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Research Article

Agricultural Programmes in Socio-Economic Development of Jammu and Kashmir with Special Reference to District Shopian

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Abstract

Agriculture is the science and art of cultivation of the soil, rearing of livestock and raising of crops. Agricultural sector is considered as the most essential tool for the common masses to get their livelihood. It is estimated that about two-third of population is still dependent on agriculture in India. Throughout the world near about 50 % persons are associated with agricultural activities and their production. Soils which are rich in mineral contents and adequate climatic conditions are the factors which are vital for agricultural activity. The contribution of agriculture at national level on Gross Domestic Product is dynamic in nature and has reduced from 30% in 1990-91 to about 14% in 2011-12, it then again increased and reached 17% in 2019-20 up to about 19.9% in 2020-21 but still it is considered as the backbone of Indian economy. Agriculture sector should be given priority in order to make adequate measures to reduce poverty and to provide food security to the common people. The growth of agriculture is vital for inclusive and sustainable development of the nation. The growth of agriculture in India, is facing the challenges of unemployment, rural poverty, underemployment and accessibility of natural resources. The aim of this paper is to highlight whether the Government Policies and Programmes related to agriculture has done well in improving the living standard of people. This paper will focus on whether the people of district Shopian got benefited from agricultural schemes implemented by the ministry of agriculture.

Keywords: socio-economic development; rural poverty; quality of life; agricultural schemes.

Introduction

The agricultural expansion is a significant challenge before the thinkers and policy makers. The agricultural development refers to increase the agricultural output to meet the growing demands of population by increasing the cropped area, improving the irrigation facilities, use of high yielding variety of seeds, increasing the number of crops grown and by use of fertilisers (Bhat et al., 2019). The vital goal of agricultural expansion is to increase the food grain production. Agricultural development is the backbone of rural development. The social, cultural and economic development of rural India largely depends on natural resources such as land, water, timber and minerals. India's 65.07 % of population belongs to rural area living in more than five lakh villages. Agriculture is the main employment

of rural people as the artisans, small farmers and agricultural labourers are engaged with this sector (Khan, 2019). A large population 812 million, about 60 % of India's population is still living in below poverty line and is the main focus of poverty alleviation programmes. In rural India, the standard of living of people is very low as compared to those people living in Urban and sub urban areas because of limited resources that are available there. The villages have less facilities of essential services like drinking water, electricity, roads, schools, libraries, sewage, street lights, garbage collection and lack of transport as compared to cities and towns where every basic service of life is easily available to them. The concept of rural development aims to improve the wellbeing, life style and socio-economic conditions of the rural people (Acharya, 2006). The process of rural development is meant to bring a change in the socio-economic development of people living in rural areas (John, 1982). The Central and State Governments applies different schemes and programmes to act as a stimulant to eradicate poverty to bring a change in rural community.

Agriculture in the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir

The Jammu and Kashmir, a newly created Union Territory of India (until October 31, 2019, a state), is located in the northern part of Indian determined by the plains around Jammu to the south and by the valley of Kashmir to the North. In August 2019, the legislation passed a bill through which demotion the Jammu and Kashmir from statehood to union territory and carved out a part of it, known as the Ladakh region, into a separate union territory. Jammu and Kashmir, which was previously one of the largest princely states of India, is restricted to the east by the Indian Union Territory of Ladakh, to the south by the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab, to the southwest by Pakistan and to the northwest by the Pakistani-administered portion of Kashmir (https://www.britannica.com). The state forms part of western Himalayan Zone. It has a hilly terrain, mountainous and undulating topography with altitude ranging from 1,850 to 3,048 meters above sea level. Total geographical area of union territory Jammu and Kashmir is 42,241 sq.kms which is equal to 16,309 sq. miles (https://en.m.wikipedia.org). Its population, as per 2011 census, is 12,267,013 residing in 6,652 villages and 3,947 towns providing a density of 290 persons per sq. kms. Villages in the Union Territory are scattered and small. In the Union Territory, the Scheduled Tribe population constitute about 11.9 per cent and the Scheduled Caste population constitute 7.38 per cent of the total population of the Jammu and Kashmir. Scheduled Tribes are concentrated in tribal districts of Poonch and Rajouri, Reasi and Pir Panjal districts of Doda and Kishtwar. For administrative purposes and implementation of development programmes, Jammu and Kashmir is divided into 20 districts, 44 Community Development Blocks. In addition, 3,700 elected Gram Panchayats are taking active part in implementing rural development programmes. The prevalence of poverty in the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir is inferior to national average. Based on the latest estimates of percentage of people below the poverty line for 2011-2012, it was 10.35% as against the all- India average of 21.9%. In rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir, 11.54% persons were living below the poverty line against 25.7% for rural India. The incidence of poverty in urban areas of the Jammu and Kashmir was only 7.20% as against 13.7 % urban population of India below the poverty line (https://www.tribuneindia.com).

The Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir lies spatially between the geo-coordinates of 33º 23′ 04.62″ to 34º 12′ 27.18″ N latitude and 74º 15′ 43.32″- 75º 29′ 01.32″ E longitude (Yadav et al., 2016) with a total area of 42,241 sq. km. As the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir is the meeting point of some powers of the world and occupies a unique position in the political geography of India. The temperature of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir varies from one season to another season throughout the year (Hussain, 2016). The Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir has swelling topography with different practices and skills of the people to get their livelihood. Agriculture sector and other allied sectors plays a vital role for the socio-economic development of Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir. In the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir around 70% population gets their occupation directly or indirectly from the agriculture and other allied sectors (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Annual report, 2016-2017). The main growing crop of Kashmir valley is Paddy followed by maize, vegetables, fodder, wheat, oilseeds and pulses. The main growing crop of Jammu Division is wheat followed by maize, oilseeds, fodder, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and other crops. The nature of Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir is basically agrarian and is a mono cropped land area. Agriculture is the main source of economy. The contribution of agriculture sector in the Union Territory's GDP is gradually declining and is still considered a largest economic sector which acts a vital role in the overall socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. Agriculture development is very essential for the inclusive growth because this sector alone sustains the livelihood of about 70 % of population of the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir. Agriculture sector alone contributes about 14.85 % to the GDP of Jammu and Kashmir. The low contribution of GDP is due to the reason that the production of our agricultural crops is very inefficient as against to other states and rest of the country (J&K, Economic survey, 2014-2015). The deficit of technology and modern machinery is another cause of low agricultural output of major crops of the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir (Rubeenah and Rekha, 2015). The Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir has a diverse agro climatic circumstances which are adequate for growing

horticultural and agricultural crops. Irrigation facilities and fertile soils are the vital input for the development of agricultural and horticultural sectors in the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir. The world's high quality saffron and black zeera are cultivated in the Kashmir province and has an international identity (Department of Horticulture. J&K, Srinagar, 2019-20).

Research Methodology

The present study is based on secondary data. The data is collected from text books, newspapers, articles, journals, periodicals, publications, web sites, Government official records, economic survey, statistical digest, statistical handbook district Shopian 2019-2020 etc.

Study Area

The researcher selects district Shopian as the study area in the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir. District Shopian is a newly created district that came into existence after being carved out from district Pulwama. It was earlier known as 'Sheen-e-van' meaning 'forest of snow'. Frederic Drew, while justifying the basis of its nomenclature, states that it is the distortion of word "SHAHPAYAN" meaning 'Royal Stay' (Executive Summary, District Profile Shopian). Recently, the historians have found the etymology of this historical town from the Persian word shahpayan where 'shah' means 'Emperor' and 'payan' means 'stop-over' as it was the abode where different emperors especially Mughals used to take rest after coming from a chaotic journey through the Pir Panjal Range. Shopian, a historical town has gained its importance from the period of Mughal rulers. From the period 1872-1892 A.D. there were six Wazarat Headquarters in Kashmir and Shopian was one among them. Total geographical area of district Shopian is about 852 sq. kms comprising of 229 villages with a total population of 2.66 lac as per census 2011. The district is geo-coordinated between 33°29' to 33°50' North latitude and 74°32' to 75°5' East longitude with an average height of 3042 meters amsl. It is situated towards southwest of summer capital of J&K Union Territory, Srinagar, at a distance of 51 km. The district is flanked by District Budgam in northeast, District Pulwama in north, District Anantnag in east and District Kulgam in southwest. The vast Pir Panjal Range divorces district Shopian from district Poonch and district Rajouri. District Shopian is connected with its neighbouring districts and other places of Kashmir Valley by all-weather motorable roads. It has eras of old road connectivity with district Anantnag and with district Kulgam. District Shopian as an earliest Town of Kashmir possesses historical importance, since this town is situated on the ancient imperial road usually known as Mughal Road, which interlinked Lahore with Srinagar. Currently under construction Mughal Road links District Shopian with districts Rajouri and district Poonch (District Census Handbook Shopian, 2011).

Location Map of District Shopian

The district is known as Apple Bowl of Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir as it produces about 2.0 lakh Metric Tonnes of apples annually. Agricultural activities are the main features of district Shopian. The most important part of the cultivable land in this district is under orchards. Agriculture plays an important role to provide food and livelihood to a large percentage of population involved in this sector directly or indirectly. The principal crop grown in the district Shopian is Rice, followed by maize, pulses, vegetables and fodder, potato and oil seeds (Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare District Shopian). Plantation of medicinal plants, willows, popular and keeker also contributes in the economic development. More than 80 % agricultural land in the district has been diverted to horticultural land leaving only about 15-20 % land under agricultural purposes. The total cultivated area of district is 21597 hectares out of which 18392 hectares are under irrigated area and 19542 are under remaining sown area (Fig. 1).

The Table 1 provides information regarding the land area under different crops in district Shopian. Table 1 depicts the data under different crops in district Shopian of Jammu and Kashmir. The total area for the year 2010-11 for different cops was 24627 hectares. Out of which 556 hectares was under paddy cultivation, 1479 hectares under maize, 206 hectares under pulses, 18500 hectares under fruits and vegetables, 556 hectares under oilseeds, 3828 hectares of cultivable land was under fodder and only 3 hectares of land was under wheat cultivation. The size of land shows a slight change with the advancement of new scientific tools and techniques in the agriculture field. The total land area under crops increases from 24627 hectares to 25531 hectares during the year 2020-21. The areas under paddy cultivation increases from 556 hectares to 560 hectares. Area under maize cultivation shows a slight increase of 1 hectare land from 2010-11 to 2020-21. Similarly, area under pulses increases from 206 hectares to 210 hectares. Area under fruits and vegetables also increases and reaches from 18500 hectares to 18896 hectares during a decade and area under fodder increases from 3828 to 3835 hectares. While as the area under wheat cultivation shows a negative trend and reaches to zero hectares from 3 hectares of land. The area under oilseeds shows also a slight negative trend and reaches 550 hectares from 556 hectares of land.

The Table 2 shows the food grain production in district Shopian for the year 2019-20. The production of maize 62269 quintals is the highest in the district. Followed by paddy 36557 quintals and the least production 2310 quintals is of pulses. The production of wheat and cereals are zero quintals for the year 2019-20. Thus maize ranks first, paddy second and pulses third in terms of food grains production in the district.

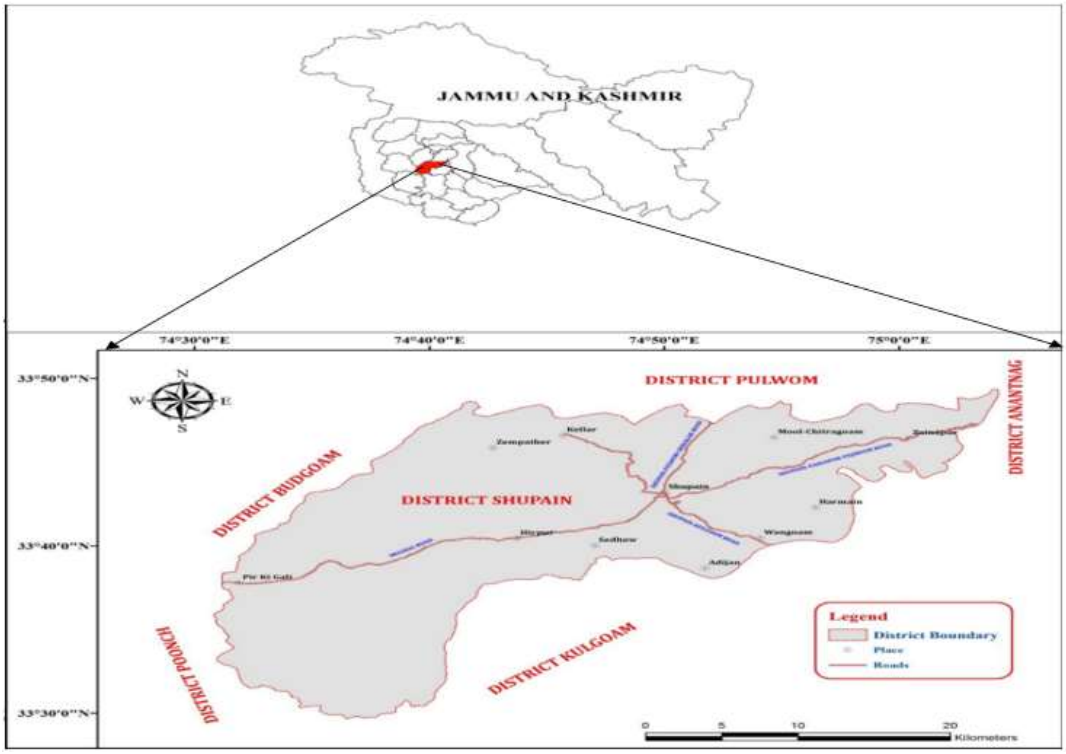

Fig. 1: Location map of Shopian district. [**Source:** Geology and Mining Department, Srinagar]

Table1: Area under different crops in district Shopian (Area in Hectares)

Year	Paddy	Maize	Wheat	Pulses	Fruits & Vegetables	0ilseeds	Fodder	Total
2010-11	556	1479	3	206	18500	556	3828	24627
2011-12	556	1479	3	206	18500	556	3828	24627
2012-13	556	1479	3	206	18500	556	3828	24627
2013-14	556	1479	3	206	18500	556	3828	24627
2014-15	556	1479	3	206	18500	556	3828	24627
2015-16	560	1480	0	210	18575	550	3828	25203
2016-17	560	1480	0	210	18575	550	3828	25203
2017-18	560	1480	0	210	18896	550	3835	25531
2018-19	560	1480	0	210	18896	550	3835	25531
2019-20	560	1480	0	210	18896	550	3835	25531
2020-21	560	1480	0	210	18896	550	3835	25531

Source: Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian

Table 2: Production of food grains (in quintals)

Year	Paddy	Maize	Wheat	Cereals	Pulses	Total Food Grain
2019-20	36557	62269	0	0	2310	101136

Source: Statistical Handbook district Shopian

Table 3: Area under high yielding variety programme (area in hectares)

Year	Paddy	Maize	Others	Total
2019-20	556	1479	4754	6789

Source: Statistical Handbook district Shopian

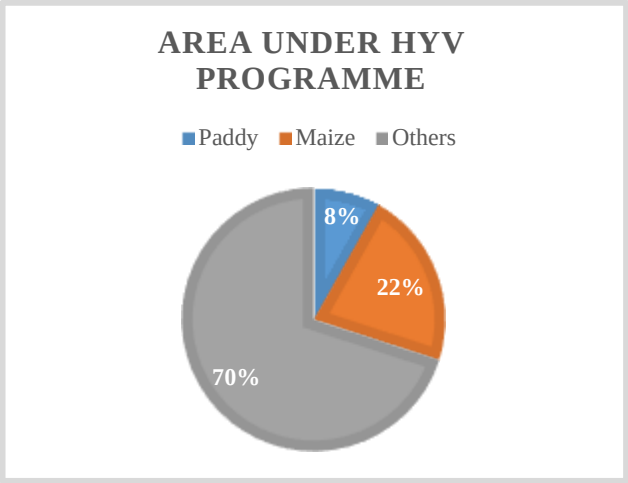

Fig. 2: Percentage share of high yielding variety food grain crops in district Shopian for the year 2019-20. Source: Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian

The Table 3 shows that total area under high yielding variety programme in district Shopian for the year 2019-20 was 6789 hectares. Out of which 556 (8%) hectares of land was under paddy, 1479 (22%) hectares of land was under maize and 4754 (70%) hectares of land was under other cultivation for food grain crops (Fig.2).

Agriculture Related Centrally Sponsored Schemes in District Shopian

1. ***National Food Security Mission (NFSM):*** This scheme was launched by central government in order to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses. The production of yield was increased by expanding area in a sustainable manner in a few identified districts of the country. The soil fertility and productivity were restoring at individual farm level by applying new methods and techniques to improve the income level of farmers which acts as a stimulant to create new job opportunities for rural people to enhance the living standard of people. The main objective of the scheme to increase the overall production would remain continue during 12th plan which has target of additional production of 25 million tons of food grains comprising 10 million tons of rice, 8 million tons of oil seeds, 4 million tons of pulses and 3 million tons of coarse cereals.

2. ***National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA):*** The main purpose of this scheme is to make agriculture more sustainable, productive and climatic robust by developing composite and integrated agricultural farm systems. The natural resources are brought under sustainable control. The conservation of soil and efficient water management practices are the controlling factors that are helpful to boost the agricultural sector to stream line the living standard of people on modern style who are directly and indirectly involved with this sector. The soil test based on macro and micro nutrients, soil health management practices based on soil fertility and the judicious use of fertilizers are the other measures which are used to expand coverage area for achieving better yield production. The pilot models are used in the selected blocks to improve the agricultural production in the rain fed farming areas by rain fed technologies.

3. ***National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET):*** The main aim of this scheme is to strengthening the extension machinery and utilizing it for the improvement of agricultural outputs under the umbrella of Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA). Agricultural technology includes the promotion of inputs and improved agronomic practices under the 17 different schemes of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the 11th five-year plan to envisage the farmer's wellbeing through the amalgamation of these schemes. This scheme consists of four Sub Missions:

   (i) Sub Mission on Agricultural Extension (SAME)
   (ii) Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM)
   (iii) Sub Mission on Seed and Planting Material (SMSP)
   (iv) Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine.

4. ***Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):*** This scheme is implemented by central government in order to promote better growth of horticulture sector. The strategies that are used to develop the horticultural sector includes technology promotion, research and post-harvest management, processing and marketing with the diverse agro-climatic features. The development process usually takes place in fruits, mushrooms, vegetables, spices, tuber crops, aromatic plants, flowers and plantation crops like coconut, cashew nut, areca nut, bamboo and cocoa. This scheme enhances horticulture production, increases income level of the farmers and

strengthen nutritional security of the general masses. It improves horticultural productivity by use of quality germplasm and by the use of efficiency water through micro irrigation canals and pumps. The scheme contributes much to enhance skill development among youth and provide employment opportunities to rural youth in the horticulture sector.

5. ***Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY):*** The purpose of this scheme is to achieve the sustaining annual growth rate of agricultural development and its allied sectors during the 12th five year plan period. The objective of this scheme is to enhance the public investment in the agriculture and allied sectors. This scheme provides autonomy and flexibility for the development plan of agriculture and allied sectors. This scheme is implemented to reduce the yield gap among different crops and to minimize the returns of the farmers in the agricultural sector.

6. ***Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY):*** This is a centrally sponsored scheme which is used to increase the agricultural production and productivity in order to increase the income level of farmers. The broad objectives of this scheme like social, technical and economic include the convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level to expand cultivable land area under the assured irrigation supply. The efficient use of water resource through appropriate technologies to reduce wastage and increase availability of food production to improve the living standard of life. The recharge of aquifers enhances the sustainable conservation to promote rain-fed development areas from ground water which support extension of agriculture.

The Table 4 depicts the number of beneficiaries under different agricultural sponsored schemes in district Shopian.

The Table 4 shows the number of beneficiaries under different centrally sponsored agricultural programmes to eradicate the poverty from the district. The agricultural farmers are provided tool kits, tractors, poly green houses and other facilities to increase the production of food grains. Training camps are conducted by the district administrative authority to train the farmers with modern techniques of farming. The table shows that 80 farmers were benefited during the year 2017-18. In the year 2018-19 the number rose to 805. Similarly, 2645 farmers were benefited in the year 2019-20 and 2767 farmers were benefited during the year 2020-21.

Table 4: Agriculture sponsored schemes and number of beneficiaries

Activity	**No. of Beneficiaries**			
	2017-18	**2018-19**	**2019-20**	**2020-21**
Weeder	01	09	41	03
Motorizing Vending Cart	07	08	06	06
Deep Bore Well	01	01	06	02
Tractor	03	06	03	06
Power Tiller	10	15	08	14
I.P Set	36	50	62	30
Brush Cutter	12	21	135	06
Water Harvest Tank	04	05	0	0
Vermi Compost	03	04	0	0
Apiculture Demonstraion Centre	01	0	0	0
Strengthing of Soil Testing Lab	01	01	0	0
Storage of Seed godown	01	01	01	0
Shallow Tube Well	0	11	16	16
Exhibition cum Kissan Malla	0	01	0	0
Training of Farmers	0	672	48	0
Power Sprayer	0	0	14	05
Manual Vending Cart	0	0	124	144
Hi-Tech Poly Green House	0	0	01	0
Mushroom Cultivation	0	0	29	37
Plastic Crates	0	0	1520	2000
Tool Kits	0	0	217	16
Poly Green House	0	0	414	470
Ponds	0	0	0	09
Custom Hiring Centers	0	0	0	02
Farm Machinery Banks	0	0	0	01
Total	80	805	2645	2767

Source: Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian

Table 5: Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Component	Budget Allocation (in Lakhs)	Expenditure (in Lakhs)
Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY)	12.66	6.42
Mission for Integrated Development Horticulture (MIDH)	10.68	8.51
National Food Security Mission (NFSM)	3.33	2.91
Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY)	2.00	2.00
National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)	10.58	4.42
National Mission on Agriculture Extension and Technology (NMAET)	2.70	1.05
Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA)	11.86	6.27
Capex Budget (state)	113.09	106.84
Total	166.90	139.24

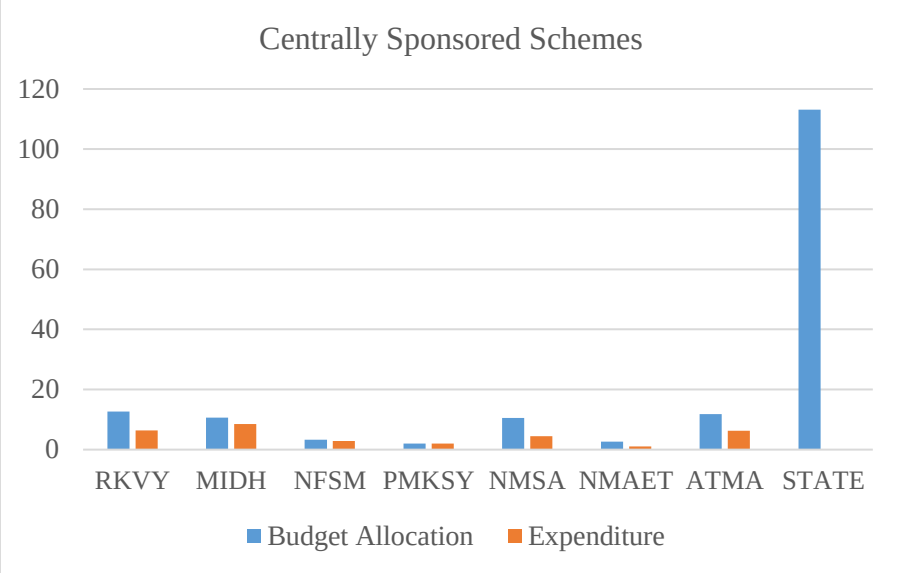

Fig. 3: Budget allocation and expenditures of centrally sponsored schemes of Shopian district. [Source: Chief Agriculture Officer Shopian]

The Table 5 depicts the total figure of budget allocation and expenditure of centrally sponsored agricultural programmes for the year 2019-20 of district Shopian in Jammu and Kashmir (Fig. 3). The total budget allocation was Rs.166.90 lakhs. Out of which Rs.139.24 lakhs were spent to boost the agriculture sector in the district Shopian. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY) covers Rs.2.00 lakh the lowest budget but sent percent expenditure among all the schemes. Similarly Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) covers the budget allocation of Rs.12.66 and the expenditure of Rs.6.42 lakhs. The capex state budget allocation figure is the highest Rs.113.09 lakhs which shows the expenditure of Rs.106.84 lakhs for the year 2019-20.

Conclusion

The Indian population mostly lived in rural areas. The 70% of Indian population is wholly and solly dependent on agriculture sector. In rural population almost 80% depends on agriculture sector being small and marginal farmers (Jalan, 1992). Thus, development of rural population mostly depends on agricultural sector. The Government of India, since independence focused on agricultural development which is prevalent by the fact that in the first five year plan (1951-1956) priority was given to agriculture sector. The central as well as the state Governments from time to time implemented many poverty alleviation programmes in order to improve the quality of life and socio-economic development of rural masses up to till date. The research

highlighted various schemes and their role to improve the socio-economic conditions of rural people. High Yielding Variety of seeds, skill development programmes and training awareness programmes and new irrigational facility schemes were launched, even KCC loans were provided to farmers to eradicate their poverty level, to improve their socio-economic conditions and quality of life. The Department of Agriculture Kashmir, under the guidance of Director Agriculture Kashmir started to develop Kitchen Garden during the year 2019-2020 under the umbrella of Capex Budget, encouraged the rural women to form self-help groups to empower themselves to modify their socio-economic conditions. The department of Agriculture District Shopian also made self-help groups and imparting training to the rural women for their skill development. The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kashmir has developed the initiative to grow the packed mushroom sacks as their source of income. Sericulture, apiculture, horticulture and floriculture like practices were given keen attention to develop them in such a way to act as a source of income to increase the income level of farmers and improve their socio-economic conditions. The central and the state sponsored schemes significantly helped in the development of rural people.

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