sectors in the nation. The agricultural sector is long left by the youth even though there is lucrative long run potential economic growth. Youths are not fully engaged in agriculture due to many confronting issues challenging them. Youths are influenced by many factors in order to not take part in any agricultural businesses. Their awareness and commitment in the agriculture sector which left by them many decades ago need to be revived hence they gave low value or attitude for agriculture.

Nearly 70% of India's population is below the age of 35 years making India the youngest nation in the world and interestingly 70% of them live in rural areas. In 2020, the average Indian will be only 29-years-old, whereas in China and the United States of America the average age is estimated to be 37 years. We may utilize this demographic dividend for taking Indian agriculture to new heights by channelizing the creative energies of the youth through development of skills, knowledge and attitudes.

Many studies on youth and agriculture have been done throughout the world as general. But, limited attentions have been given to agribusinesses especially in relation to youth in the study area, Udham Singh Nagar. Above all, there is pressing need to change the paradigm of youth towards looking the agriculture sector as one of the opportunity for them to be self relied. In general, this research will provide as with an investigation of the reason why youth are not participating in agri-business particularly in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand.

**Objectives :** (1) Identifying types of agribusinesses in which youth are working and (2) determining roles of agribusinesses in employment creation for youth.

1.3 Significance of the study

**1.3.1 Future researchers**

The importance of this study will be serving as guidance for other researchers, whom may deal on similar topics, related to challenges hindering youth to participate in agri-business.

**1.3.3 Policy makers**

Finding of the study may also help policy and strategy makers in designing and implementing appropriate policies that would enhance the participation of unemployed youth in agri-businesses in India.

1.4 Scope of the study

In order to address the research objectives, the study will be limited to Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand state as a research setting. It will also be limited to youth, those are engaged and not-engaged in agri-business activities.

**2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

**2.1 Description of the Study Area**

**Location and Size :**

District Udham Singh Nagar is situated in the south-east part of Kumaon Division of the state of Uttarakhand. It is situated between the latitudes 28° north and longitude 78° east. It is bounded in the north by the districts of Nainital and Champawat, Bijnor in the west, Moradabad in the south-west, Rampur and Bareilly in the south and Pilibhit in the south and south-east. The eastern boundary meets with Nepal. The entire north and eastern boundary of the district is crowned with the reserve forests of Nainital and Champawat. The geographical area of the district is 2542 sq kms. and acquires 9th place by area in the state of Uttarakhand.

**Summary of general statistics:**

As per the Census India 2011, Udham Singh Nagar district has 3,08,581 households, population of 16,48,902 of which 8,58,783 are males and 7,90,119 are females. The population of children between age 0-6 is 2,29,162 which is 13.9% of total population. The sex-ratio of Udham Singh Nagar district is around 920 compared to 963 which is average of Uttarakhand state. The literacy rate of Udham Singh Nagar district is 62.94% out of which 69.69% males are literate and 55.6% females are literate. The total area of Udham Singh Nagar is 2,542 sq.km with population density of 649 per sq.km. Out of total population, 64.42% of population lives in

Urban area and 35.58% lives in Rural area. There are 14.45% Scheduled Caste (SC) and 7.46% Scheduled Tribe (ST) of total population in Udham Singh Nagar district.

## **2.2 Research Methodology**

### **2.2.1 Data Type**

This study has used both quantitative and qualitative approaches of research design. Qualitative data were collected on variables that are discrete in their nature, where quantitative data were collected on continuous variables.

### **2.2.2 Data Collection Techniques**

In this study, primary data were collected from youth and as well officials of agriculture. To collect necessary information from the sample population, interview and questionnaire was used. One set of questionnaire containing both open-ended and close-ended types were designed and administered to the samples.

### **2.2.3. Sampling Techniques and Frame**

Both probability and non-probability sampling design were used to get information about the larger population of study. From non- probability, purposive sampling was used to conduct interview with official of agri-businesses because they have information about the sector. In the case of probability sampling, simple random sampling was employed to gather information from youths.

Udham Singh Nagar has 9 Blocks namely (1) Kashipur(2) Jaspur(3) Bajpur (4)Gadarpur (5) Rudrapur(6) Kichha(7) Sitarganj (8) Nanakmatta (9) Khatima

Out of this nine two blocks (1) Rudrapur and (2) Gadarpur were selected purposively considering the concentration of agribusiness organizations in this area.

#### **2.2.3.1 Sample Size**

One hundred sixty youth (80 from each block), having qualification High school and above and who are not continuing any higher education were selected randomly for the study.

## **2.3 Data Analysis and Presentation**

The descriptive statistics such as percentage and frequency of distributions were used to analyze data obtained through questionnaire. Finally, the collected data were organized, edited and analyzed using SPSS / STATA statistical packages

### **2.3.1 Types of agribusiness in which youth are involved**

Identifying types of agribusiness in which youth are involved is one of the specific objectives. Secondary data available in planning department of the government regarding type of agribusiness available in the study area was collected and tabular analysis has been done to present the result.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1. Descriptive Analysis**

These methods of data analysis refer to the use of frequencies, percentages, and  $\chi^2$ -test, in the process of examining and describing youth characteristics.

#### **3.1.1. Block wise Distribution of the respondents**

##### **3.1.2. Sex**

Sex of youth was used to capture its own effect on participation of youth in agribusinesses.

The table (1) summarizes the respondent distribution across the selected blocks of the study area. Out of 160 youths sampled randomly, 60 were females and 100 were males. It was

observed from the survey result that male youth were dominant respondents across all Block of the study area.

Table 1: summary of sex distribution in study area

Block			
Sex	Rudrapur	Gadarpur	Total
Female	39	21	60
Male	56	44	100
Total	95	65	160

Source: own survey result, 2019

### 3.1.3 Distribution of Respondents by Age, access to agricultural market information and Level of Education

Table 2: summary of age, access to agricultural market information and **Level of Education** of respondents

Description	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Age	18.00	33.00	25.71
Frequency of agricultural information per week	1.00	3.00	1.2
Education ( grade)	10.00	18.00	12.5

Source: own survey result, 2019

From table 2, it can be seen that the minimum age of the respondent was 18 years and the maximum age of respondent was 33 years as predetermined by researcher. It was also found that the age of respondents on average was 25.71 years which implies that the respondents used in the survey are all young people.

Access to agricultural market information helps farmers or any agribusiness person to become successful in reducing market risks. From this study it was found that sample respondents are getting agribusiness information not very adequately per week. On average it was found that each respondent listened agricultural information 1.2 times per week (table 2).

The level of education is believed to influence the participation of youth in agribusinesses. The table 2 presents the educational status of respondents in years of the formal education. On average the surveyed youth were attended higher secondary education (table 2).

### 3.1.4 Distribution of Marital Status

It has been found, about 61.25% of respondents were single, 38.75% were married.

Table 3: Distribution of marital status

Description	Frequency	Percent
Single	98	61.25%
Married	62	38.75%
Total	160	100.0%

Source: Own survey result, 2019

### 3.1.5 Land availability

Table 4: Land availability as expressed by respondent

Description	Frequency	Percent
No enough land is available	115	72.0%
land is available	45	28.0%
Total	160	100.0%

Source: own survey result, 2019

In the study method, the respondents were asked to state whether land access is available or not for youth involved in agribusiness. The responses are presented in table 4. As it is depicted above, 72.0% of respondents replied that not enough land is available and only 28.0% of respondents replied there is enough land in the study area. This explains why youth in the study area are not fully engaging in agribusinesses.

### 3.1.6 Distribution of access to credit, and extension

Extension service is one of the main inputs for success of any agribusiness participants. Extension service is assistance given to farmers to help them identify and analyze their production problems and become aware of the opportunities for improvement. Extension provides agricultural and vocational training on the use of fertilizer, insecticides, improved seeds, veterinary drugs, land use practices, and market information among others. As per this study it was found that, 58% of young respondents did not get adequate extension service in last year (table 5). This also put its own effect for why youth are not participating in agribusinesses in most cases.

Table 5: Distribution of extension service

Description	Frequency	Percent
Not adequate extension service last year	93	58.0%
Adequate extension service last year	67	42.0%
Total	160	100.0

Source: own survey result, 2019

Table 6: Distribution of credit access

Description	Frequency	Percent
have not taken credit per last year/ before	102	64.0%
have taken credit last year/ before	58	36.0%
Total	160	100.0

Source: own survey result, 2019

Access of credit is potential source for youth to be involved in agribusinesses. The survey result showed that only 36% of sample respondents took credit last year. On other side it was found that about 64% of respondents have not taken any credit in last year (table 6). These show an implication that youth were challenged to participate in agribusinesses.

**3.1.7 Career Ambition**

In the study area respondents were asked about the career which they would like to join in the future as their means of livelihood. Fifty two respondents (33%) replied that they pre-determined to join agribusiness career as their means of future livelihood, and about 67% respondents want to join non agribusiness career (table 7). These imply that agribusiness is still not preferred by most young people to be their means of livelihood.

Table 7: Summary of return by respondents on career ambition

Description	Frequency	Percent
Agricultural career	52	33%
Non Agricultural career	108	67%
Total	160	100.0%

Source: result of own survey, 2019

**3.1.8 Youths' Family background**

In the study area, it was found that about 62% respondents' family were from agriculturalists back ground and 38% of sampled respondents' family were from non agribusiness career (table 8).

Table 8: Summary of back ground of family

Description	Frequency	Percent
Agribusiness	99	62%
Non agribusiness	61	38%
Total	160	100.0%

Source: result of own survey, 2019

This shows that almost three fourth of respondents' family were depending on agribusiness for fulfilling their daily needs, still many of them do not prefer to go to agribusiness.

**3.1.9 Youth migration to other area as an adoptive strategy**

Plan of youth to migrate away from the study area was considered as one of the explanatory variables in this study. It was found that about 58.0% of respondents planned to leave study area where as, the remaining (42.0%) were hoping to live in the study area.

Table 9 : Return of migration to other area as an adaptive plan/strategy

Description	Frequency	Percent
youth planned to leave study area	93	58.0%
youth planned to live in the study area	67	42.0%
Total	160	100.0%

Source: result of own survey, 2019

**3.2. Youth participation in agribusiness**

Participation of youth in any of agribusiness was the dependent variable that was dealt in this study. From the result it was found that, about 53% youth were not participating in any of agribusiness. It was only 47% of respondents that are participating in any of agribusiness (table 10).

Table 10: Summary of participant and non participant

Description	Frequency	Percent
Non participant	85	53.0%
Participant	75	47.0%
Total	160	100.0%

Source: result of own survey, 2019

**4.10. Role of agribusiness in creating employment opportunity**

In the study area it was found that agribusiness is playing somewhat good role in employing youth. From the survey result, it was found that agribusiness have created employment opportunity for 75 (47%) of respondents (table 10). This was the magnitude found by researcher through the survey from only sampled youth.

**4.11. Types of agribusiness in which youth are participating**

In this study, identifying types of agribusiness in which youth are involving was one of the specific objectives.

It was found in the study area that youths are mainly involved in (1) Agricultural Products Business (42 per cent) : Agribusiness based on agricultural products is a type of agricultural business that deals with the production of agricultural products (Plants and animal) for commercial purposes so as to make profit. (2) Agricultural Equipment Business Or Agricultural Machinery Business (12 per cent): Just like agricultural products business, agricultural equipment business or agricultural machinery business is focused on manufacturing and selling of agricultural equipment or agricultural machinery. (3) Agricultural seed production (21 per cent) : a business in seed production (both cereal and vegetable). (4) Agro-allied Business (25 per cent) : a business that either derive agricultural products and agricultural services or businesses that provide products, equipment, chemicals or services for agricultural sectors.

Table 11: Summary of agribusinesses in which youth are engaging

Types	Frequency	Percent
1 Agricultural Product Business	31	42
2 Agricultural Equipment / Machinery Business	9	12
3 Agricultural Seed Production Business	16	21
4 Agro Allied Business	19	25
Total	75	100.0%

Source: Computation from own survey, 2019

In the study area it was observed that agribusiness is playing somewhat good role in employing youth. From the survey result, it was found that agribusiness have created employment opportunity for 47% of respondents.

#### 4.12. Challenges for why youth are not participating in agribusiness

From the survey it has been found that about 85 respondents were not participating in any of agribusiness. They stated there were many reasons for why could not participate in any of agribusiness. Land unavailability, money problem, lack of agricultural education / training, unwillingness of family, absence of facilitator, lack of information and infrastructure were some of the reasons as stated by almost 53% of respondents.

#### 4.13. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Result

From its beginning the main aims for which focus group discussion held was to identify problems challenging youth to work and while working in agribusinesses. The focus group discussion was held with 8 to 10 members from each block. Many problems were raised during the discussion. As per discussion with them; insufficient land, market problem in relation with price fluctuation, lack of sufficient credit, insect invasion, drought, and flood were mentioned to be challenges of the farmers and youth. Another problem was mentioned by the group members that even families are unwilling for their children to join agribusiness as their future livelihood (FGD, 2018).

### **4. CONCLUSION AND RECCOMENDATION**

#### **Conclusion**

The specific objectives of the study include identifying types of agribusinesses in which youth are involved; to determine number of labor forces that are absorbed by agribusinesses of the district and identifying the factors affecting youth participation in agri-businesses.

The primary data were collected from individual using open and close ended questionnaire. The primary data for this study were collected from 160 randomly selected youth from Rudrapur and Gadarpur Block of the district. The analysis was made using descriptive statistics and econometric model using SPSS and STATA software. All the sampled youth were those who are either participating or not- participating in any agribusiness.

From sampled 160 respondents, 62.5% were male headed and the rest 37.5% were female with respondents aged 18 to 33 years old.

Constraints affecting youth participation in agribusiness are found from the study. Land problem, credit problem, and lack of education / training problems were found in hindering youth from participating in agribusiness. It was found that large numbers of youths are not participating in agribusiness. It was only about 47% of respondents were participating in agribusiness. This implies agribusiness is creating employment opportunity for youth despite it has potential in creating employment for large numbers of young.

**Recommendations :** Land distribution may increases participation of youth in agribusiness. Promotion of land reforms and creation of laws that ensure young people's access to production resources may ensure equal opportunities for young people.

Providing more awareness for youth and their family is found to be intervention tool so that youth make no difference between agribusiness and non agribusiness profession.

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