



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN COMMERCE, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

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PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN HARYANA: A CASE STUDY OF SIRSA DISTRICT

DR. ANITA DAGAR

READER

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY
ROHTAK

SANDEEP KUMAR

RESEARCH SCHOLAR

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY
ROHTAK

MUKESH KUMAR

RESEARCH SCHOLAR

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY
ROHTAK

ABSTRACT

An efficient regulated agricultural marketing system helps in optimization of resource use, output management, increase in farm incomes, widening of markets, growth of agro-based industry, addition to national income through value addition, and employment creation. And the structure, conduct and performance of the Regulated Markets are affected by the availability of marketing infrastructure. Furthermore, at present the need for these market infrastructures has increased due to increased production and marketed surplus. With keeping in view the importance of physical infrastructure facilities in regulated agricultural markets, an attempt has been made in the present paper to examine the availability of physical infrastructure facilities in regulated markets in Sirsa District of Haryana. The results of the study are based on the primary data collected from farmers through pre-tested open ended questionnaire as well as secondary data taken from Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board and Agricultural Department of Haryana. The study reported that the condition of the infrastructure facilities in the selected mandi yard is not very good. The physical infrastructure facilities are available to a very small number of the farmers as well as they are not in good condition.

KEYWORDS

Agriculture, Marketing, Haryana, Sirsa.

INTRODUCTION

In India, the organized marketing of agricultural commodities has been promoted through a network of regulated markets. Most state governments and UT Administrations have enacted legislations for the regulation of agricultural produce markets. Keeping in view the overall interest of the farming community and the ultimate consumers, the regulated markets are considered responsible institutions in discharging all the functions connected with the sale of outputs these institutions are meant to regulate unethical trading practices followed in the marketing of agricultural produce. This would help in protecting the interest of both the producers and consumers, thus it contributes towards the growth of orderly marketing and price stability through effective competition. Therefore, governments from time to time brought about the required legislation and development of market infrastructure.

The agricultural marketing infrastructure may include physical, Functional and Institutional infrastructure. In the recent year physical Infrastructures facilities such as market yard, platform for display of commodities, open auctioning platforms, shop-cum-godowns, drinking water, weighing equipments etc., in the regulated markets were developed. The physical infrastructure facilities were developed in the markets with an expectation that, this will attract more arrival in the market yards, reduce marketing costs, and increase realization of price to growers, by increasing the competition. These days, the need for these market infrastructures has also increased due to increased production and marketed surplus. A marketing system backed up by strong and adequate infrastructure is needed not only for the performance of various marketing functions and expansion of the size of the market but also for transfer of appropriate price signals leading to improved marketing efficiency. The building up of new market complexes with all modern amenities is supposed to influence the market structure and pricing mechanism.

The present paper an attempt has been made to examine the availability of physical infrastructure facilities in the market yard of *Mandi Dabwali*, Sirsa district of Haryana.

DATA SOURCE AND METHODOLOGY

The study is pertained into Sirsa district of Haryana as district Sirsa was ranked first on the basis of maximum production of wheat in Haryana (*Agricultural Department of Haryana, Rabi 2006-07*)

To meet the objectives of the paper, both the primary and secondary data (*for the year 2006 to 2008*) have been used. The secondary data for the market arrival, market details and other necessary information regarding production and trends of wheat HSAMB (*Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board*) and Agricultural Department of Haryana. The information regarding the physical infrastructure facilities in regulated markets is obtained from the HSAMB (*Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board*) and a list of these facilities are attached in the table (1.1) For the purpose of collecting primary data, a multistage sampling technique has been used. District Sirsa was selected on the basis of production of wheat. From the selected district Sirsa, *Mandi Dabwali* regulated market has been selected on the basis of maximum arrivals of wheat in *mandi* yards (*Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board 2007-08*) in second stage. In third stage, two villages Dabwali (4 km) and Desujodha (10 km) have been selected on the basis of distance from *Mandi Dabwali* Regulated Market as they served by selected market.

To collect the required information from farmers about the accessibility physical infrastructure facilities in selected *mandi* yard, one set of open ended questionnaire schedule was structured and pre-tested before final survey. For the purpose of collecting information from all categories of farmers, the farmers were divided into three categories on the basis of their land holding (i.e. small 0-2 Acre, medium 2-5 Acre, large 5 – more Acre) and 60 farmers (20 from each selected categories) were randomly selected from each selected village, a total sample of 120 farmers (40 from each size group) is interviewed. To analysis the data, statistical tools like simple average, ratio and percentage is used.

To improve the market efficiency and standard HSAMB (*Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board*) claimed that the following physical infrastructural facilities are provided in each regulated markets, i.e.

TABLE 1.1

- a) Agriculture business information centre
- b) Boundary wall
- c) Check post and gates
- d) Common auction platform
- e) Covered platform
- f) Individual platform
- g) Shop and booth
- h) Weight bridge
- i) Service and link roads
- j) Food storage godowns
- k) Kisan rest house
- l) Light arrangement
- m) Parking place
- n) Fire fighting station
- o) Sulabh sauchalya
- p) Drinking water facilities
- q) Canteen
- r) Provision for petrol / diesel pump

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Percentage and absolute number of sample farmers who enjoys these facilities in *Mandi* Dabwali, Sirsa are revealed by the following table.

TABLE -1.2: ACCESSIBILITY OF PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURAL FACILITIES FOR FARMERS, REGULATED MARKET *MANDI* DABWALI, SIRSA (No. of farmers in absolute figure)

Physical infrastructural facilities	Small farmers	Medium farmers	Large farmers	Total farmers
A.B.I centre*	-	-	-	-
Boundary Wall	-	-	-	-
Check Post and Gate	40(100)	39(97.5)	26(65)	105(87.5)
C.A Platform**	21(52.5)	12(30)	11(27.5)	44(36.66)
Covered Platform	-	-	6(15)	6(5)
Individual Platform	-	-	1(2.5)	1(.83)
Shop and Booth	39(97.5)	39(97.5)	40(100)	118(98.33)
Weight Bridge	38(95)	39(97.5)	40(100)	117(97.5)
Service link Road	39(97.5)	40(100)	40(100)	119(99.16)
F.S. Godowns***	1(2.5)	-	4(10)	5(4.16)
Kisan Rest House	-	-	-	-
Light arrangement	39(97.5)	34(85)	38(95)	111(92.5)
Parking Place	1(2.5)	-	-	1(.83)
Fire fighting station	8(20)	-	2(5)	10(8.33)
Sulabh Sauchalya	7(17.5)	1(2.5)	18(45)	26(21.66)
Drinking water	9(22.5)	3(7.5)	22(55)	34(28.33)
Canteen Facilities	12(30)	1(2.5)	22(55)	35(29.16)
Sewerage System	-	-	2(5)	2(1.66)
Petrol/diesel Pump	-	-	-	-

Source: Field survey.

(Figure given in the parenthesis indicate the percentage of farmers)

(-) Not available

(*) A.B.I.-Agricultural Business Information

(**) C.A. - Common Auction

(***) F.S.-Food Storage

Table 1.2 communicates with the results about the infrastructure facilities available to the farmers in the *mandi* yard. It is evident from the table that there was no agriculture business information centre in *mandi* yard. Farmers of different categories reported that they even don't know about such types of facility. In relation to boundary wall, the table reveals that all farmers of different category have reported the non-availability of boundary wall around *mandi* yard. It was noticed through personal visit to *mandi* yard that boundary wall was damaged at many places. Furthermore, it is evident from the results that only 87.5 percent farmers were using the check-posts and gates facilities. However, 100 percent small, 97.5 percent medium and 65 percent large farmers were using these facilities. About the common auction platform facilities, the table shows that only 36.66 percent of sample farmers reported the presence of such kind of facilities. The percentage of different sizes of farmers who were using these facilities was 52.5, 30 and 27.5 percent in small medium and large size farmers, respectively. Remaining farmers (63.34 percent) reported that this facility was not available to them. Thus, a very small numbers of the farmers utilized common auction platform, moreover the covered platform facility was available to just 5 percent of sample farmers, it means a very large number of sample farmers (95 percent) did not have this facility, besides this it is clear from the results that, this facility was not available even to a single farmer from small and medium size farmers. All the farmers who reported the availabilities of these facilities were from large size only, 15 percent of large farmers enjoyed these facilities. And the reason about the availability of this facility to large farmers as reported by the farmers themselves was that these farmers have big quantities of surplus wheat. In relation to the individual platform facility, it is clear from the table that only 0.83 percent of sample farmers were enjoying this facility means it was available to a very small number of sample farmers. The results are similar to covered platform facility as this facility was also not available to small and medium size farmers. In addition, to the large size farmers too, the facility was available to only 2.5 percent of them. Further the table shows that 98.33 percent of sample farmers reported the availability of shop and both facilities in *mandi* yards. The percentages of small, medium and large farmers to whom this facility was

available were 97.5, 97.5 and 100 percent, respectively. It is also clear from the table that the availability of the facility was again more for large farmers as compared to small and medium farmers.

In relation to weight bridge facility, the table shows that 97.5 percent farmers reported for the availability of Weight Bridge in *mandi* yard. Among different categories, 95 percent of small farmers, 97.5 percent of medium size farmers and 40 percent of large farmers have reported for this facility. Here again, the availability of facilities were available more for large farmers in comparison to small and medium farmers.

As far it concerned to food storage godowns, this facility was available to just 4.16 percent of sample farmers. Only 2.5 percent of small farmers and 10 percent of large farmers had this facility. No farmers from medium size enjoyed the facility. In relation to the kisan rest house, it is evident from the table that the facility was not available to even a single farmer. Moreover, it was found from the survey that kisan rest House was available in the *mandi* yard but this facility was not for farmers. It was used for some other government works. And the farmers were shocked to know that they can also use these facilities.

Light arrangement is most important part of market facilities. The trading, which is going on at night needs a well lightened arrangement as it plays a major role for trading at night. The table indicates that this facility was available to 92.5 percent of sample farmers, where the percentages of different size farmers were 97.5 percent, 85 percent and 95 percent of small, medium and large farmers, respectively. About the facility of parking place, the table reveals that only 0.83 percent of sample farmers had this facility. It is clear that 99.17 percent of sample farmers, which is a huge number, had no place for parking.

In addition, it was reported that due to lack of parking place, farmers are forced to park their mean of transportation inside the *mandi* which in turn leads to big traffic jams. Sometime this traffic jam can go on for more than half day with in the *mandi* itself. Besides this it is clear that only 2.5 percent small farmers reported for the availability of parking place. These farmers were those, who used only light vehicles for transportation. It means the space was very small and was not at all sufficient to match the farmer's strength. As far it is concerned to the facilities of fire fighting stations, table shows that the facility was available to just 8.33 percent of sample farmers. It was 20 percent among small farmers and only 5 percent among large farmers. Through the visit to *mandi* yard and as reported by farmers it is observed that there was a small fire-fighting booth inside the *mandi*, and that was not sufficient enough for the *mandi* yard.

Sulabh sauchalya facility is very general or we can say a primary facility. However, the facility was available to only 21.66 percent farmers. 17.5 percent of small size farmers, 2.5 percent of medium size farmers and 45 percent of large category farmers had the facility, remaining 78.34 percent farmers complained for non-availability of this facility. The results about the drinking water facility show that the condition of drinking water facilities was very bad. Only 28.33 percent of sample farmers reported for the facilities where in different size farmers the percentages were 22.5 percent, 7.5 percent and 55 percent in small, medium and large, respectively. The farmers depended upon the *arthis* for drinking water in *Mandi* yard.

The table further reveals that 29.16 percent farmers had canteen facility in *mandi* yard, which also adds to the poor situation of *mandi* yard. 30 percent farmers of small category, 2.5 percent farmers in medium category and 55 percent farmers in large category enjoyed the availability of canteen in *mandi* yard. Furthermore, the facilities of water supply and sewerage system were available to just 1.66 percent of sample farmers, means very small number of farmers. Moreover, the facility was not available to small and medium farmers, and was available to just 5 percent in large size farmers. Finally, table indicates that there was no provision for petrol/diesel pumps in *mandi* yards.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The current situation regarding the availability of physical infrastructure facilities in *mandi* yard (Mandi Dabwali Regulated Market, Sirsa) is very poor. Availability of the facilities of a well boundary wall, kisan rest house and petrol/diesel pump was negligible in *mandi* yard as reported by farmers. Facilities of covered platform, individual platform, food storage godown, parking place, fire fighting station and sewerage system were available to a very small number of farmers; it means these facilities were not available for all farmers. It may be concluded that these facilities were not sufficient enough looking at the size of the *mandi* yard. Furthermore, the infrastructure which was available to the farmers was very old and some time these facilities, being very old, even caused problems for farmers as well *Arthis*.

For improving the condition of the current situation of physical infrastructural facilities in *mandi* yard, it may be suggested that market committee may replace the old machines with new computerized weighing machine to speed up the process of the measurement of the weight. These machines may be installed at the main gate and after the process of weighing, proper records related to the foodgrain, should be kept. For improving the condition of focal points, market committee should construct cemented floor and a boundary wall. Farmers should communicate with each other and discuss about the agent charges, current prices, and availability of other facilities. Market committee can help them in this regard by providing a farmer community hall in *mandi* yard. It is suggested that Market committee should establish information center in *mandi* yard to spread awareness among farmers for their rights and other programs. For providing the updated information of market yard on current price quotation, market committee should distribute pamphlets in villages, at least weekly.

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