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O my child! If you want peace of
mind don't find fault with others



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EXPERIENCE OF BENEFICIARIES INVOLVED IN SELECTED PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS IN TAMIL NADU

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Abstract:

Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) are a mode of implementing government programmes/schemes in partnership with the private sector. The term private in PPP is often understood to stand for the “private corporate sector” and includes individual farming and other small scale enterprises also. The objectives of the study are to identify PPP Projects in selected areas and to assess the institutional arrangements in PPP Projects. The study was planned to identify the existing PPP projects in agriculture and allied field in Tamil Nadu. In the selected nine districts of Tamil Nadu, totally 70 PPP projects were located. A score card was used to select four projects from the 70 projects, having scores of first four ranks. Fifty respondents from each project were selected, in consultation with the public and private partners of the project, thus making a total of 200 subjects. To add credibility, in addition to the stakeholders, one public and one private partner from each of the four projects, thus four public and four private partners in total, were included for the study, making the sample size as 208. Score card was adopted to select four best projects for the study. Public-private partnerships and their successful collaborations have contributed to food security, poverty reduction and economic growth. It has created opportunities for, and challenges to, creating and sustaining public private partnerships between the identified parties including agribusiness companies.

Key words: Public Private Partnership, Agriculture and Farmers

Introduction:

Public Private Partnership (PPP) is a mode of implementing government programmes/schemes in partnership with the private sector. The term private in PPP is often understood to stand for the “private corporate sector” and includes individual farming and other small scale enterprises also.

The Constitution of India proclaims in its preamble, three most important and cherished constitutional goals of the nation which are justice (social, economic and political), equal status and opportunity. The Planning Commission, Government of India, constituted a Working Group in the field of Agriculture, focusing on Gender Issues, Panchayat Raj Institutions, Public Private Partnership and Innovative Finance and Micro Finance in Agriculture for the Eleventh Five Year Plan on 1 August 2006.

It is clear that in the Eleventh Plan there was an urgent need to promote the kind of agricultural growth that is broad based and inclusive, and covers small and marginal farmers as well as the regions that had lagged behind in agriculture so far. There was a need to promote agricultural growth that ensures food security to all, brings about rapid reduction in poverty, and generates large scale productive employment within agriculture and allied activities, and then facilitates shifting of agricultural workforce to non-farmers sectors gradually. Looking into the predominant role that women are playing in agriculture today, it is clear that now there is a need to recognize women as producers/farmers or co-farmers, and treat them as primary stakeholders in the process of agricultural growth rather than beneficiaries of some schemes and programmes.

That is, the future agricultural growth will have to be engendered if it has to address the agricultural crisis effectively. Keeping the above said need for research in view, the present study on “**Experience of Personnel Involved in Selected Public Private Partnership Projects in Tamil Nadu**” was taken up.

Objectives of the Study:

- To identify PPP Projects in selected areas.
- To assess the institutional arrangements in PPP Projects.
- To assess the extent of satisfaction towards PPP among farmers and organizations.

Methodology:

The study was planned to identify the existing PPP projects in agriculture and allied field in Tamil Nadu. In the selected nine districts of Tamil Nadu, totally 70 PPP projects were located. A score card was used to select four projects from the 70 projects, having scores of first four ranks. The subjects for the study were chosen from stratified groups given by the public and private partners of the projects. Fifty respondents from each project were selected, in consultation with the public and private partners of the project, thus making a total of 200 subjects. To add credibility, in addition to the stakeholders, one public and one private partner from each of the four projects, thus four public and four private partners in total, were included for the study, making the sample size as 208

The following tools were found suitable for the present study

- Score card was adopted to select four best projects for the study.
- Three different interview schedules were constructed to collect data from the public and private partners and their target groups.

All the respondents were personally interviewed by visiting the project area and meeting project officers. Public and private partners of selected projects were interviewed to obtain institutional details and services provided. Based on the data collected from the respondents, independent and dependent variables were identified. The data collected were consolidated, tabulated and analysed using appropriate statistical tests.

Results and Discussion:

Socio-economic profile of the respondents:

The socio-economic profile of the respondents of the selected five projects is presented in Table I

Table I

Socio-economic profile:

Aspects	Percentage of Respondents			
	AM (N:50)	CPP (N:50)	FDP (N:50)	JPP (N:50)
Gender				
Male	64	88	76	38
Female	36	12	24	62
Age in years				
21-30	24	16	66	12
31-40	52	46	20	64
41-50	12	18	14	14
Above 50	12	20	–	10
Education qualification				
Illiterate	10	-	8	32
Primary level	16	16	26	22
High school level	32	34	40	26
Higher secondary level	38	10	22	4
Diploma	-	24	4	16
Graduate	4	16	–	0
Monthly income of the family(in Rs)				
2001-4000	-	-	92	26

4001-6000	-	4	8	44
6001-8000	32	14	-	16
8001-10000	56	22	-	14
Above 10000	12	60	-	-
Source of income				
Fishery	-	-	46	-
Agriculture	-	80	-	76
Marketing	52	-	-	-
Fishery and agriculture	-	-	40	-
Agriculture and marketing	48	20	-	24
Fishing and Marketing	-	-	14	-
Agriculture Land holding*				
Landless (no land)	52	-	60	-
Marginal farmers (up to 2.5 acres)	32	32	24	54
Small farmers (2.6 to 5 acres)	16	-	10	20
Medium farmers (5.1 to 10 acres)	-	40	6	14
Large farmers (above 10 acres)	-	28	-	12
Housing				
Own House	100	100	100	100
Rented House	-	-	-	-

AM – APPTA Market, CPP- Cocoa Promotion Project; FDP- Fisheries Development Project, JPP- Jatropa Promotion Project

* Scale developed by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, 2006

In the selected projects, male respondents outnumbered females, except in the Jatropa Promotion Project.

Fifty two per cent of respondents in APPTA Market, 46 per cent of the respondents in the Cocoa Promotion Project, and 64 per cent of the respondents in the Jatropa Promotion Project

belonged to the age group of 31-40 years. Young and energetic group of 21-30 years dominated in Fisheries Development Project (66 per cent), who was to go into the sea for fishing.

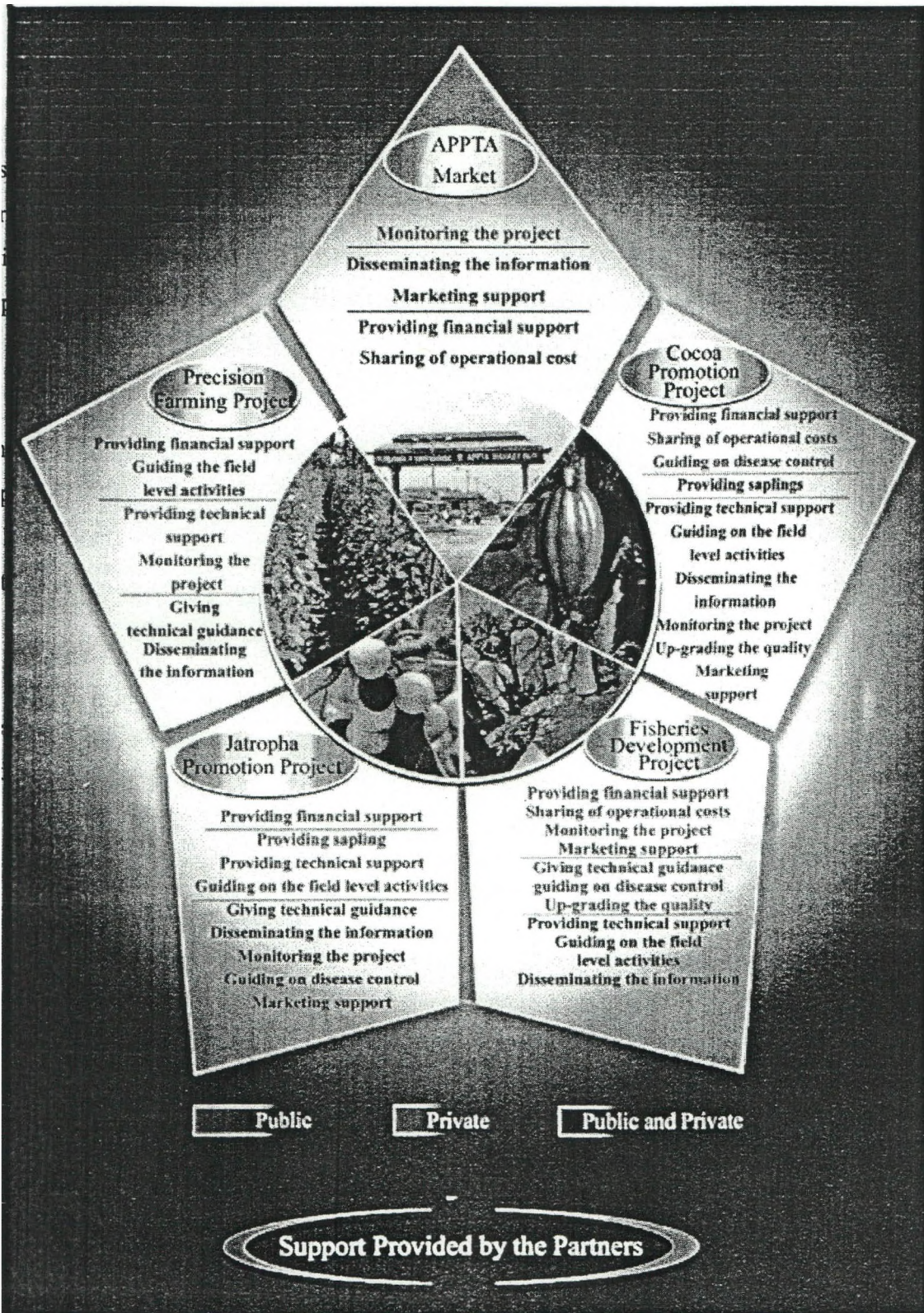
With regard to the educational qualification of the respondents, 70 per cent of the respondents APPTA Market had completed high school education. Sixty six per cent of respondents in the Fisheries Development Project had completed high school education. The respondents of Cocoa Promotion Project had completed high school (34 per cent) and diploma (23 per cent) and graduate level (16 per cent). Thirty two per cent of the respondents of Jatropha Promotion Project were illiterate.

Fifty six per cent of the respondents in APPTA Market were earning Rs 8000-10,000 per month. Sixty per cent of the respondents in the Cocoa Promotion project were earning above Rs 10, 000 per month. Ninety two percent of the respondents in the Fisheries Development Project were earning 2000-4000 per month and the rest were earning Rs 4000-6000 per month. Forty four per cent of the respondents in Jatropha Promotion Project were earning Rs 4000-6000 per month.

Among the total respondents (200), 36 per cent were marginal farmers, 11 per cent small farmers, 15 per cent medium farmers, 10 per cent large farmers and 28 per cent were landless. All the respondents of the selected four projects had their own house.

Support provided by public and private partners:

The support system provided by public and private partners as viewed by the respondents diagrammatically presented as Figure.



Extent of satisfaction of the respondents on functioning of PPP projects:**Table II****Extent of satisfaction of respondents on the support given by public and private partners**

Aspects	Average percentage scores on the Extent of Satisfaction				
	AM (N:50)	CPP (N:50)	FDP (N:50)	JPP (N:50)	PPF (N:50)
Financial and technical support	100	74	47	-	97
Safety and security	96	-	-	-	-
Storage godown facilities	91	-	-	-	-
Marketing facilities	75	95	57	80	-
Transparency system	71	49	73	44	69
Service and distribution system	69	76	-	87	82
Communication system	40	49	75	77	51
Information dissemination	-	62	96	-	-
Guidance on disease management	-	-	-	-	55

AM – APPTA Market; CPP- Cocoa Promotion Project; FDP- Fisheries Development Project; JF Jatropha Promotion Project; PFP - Precision Farming Project

The respondents of the APPTA Market were fully satisfied with the financial and technical assistance given for the project. Safety and security system coupled with storage facilities were found to be in comfort zones for the respondents, 96 per cent and 91 per cent, respectively. In Coc

omotion Project, the marketing facilities provided by the private partner won the hearts of the respondents.

In the Fisheries Development Project, the extent of satisfaction on information dissemination techniques adopted by both public and private partners was highly commanded (96%) by the respondents, its indicating that they had been individually contacted and convinced for their use. In the Tropha Promotion Project, it is interesting to note that the service and distribution system provided were appreciated by the respondents.

In the Precision Farming Project, the aspects such as subsidies extended by the public partner, financial and technical support and service and distribution system had a positive impact on the respondents since the Government of Puducherry was giving financial assistance with 100 per cent subsidy for the project in the Precision Farming Project. Issues like poor communication system and lack of guidance on disease management were the main concerns for the respondents.

The extent of satisfaction of the respondents on the outcome of the project:

Table III

Extent of satisfaction of respondents

Aspects	Average Percentage scores on the Extent of Satisfaction				
	AM (N:50)	CPP (N:50)	FDP (N:50)	JPP (N:50)	PFP (N:50)
Solid waste management system	98	-	-	-	-
Cold storage structures	90	95	69	41	86
Economic development	84	-	-	-	-
Electricity and water supply	42	-	-	-	-
Women empowerment activity	-	65	89	-	-

Quality of the material supplied	-	46	-	-	67
Plantlets supplied	-	-	-	79	-

AM – APPTA Market; CPP- Cocoa Promotion Project; FDP- Fisheries Development Project; Jatropha Promotion Project; PFP - Precision Farming Project

The best practice of solid waste management and effective infrastructure development marketing the agricultural produce by APPTA project is a replicable role model to be emulated.

The respondents of Cocoa Project gained profit through inter cropping of cocoa plantation, coconut farm, areca-nut farm and orchards.

Women empowerment was considered to be the final outcome of the Fishery Development Project supported by the majority (89 per cent) which highlighted that the income generating activities such as salted dried fish and masala fish making among women, was quite encouraging. In the Jatropha Promotion Project, profit gained was low because of lack of awareness on the crop management practices. Eighty six per cent of the respondents in Precision Farming Project were fully satisfied with the income generation.

Suggestions and Recommendations:

- ❖ More PPP meets to be strengthen for effective implementation of the project
- ❖ Appropriate partners need to be chosen
- ❖ Involving the partners overcoming the “barriers” in functioning of PPP
- ❖ Mutual understanding among the partners

Conclusion:

Public-private partnerships and their successful collaborations have contributed to food security, poverty reduction and economic growth. It has created opportunities for, and challenges creating and sustaining public private partnerships between the identified parties include agribusiness companies. While incentives and perceptions do differ between different models, sufficient common space exists or can be created through incentive structuring to facilitate greater partnership.