

ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES ON FARMING STATUS OF MAJOR CEREAL CROPS AND SOCIOECONOMIC SITUATION OF FARMERS OF RUPANDEHI DISTRICT OF NEPAL

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Introduction

The farmers who are based on the agriculture require assured inputs for their agricultural land. The Organizational model of the cooperative brings solutions for the problems of the rural farmers under one umbrella. There is the provision of the subsidy up to fifty percent for the cooperative member along with the provision of regular training and easy access of the modern techniques and the tools that could minimize the cost of production. Similarly, the amalgamation of the scientific knowledge through in the farming practices could help to increase the food production. Thus, it addresses the problem of the food insecurity. The research, therefore, was conducted with the aim to study whether or not the farmers of the area were benefitted with the services and facilities provided by the cooperatives.

Objective

A survey research was carried out in Devdaha V.D.C and Manpakadi V.D.C of Rupandehi District with the aim to investigate the impact of cooperative on the production, productivity, livelihood and socioeconomic status of the farmer.

Materials and methods

- The study was conducted on the ward number 3, 4, and 6 of Devdaha VDC and ward number 3, 4, and 7 of the Manpakadi VDC.
- 40 cooperative farmers and 40 non-cooperative farmers from each VDC were randomly selected with total sample size 80 households.
- Statistical package for social sciences (SPSS, Version 20.0) were used in the data analysis. Statistical tools such as correlation between the variable and chi-square is used.
- Microsoft excel was used for producing descriptive statistics in form of bar, diagram, pie-charts and tabular form.

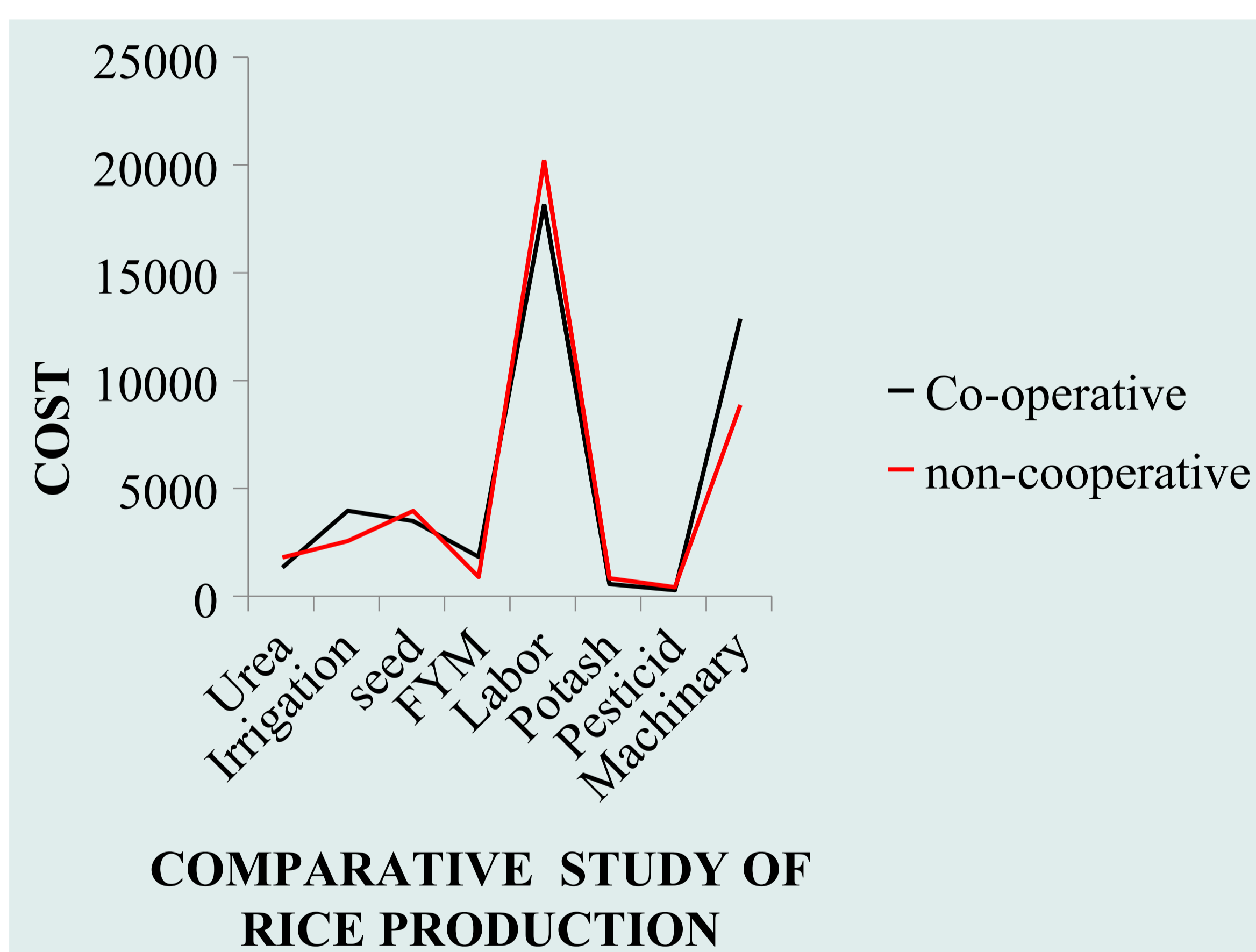
Results and Discussion

There is significant difference in cost involved in labor and machinery among two different groups of farmers. The study showed that the total revenue from the rice, wheat, maize, and legumes was found higher in the co-operative farmers than non co-operative farmers with mean difference 47087.08, 22871.76, 20639.19 and 2172.10 respectively. The finding was statistically significant at 0.01% for rice, wheat, maize and legumes. Study showed the mean comparison of the productivity of major crops among two different groups of farmers.

There was significant difference in the productivity of rice wheat and maize among cooperative and non-cooperative farmers. The productivity seemed to be highest in rice which was 1.78 Qtl/kattha with mean difference 0.36 qtl followed by wheat with mean difference of 0.24.

Conclusions

Cooperative farmers used to apply adequate amount of chemical fertilizers and other inputs in their field while non-cooperative farmers used to apply less amount inputs than the recommended dose. The unit cost of inputs for cooperative farmers was less in comparison to non cooperative farmers. Farmers in cooperatives perform comparatively improved farming Practices which is due to Accessibility of farm inputs and Subsidy substantially increasing Productivity of farm. Most of the cooperative farmers were more or less directed towards commercial agriculture while non-cooperative farmers used to cultivate for home consumption in subsistence level.



Variable	Co operative	Nonco-operative	Mean difference	T value
Total revenue from rice	62472.8	15385.7	47087.08	9.80***
Total revenue from wheat	29050.7	6179.00	22871.76	4.79***
Total Revenue from maize	27825.3	7186.12	20639.19	3.24***
Total Revenue from Legumes	2172.70	186.887	1985.82	4.57***
Total Revenue from Agriculture	116596.0	21012.7	95583.8	12.33**

Note: ***, **, * indicate 1%, 5%, 10% level of significant respectively, Productivity (Qtl/Kattha); Source: Field Survey 2015

Acknowledgement

Our sincere gratitude to Dept. of Social Science, IAAS, NARC, Farmers of Devdaha and Manpakadi V.D.C., research advisor Huma Neupane, Namdev Upadhyaya and other advisors involved during the research period.

Thank-you all!!!