

cultivation practices, higher productivity of crops, better quality, higher prices for output, scientific methods of rearing animals, higher yield, prices, and, consequently higher value of output from animals, etc. Various types of inputs and extension services provided by agri-ventures to their beneficiaries worked as catalyst in augmenting their income. Although the beneficiaries of ACABC scheme did benefit from the services in terms of suitable extension services and also with respect to purchase of inputs at reasonable prices, the non-beneficiaries in this respect depended on *Krishi Seva Kendras* or other sources for purchase of inputs and other extension services, and they also showed concern for the delay in the availability of fertiliser and scarcity of water, which caused low yield. As for functioning of scheme, there is still a need for the ACABCs to increase their outreach so that more farmers can have access to their services and benefit from higher farm productivity and income. Besides, easy access to loans is also suggested so that more agri-clinics/ventures may be established.

### **Agricultural Marketing Information: A Potential Input for Improving Marketing System in Meghalaya**

**Lakshmi Dhar Hatai<sup>†</sup>**

Agricultural marketing information to farmers is a potential input for increasing productivity and boosting agricultural growth in hilly regions of Meghalaya. An attempt has been made to identify the various patterns of awareness, sources, utilisation benefits, and the constraints of agricultural marketing information (AMI) among different categories of farmers in the study area of two regulated markets, namely, Mawiong Regulated Market in Myllem Block of East Khasi Hills and Garobadha Regulated Market in Selsella Block of West Garo Hills district. The sample size consisted of 120 farmers from both selected regulated market areas selected for the study based on purposive and random sampling technique. The findings of the research study indicated that that in case of large category of sample farmers, the extent of awareness on arrivals, prices in local markets and other markets, quality/grade of produce required, post-harvest handling of agricultural produce was found to be higher than small and medium size farmers. The extent of utilisation of agricultural market information by different categories of sample farmers in decision making on production, selling and post-harvest handling. It was observed that the sources of agricultural market information at household level were radio, newspaper and television for small farmers. At the market level, commission agents were most predominant sources of AMI for all categories of farmers. It was observed that farmers had faced difficulty in accessing the AMI. Therefore proper integration of various agencies for adequate and efficient dissemination of vital

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agricultural marketing information is required for the farming community in hilly regions of Meghalaya.

### **Crop Insurance in Gujarat: Role of Socio-Economic Factors**

**Shiv Raj Singh\***

The study has focused on the estimation of crop insurance across crops, magnitude and reasons for crop losses along with constraints faced by the farmers in crop insurance and determinants of crop insurance. The study pointed out that in *kharif* season farmers realised higher losses as compared to *rabi* season. The logit model was used for binary response analysis of farmers opting for crop insurance. The results showed that majority of the marginal landholding farmers did not opt for crop insurance. Social forwardness (other than ST, SC and OBC) directly affects the use of crop insurance. Irrigated land holding size negatively influenced the crop insurance use by the farmers. Farmers whose primary occupation is crop production opted for crop insurance. The average total income of those farmers were Rs.26,160 per month in which the average income from crop production was Rs. 12,851 per month. The farmers who derive more income from wages and salaries and off farm business did not opt for crop insurance. The average income of those farmers were Rs. 15,888 per month in which the highest contribution was from off farm income. Higher crop value loss realisation positively link with the use of crop insurance at the farmer level. To achieve the desired results from new Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) there is a need for crop insurance campaign with focus on sensitising the farmers about the realised crop losses in crop production, which are covered in PMFBY.

### **Inputs Delivery System under Contract Farming in Western Maharashtra**

**M.N. Waghmare, Y.C. Sale and G.K. Sasane†**

The paper aims at analysing production-related aspects of broiler farming under contract and independent management, and examining inputs purchase and output sale arrangements and constraints in it. About two-thirds of the contracts are of long duration of three years, and the remaining are of two years or eleven months. Surprisingly, none of the contract farmers possesses a copy of the agreement with him. The average net return per kg of live weight as well as per bird has been found higher in non-contract than contract farmers. The average net returns per bird

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