



Case Study: 1

In the Fields of Uncertainty: Unravelling the Social Threads of Farmers' Strategies in High-Risk Crop Cultivation and Livestock Farming

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SOCIAL CENTRE
Renewing Lands and Lives

Case Study : Rural Immersion

In the Fields of Uncertainty: Unravelling the Social Threads of Farmers' Strategies in High-Risk Crop Cultivation and Livestock Farming

In the quaint village of Hivare Korda nestled in the heart of Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra, a story of two contrasting agricultural paths unfolds.

Ramdas, a seasoned farmer, has always been drawn to high-risk, high-reward crops. He's put his heart, soul, and savings into cultivating cash crops, such as cotton and sugarcane, which have the potential for significant profits but are vulnerable to market price fluctuations. It's a risky proposition, akin to a rollercoaster ride through the seasons, where fortunes can be made or lost with each price swing.

On the other side of the village, there's Suresh, a farmer who has chosen the path of stability and consistency. He dedicates his fields to crops like maize and sorghum, primarily used as feed for his cows and hens. This choice offers a steady source of income from milk and hen eggs, providing financial security year-round. Suresh's approach minimizes financial risks but also limits the potential for substantial profits.



As the seasons come and go, the story of Hivare Korda's farmers unfolds, their choices symbolizing a timeless conundrum faced by farmers everywhere. The case study of Hivare Korda explores how these choices impact their livelihoods, their families, and the village's future. In this captivating narrative, we'll delve into the lives of Ramdas and Suresh, their successes, challenges, and the intricate web of financial decisions woven into the agricultural tapestry of Hivare Korda.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Drought-Prone Area Programme in Ahmednagar

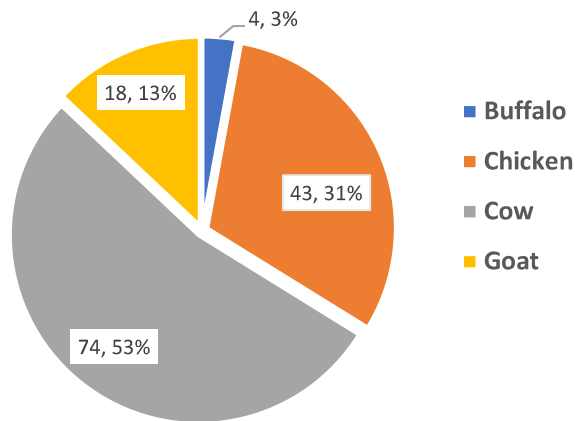
Madhusudan Dattatraya Sathe

Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 22, No. 36/37 (Sep. 5-12, 1987), pp. 1533-1537 (5 pages)

- The World Bank had aided the government in a programme called Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) which was designed around the theme of watershed development in order to overcome the condition of drought arising out of deficient and erratic rainfall. The major components of the programmes were: (1) Fisheries development, (2) forestry and plantation schemes, (3) animal husbandry schemes, and (4) dairy schemes.
- One of the DPAP's objectives was "raising the economic status of the poorer section of rural population through supplementary occupation like dairy, forestry, etc". This objective was further modified in 1982-83 on recommendation of Swaminathan committee report as a result of which livestock development included the development of pasture and fodder resource.
- From the data of the sample of 64 families from different Taluka the following observations have been made: All landless and those with one ha of landholding are purchasing fodder from outside. Families with landholding in the range of one ha to three ha are distributed in all the three groups and about 53 per cent use fodder from both the sources of own farm and market purchase. Most families with landholding above one ha use fodder from their own farm in Parner taluka whereas there are 6.5 per cent of families in Ahmednagar block in doing that. Out of 64 sample families only 22 per cent use fodder from their own farm and 34 per cent use fodder from market purchases. The remaining 44 per cent obtain fodder from both the sources. From the above statistics and observations it appears that if there is some domestic source of fodder dairy project becomes profitable even if fodder has to be purchased partially from market source
- On the basis of sample survey we have estimated gross family income of those sample households engaged in dairy schemes at Rs 7,000 per annum. This is on the higher side of estimated average income of those engaged in irrigated farming which is around Rs 5,000 per annum.

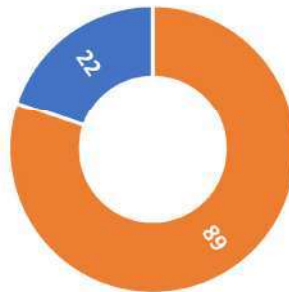
VISUALISATION:

Diary Animal Division across 89 Households

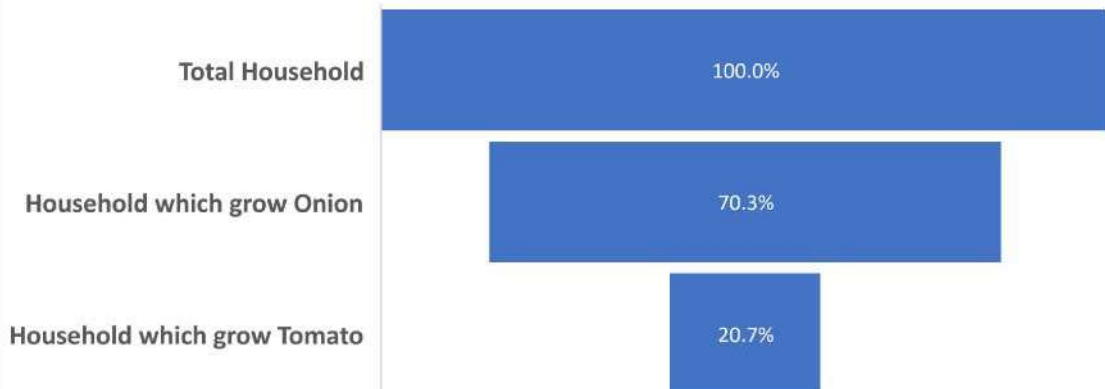


Total Household Division on Diary Animal

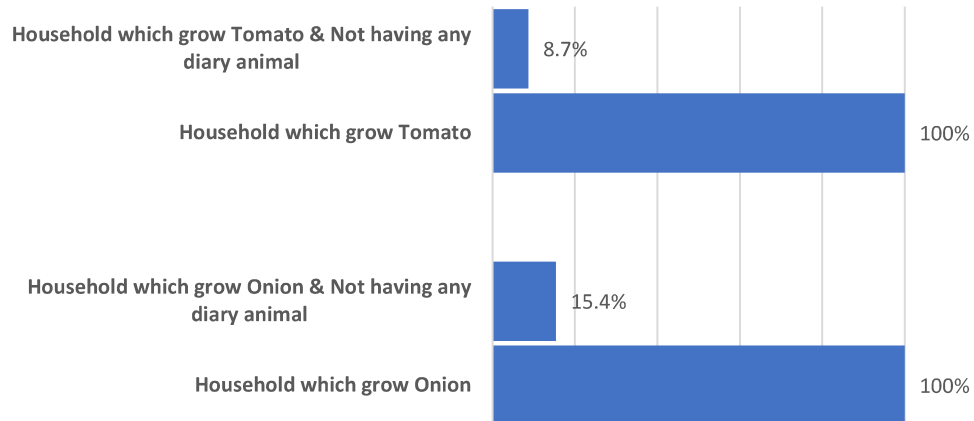
- Household Not having any diary animal
- Household Having atleast 1 diary animal



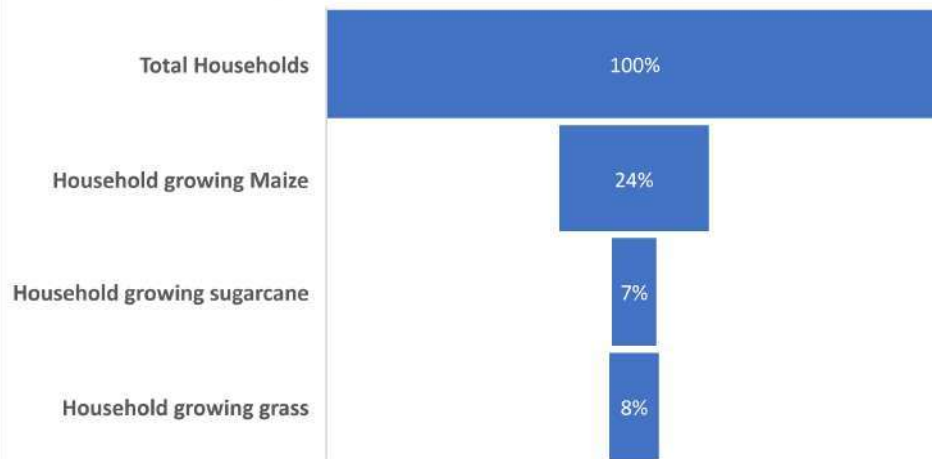
Production Penetration of Onion & Tomato



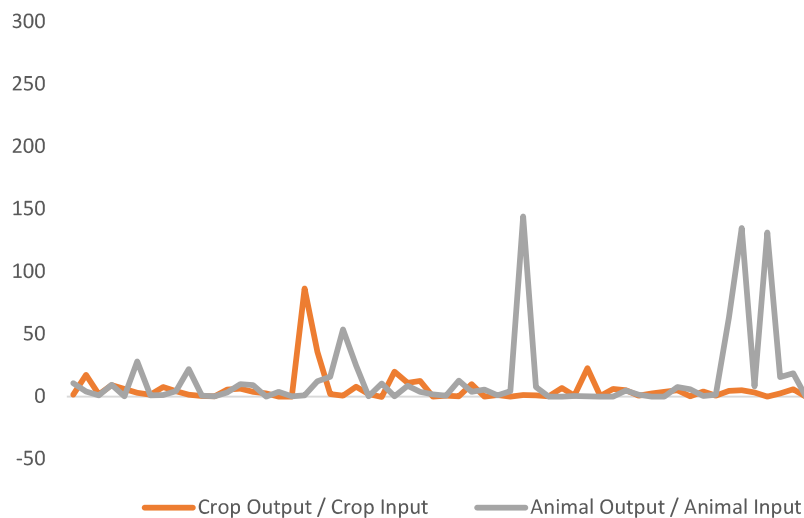
Cultivation of Onion & Tomato with Diary Farming

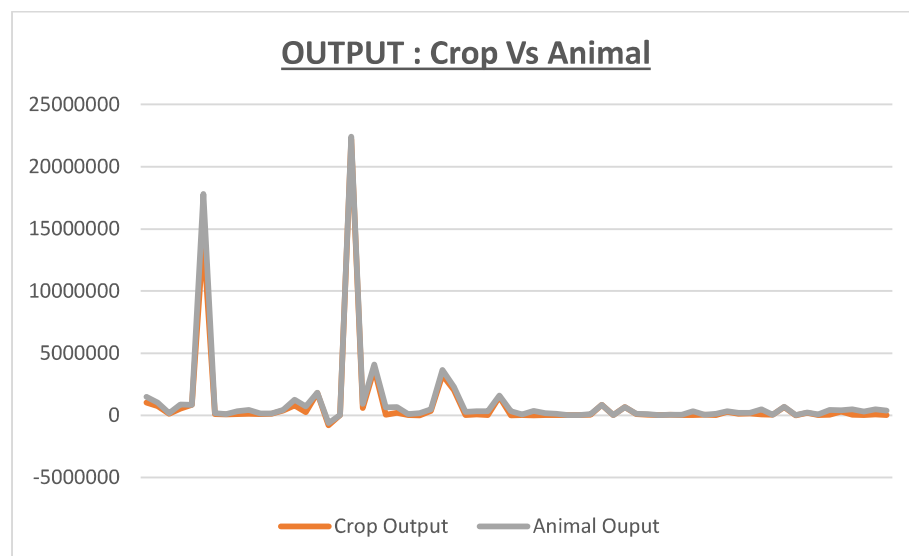
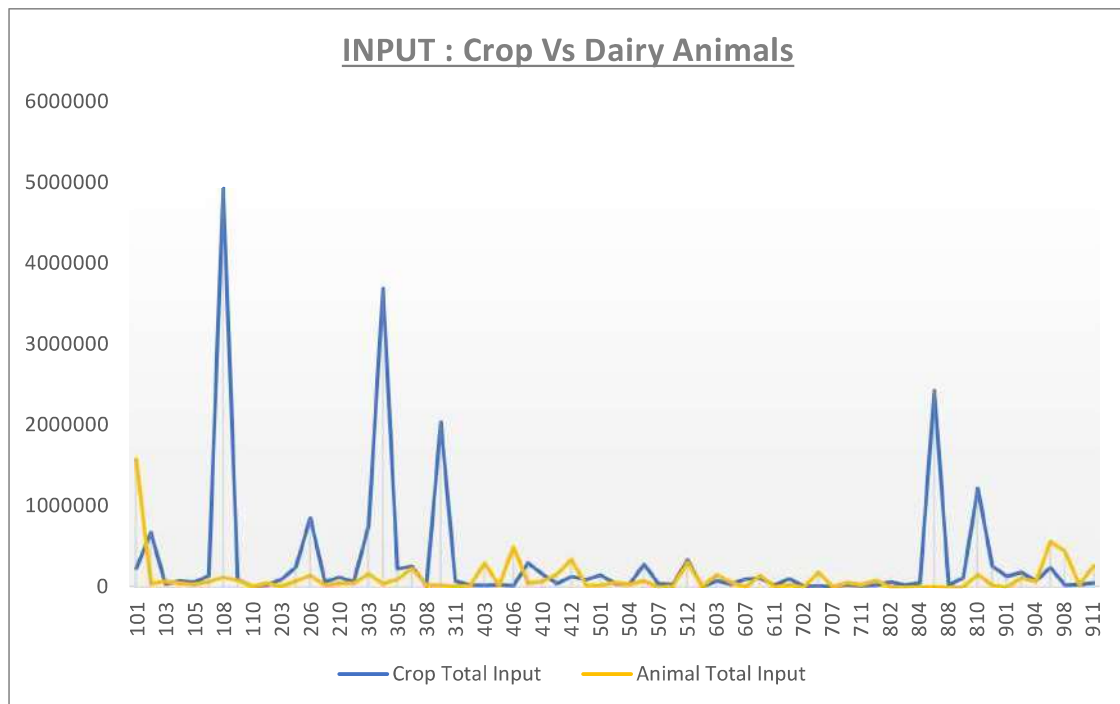


Household Growing Fodder



Dairy Farming Vs Crop Cultivation





Data Insights

Investment in crop material has a wide range, with a mean of approximately 288,975 and a large standard deviation, indicating significant variability.

Similar to crop material input, there is a wide range and high variability in general crop investments.

The land area ranges from 2.5 to 80 acres, with an average of around 16.3 acres.

The area used to grow onion and tomato also varies widely, with a mean of 7.09 acres.

The ratio of the area used for growing crops to total land area has a mean of 0.388, suggesting that on average, around 38.8% of the land is used for growing crops.

There is a wide range of input material used for growing onion and tomato.

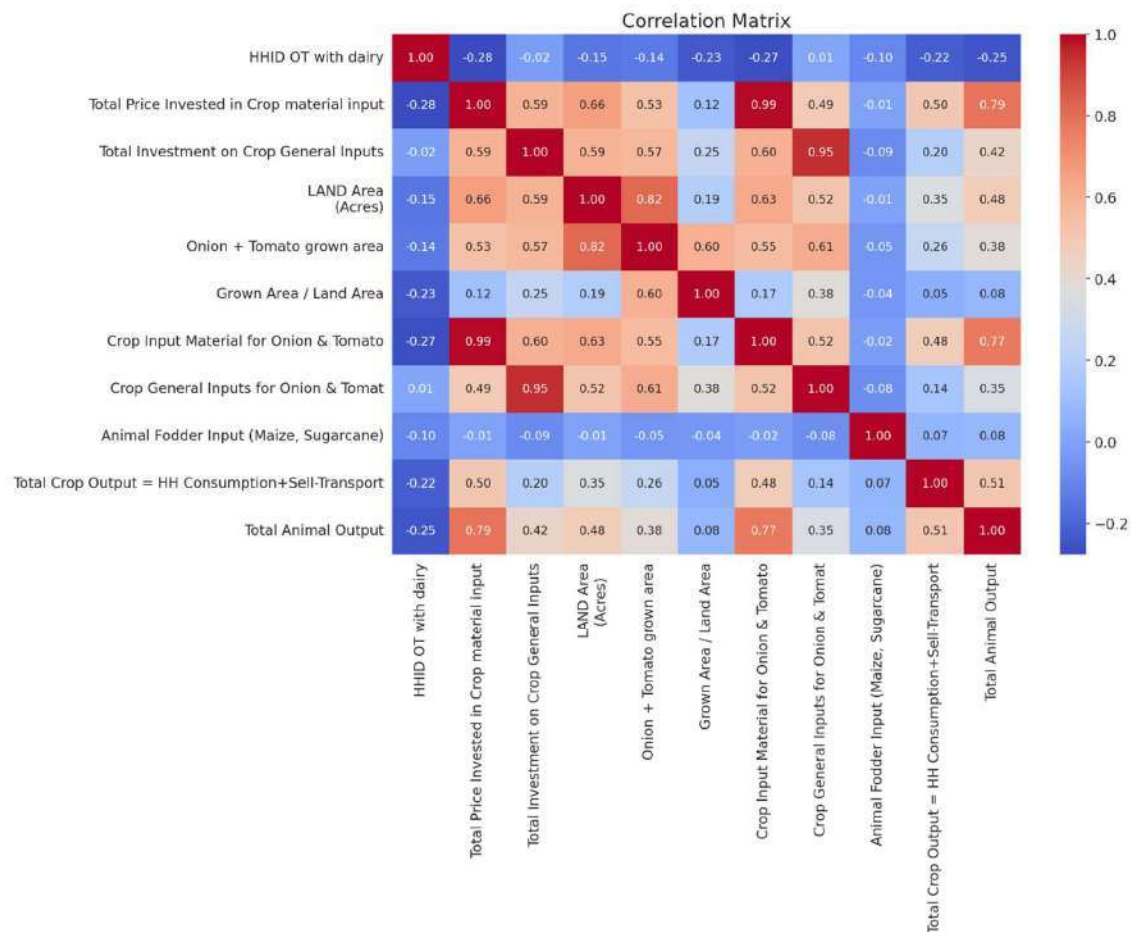
The input for animal fodder shows a wide range, with 50% of the households having no input.

Strong positive correlation with "Total Animal Output" (0.79), suggesting that higher investment in crop material is associated with higher animal output.

Moderate positive correlation with "LAND Area (Acres)" (0.66) and "Crop Input Material for Onion & Tomato" (0.61).

Moderate positive correlation with "Total Animal Output" (0.42) and "Total Crop Output" (0.20).

Moderate positive correlation between them (0.51), indicating that higher crop output is associated with higher animal output.



Total Price Invested in Crop material input, Total Investment on Crop General Inputs, LAND Area (Acres), Onion + Tomato grown area, Crop Input Material for Onion & Tomato, Total Crop Output, and Total Animal Output have right-skewed distributions, indicating that there are a few households with significantly higher values compared to the rest.

Grown Area / Land Area has a distribution that is somewhat uniform but with a few peaks, indicating variations in the proportion of land used for growing crops.

Animal Fodder Input (Maize, Sugarcane) has a large number of households with zero input, and a few households with high input.

Variables related to investment and output (crop and animal) tend to have positive correlations, especially Total Animal Output which has strong positive correlations with Total Price Invested in Crop material input and Crop Input Material for Onion & Tomato.

LAND Area (Acres) has moderate positive correlations with Total Animal Output and Total Crop Output.

Grown Area / Land Area has relatively low correlations with other variables, indicating that the proportion of land used for growing crops does not strongly influence the investment or output.

Households with higher investment in crop material and input material for onion and tomato tend to have higher animal output, suggesting a possible linkage or dependency.

There is a noticeable number of households with zero input for animal fodder, which might be an area to explore for potential improvements or interventions.

The distribution of land area and the area used for growing onion and tomato are highly skewed, indicating that land utilization varies significantly across households.