



## THE ECONOMICS OF TUR CULTIVATION

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### ABSTRACT:

*An explicit earmarking of land for tur cultivation has the special feature of large no. of farmers in Gulbarga district in otherwards year after year the land is meant only for cultivation of a single crop i.e. tur by the farmers of our sample. The basic economic aspect of tur cultivation and attendant problems need a brief recapitulation. These include from the top to bottom analytical aspects such as rainfall, traditional method of cultivation, seeds, amount of fertilizer used, loss of crop, self consumption, markable surplus, problems regarding crop failure, amount of compensation received, opinion regarding compensation received, insufficient compensation, inconvenience of compensation received, cost of cultivation and profitability.*

**KEY WORDS:** tur cultivation, Crop Failure.

### INTRODUCTION:

The seasonal fluctuations timing and quantity of rainfall rainy days all of them play an important role specially in the cultivation of tur. It is of paramount importance that the tur cultivation has to be necessarily dry cultivation. In other words it cannot be cultivated with the help of irrigation. It is grown in non-irrigatable land only. It could be seen from Table 1 that there are wide fluctuations in the actual rainfall in Gulbarga district.



**Table – 1**  
**Differences in Actual rainfall 1995-96 to 1999-2000\***

Year	Actual rain fall (in mm)	Percentage b	Percentage c	Difference
1997-98	639	1-41.2	-41.2	0
1998-99	1059	60.3	85.2	-24.9
1999-2000	637	-66.2	-41.6	-24.6

Note: Normal rain fall is 777 mm in the Gulbarga district for all the years.

- a) For this 1996-97 actual rain fall of 902 used as the base for measuring change.
- b) Under this 902= 100 has been considered.
- c) The ideal quantity for tur cultivation is between 700 to 800 mm.

But since we concentrate on 3 years the percentage changes in actual rainfall only has been considered here. It is to be noted that, during the year there has been declining rainfall by -41.2%, there has been an increase by 60.3% and during 1999-2000 there has been decline by -66.2. Therefore we will find that there has been serious fluctuations in the rainfall resulting in the fluctuation in tur production. If the year 1998-1999 reduced the production due to more rainfall the 1997-1998 and 1999-2000 reduced due to decline in rain fall. If we measure the change taking 1995-96 the base it could be found that there has been excess rainfall of 82.2 per cent hence resulting in entire crop failure. Thus it may be reasonable to assume tur production is a function of difference in actual rainfall. Therefore, it may be argued that the excess rainfall is more dangerous than decline in rainfall. Because some output the farmers can harvest even if there is short fall in the rainfall. Therefore, the government has to inform the farmers will in advance about the timing of sowing, growing and harvesting conditions to the farmers with the knowledge of actual rainfall.

Besides rainfall the type of seed to be used for cultivation in Gulbarga has to be looked upon seriously. The field study suggested that farmers have no knowledge of suitable type of seed that they should use of for sowing. Therefore, the agricultural extension department of the government should make an in depth study of soil quantity so as to guide the farmers to use any of the P.T 221, G.S -1, K.S.T (Maruti), I.C.P.C – 87, T.S – 3, I.C.P.L – 87. It is more serious to remember that though in the given black cotton soil, there are differences in fertility in different areas of the district.

There is a wrong notion with tur cultivators that if more fertilizer is used it is possible to get more yield. However if we consider the quantum of rainfall and quantity of fertilizer to be used their appears to be wide difference largely governed by the ignorance of the farmers. Therefore experts guidance for using quantity of fertilizer along with rainfall is necessary for the farmers. There is great misconception with the farmers that pure tur cultivation alone can fetch more yield. But a mixed and multiple cropping system would help increase tur production. Therefore, the government induce the farmers in this respect in a more serious manner. To say in a nutshell the production method of tur cultivation should be given a halt.

The year 1998-1999 had been rainfall and environmental hazard for tur cultivators. There was crop failure due to heavy rainfall and together the crop was destructed due to the insecticides. Therefore, farmers used heavy quantity of pesticides and were unable to harvest tur even in terms of kgs, not to speak of quintals. This enables us to conclude that if there is a bit of short fall in the rainfall there will be tur production but heavy rainfall will lead to entire crop failure.

The small farmers with the kind holding size 5-10 acres with more no. of family members have greater quantity of captive consumption of tur dal. Therefore, there is not much of marketable surplus with such

farmers. Therefore, to generate in marketable they have to have less captive consumption. This is possible only if multiple of mixed cropping pattern is to be adopted by them.

It is noted from Table 2 that, during 1998-1999, 200 farmers face the problems of crop failure, and in 2000, 40 family face crop failure problem. There was cent per cent crop failure during 1998-1999 and 30 percent and 20 percent of farmers experienced crop failure during the year 1999-2000 respectively.

**Table – 2**  
**Crop Failure**

Year	No of farmers	Percentage
1998	200	100
1999	60	30
2000	40	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>150</b>

Source: Field Survey

It was reported that many of the farmers suffered great shock during the year 1998-99. And some of the farmers being in heavy debt sold their lands.

Keeping in mind the cent percent crop failure during 1998-1999. The Government of Karnataka initiated the provision of providing compensation to the farmer who have experienced of crop failure. The following table – 3 provides information regards the crop failure.

**Table – 3**  
**Amount of Compensation received (1998-99)**

Compensation range	No of farmers	Percentage
Rs. 200 to 1000	42	21.0
Rs. 1000 to 2000	55	27.5
Rs. 2000 to 3000	70	35.0
Rs. 3000 & above	33	16.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Field survey

For Example, during the year 1998-1999, 200 farmers experienced the crop failure, i.e our entire sample size farmers. 42 farmers have received Rs. 200 to 1000, 55 farmers Rs. 1000 to 2000, 70 farmers Rs. 2000 to 3000 and 33 farmers Rs. 3000 and above.

The amount of compensation received different consideration among the sample cultivators of our study. The following table – 4 provides information in this regard.

**Table – 4**  
**Opinion regarding compensation received**

Opinion	No of farmers	Percentage
Sufficient	7	3.5
Non-sufficient	193	96.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>100</b>

For example, there are 7 farmers satisfied by the compensation received by the government for crop failure and 193 farmers are not satisfied by this compensation and their percentages are 3.5% & 96.5% are respectively.

The calculation of compensation also had not of difficulties. The village accounts were treated as competent persons to determine the size of land in which the tur is cultivated by farmers. This gave rise to many misrepresentations, miscalculations and wrong payment of compensation. The compensation amount was not released in time, this gave an opportunity to take advantage for corruption both by farmers and village accountants.

Therefore, our field of study of sample tur cultivating 200 farmers households have been of the opinion that there should be minimum support price similar to other crops has to be provided by the government. Besides the government should purchase surplus quantity at an appropriate price which will enable the farmers, if not to make profit but to meet the cost of cultivation.

#### TESTING OF HYPOTHESIS

The tur cultivation in Gulbarga district has been on the decline.

It may be observed from above, that there has been a steady decline in the cultivation of tur crop cultivation in Gulbarga district. The following Table 1 provides the statistical evidence of positive proof of this hypothesis.

**Table – 1**  
**Area under Tur Cultivation**

Year	Karnataka		Gulbarga	
	Area	Index	Area	Index
1990-91	462.6	-	250872	-
1991-92	502.8	109.0	308830	123.0
1992-93	450.4	97.0	236066	94.0
1993-94	360.8	70.0	166954	66.0
1994-95	301.9	65.0	120784	48.0
1995-96	423.9	92.0	227003	90.0
1996-97	445.4	96.0	231370	92.0
1997-98	421.0	91.0	238994	95.0

Source: Vikas Singhal for Indian Economic Data Research centre, New Delhi Indian agriculture, 1999.

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## CONCLUSION

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These include from the top to bottom analytical aspects such as rainfall, traditional method of cultivation, seeds, amount of fertilizer used, loss of crop, self consumption, markable surplus, problems regarding crop failure, amount of compensation received, opinion regarding compensation received, insufficient compensation, inconvenience of compensation received, cost of cultivation and profitability.

If the year 1998-1999 reduced the production due to more rainfall the 1997-1998 and 1999-2000 reduced due to decline in rain fall. If we measure the change taking 1995-96 the base it could be found that there has been excess rainfall of 82.2 per cent hence resulting in entire crop failure.

This enables us to conclude that if there is a bit of short fall in the rainfall there will be tur production but heavy rainfall will lead to entire crop failure.

There was cent per cent crop failure during 1998-1999 and 30 percent and 20 percent of farmers experienced crop failure during the year 1999-2000 respectively.

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