

YSR RYTHU BHAROSA SCHEME ANDHRA PRADESH

- A LEAP TOWARDS RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Farmers are the backbone of the country. The farmer toils in sun and shower throughout the year and yields wonderful crop on any type of soil and provides us all food. The farmer who feeds billions of billions fails to manage both of his ends. YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendra, the brain child of Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, is expected to be the panacea for all the pains and plights of the farmer and empower him with all the progress and prosperity. The RBKs, set up at all the villages, facilitate all sorts of services from seeding to harvesting besides the selling of the farmers' agriculture produce. The main objective of this paper is to make a study and appraise the performance of the RBKs and its role in providing finance, certified agriculture inputs of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, sale of the produce at right price and alleviating troubles of farmers in Andhra Pradesh with special reference to two RBKs in Khajipet, Khajipet Mandal, YSR Kadapa District.

Key words: Farmers, panacea, empower, progress, poverty, prosperity, seeding, harvesting, performance, alleviating troubles.

1. INTRODUCTION

YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme was announced and implemented on 15th October 2019 by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. This scheme would provide monetary and all sorts of benefits to the farmers. This article attempts to grab the information related to the YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme such as the procedure to eligibility criteria, exclusions, objective, benefits, features and guide lines to the beneficiary, and other relevant information. The word 'Rythu' means that who provides food to the people, 'Bharosa' means that giving assurance to the farmers who have been had the least assurance due to lack of support, assistance, loan facilities and the result of which heavy debts. The farmers need money at the time of cultivating crops especially in Kharif (June- October) and Rabi seasons (November-May). The Honourable Chief Minister of

Andhra Pradesh, Sri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy identified the very root cause of the problems experienced by the farmers during the 'Maha Praja Prasthanam Padayatra' and the election campaign. He gave a promise and assurance to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh to provide them Rs 13,500/-per year on basis of instalments and the money is directly transferred to the farmers accounts. It is what is called Bharosa or assurance of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the farmers of the state who are badly in need.

After formation of the Government, Sri. Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, started the holistic scheme to provide financial assistance and assurance to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh all sorts of services under one roof at all the villages. The Government announced YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme, the brain child of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. Under the Scheme the YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendras are set up in every village to provide the implements and supplements of cultivation at the doorsteps for the welfare and development of farmers. Through the effective implementation of these Bharosa Kendras, the problems of the farmers would be solved with the support, assistance and help of the specialists and professionals in the field of agriculture. These professionals of agriculture related sectors will be available in the Rythu Bharosa Kendras to help all of the farmers in the respective areas, in their farming activities which will result in bigger output and also bigger profit for all of the ranchers.

The main theme of the YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendras is that service to the farmers at all seasons and any time. The kendras provide the farmers with inputs, help the farmers how to apply for various schemes and explain eligibility criteria, exclusions, features, benefits, every information about crops and any other kind of information at the place where they are living. These kendras provide financial assistance, awareness of modern cultivation techniques to the farmers and awareness of the rationale uses of fertilizers to the farmers. This Kendra is attached to grama or ward sachiwalayam or village secretariat of the concern village and mandal of respective districts in the state A.P. The government has also set up district and mandal level agricultural advisory boards under which Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) will soon be a one-step solution for all farmer-related issues near to the farmers.

Andhra Pradesh being an agrarian state, the government primarily focuses on agriculture, and its allied sectors and farmers welfare. Availability of quality farm inputs and right advisories are very critical in improving the crop productivity and in reducing the cost of cultivation. In the month of October 2019, during the Andhra Pradesh State Agri Mission meeting, the Honourable Chief Minister discussed and suggested about establishing an Agri Input Shop and a Village Knowledge Centre at Village level. As many as 10,725 YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs), One Stop Shop Centres, are established near Village Secretariats through which pre-tested quality inputs of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides with a quality seal from the Government, which will be supplied at village level besides providing different government services, required trainings and capacity building of the farmers on latest agricultural technologies through Agri Input Shop and Workshop, Agri Input Shop, Knowledge Centre, e-Crop Booking, Procurement of Crop Produce, besides Stakeholders or knowledge partners.

2. RYTHU BHAROSA KENDRAS (RBKs)

RBK Infrastructure: Agri Input Shop and Workshop

The Rythu Bharosa Kendras and Office of the Farmer Knowledge Centre are set up with fully equipped infrastructure and the required facilities such as Agri Input Shop (spoke), Digital Kiosk (Interactive touch screen), internet facility, open racks, besides tables, fibre chairs, white board and stand, racks for library etc., gas stove and connection, pressure cooker, display frames, smart tv of digital signage, library@ digital library, and also soil test kit, seed test kit.

Agri Input Shop

Key Objectives of Agri Input Shop are:

- To make available quality agri inputs, farm implements and fish feed etc., to farmers at right price, right time at their Village Secretariates.
- To reduce duplicate and spurious products sale in markets by only allowing sale of tested and certified products through the Government Agri Input Shops.
- To bring good practices in sales of farm inputs and to act as a benchmark to the dealers in the market (model vendor).
- The Agri Input Shop is to make available multi-brand quality agricultural inputs to farmers.
- The Agri Input Shop is a Virtual shop with a Digital Kiosk for taking orders from interested farmers.
- Model products will be on display in these shops
- Hubs or Godowns will physically stock the agri inputs.

Knowledge Centre

Key objectives of RBK Knowledge Centre are:

- It is a training centre, where agriculture and allied sector officials and scientists will provide latest and lowcost technologies to farmers.
- Audio visual aids, mini soil testing lab, method demonstrations, library etc., will be part of farmer knowledge centre.
- Capacity building of the farmers through classroom and field trainings, 'Polam Badi' meetings and demonstrations are arranged on best practices and new technologies for adoption, etc.
- To create farmers interface with scientists and extension staff of agriculture.
- To act as single point of contact for information about latest technologies, Government schemes, etc.
- To maintain database of farmers in a village with details of land extent, crops grown, livestock details, etc.

- To organize method demonstration on seed treatment, bio-pesticides preparation, beejamrutham, etc.
- To promote optimum utilization of farm input through soil testing and nutrient management.

RBK Channel

The government has established RBK channel for farmers. The RBKs are set up to support farmers in all activities ranging from sowing seeds to selling the crop so that the farmers are not cheated by the middle men. The products of the farmers are tested and guaranteed and quality certification is given with the government stamps on it. The very aim is make the orders available to the farmers in the village with the stipulated span of time of 48 to 72 hours of placing them.

RBKs: e-Crop Booking

The objectives of the e-Crop Booking are:

- Real-time booking of all Crops by VAA or VRO
- Real cultivator benefits namely YSR Sunna Vaddi Panta Runalu (zero interest loans).
- SMS to farmers.
- Procurement data base for procurement of paddy and all agriculture commodities.
- e-Crop Data base of all farmers in the State.
- Rythu Bharosa – YSR Free Crop Insurance.

Procurement of Crop Produce at RBKs

Procurement of various Agricultural crops on Minimum Support Price (MSP) at YSR Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs):

Dr YSR RBKs are declared as procurement centres for all agriculture commodities or produce in coordination with -

- AP State Civil Supplies Corporation: Paddy
- AP Markfed and AP Oil fed: Bajra, Maize and Groundnut
- Cotton Corporation of India: cotton
- Supply of Moisture meters to RBKs: 7,859 meters

RBKs Advisory Arm

RBKs Advisory Arm is supported by the following Stakeholders and Knowledge Partners.

Stakeholders

Agriculture Department	Marketing Department
Horticulture Department	Animal Husbandry
Fisheries	Sericulture
Agriculture Co-Operation	Irrigation
Electricity	Disaster Management
Civil Supplies	Panchayath Raj
Revenue	AP Seeds(APSSDC)
AP Dairy Development Co-Operative Federation Ltd	AP AGROS
AP MARKFED	All Banks
Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University (ANGRAU)	Dr YSR Horticulture University
Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University	

Knowledge Partners

MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai	
National Institute of Plant Health Management, Hyderabad	Soil Science Division, IARI, Pusa, New Delhi
Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Centre, Faridabad	Central Insecticide Lab, Plant Quarantine, Faridabad
National Seed Research and Training Centre, Varanasi	National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, Haryana
State Management Institute of Livestock Enterprise (SMILE), Vizag	Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, UP.

RBKs Technical Support Unit and Integrated Call Centre

The Objectives of the Technical Support Unit are:

- Full Time Technical support unit with subject matter experts from Agriculture and Allied sectors such as Horticulture, Sericulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Marketing, ANGRAU, etc.
- Guide the Agricultural extension activities.
- Provide end to end solutions to the farmers.
- Conduct year-round activities

The Objectives of the Integrated Call Centre are:

- Dedicated call centre for addressing the grievances and suggestions from the farmers by use of ICT
- Toll free number - 155251

YSR App

The YSR App is useful for Monitoring of RBKs as:

- Performance of each RBK is tracked, and each RBK is given grades.
- The YSR App is the major tool for monitoring RBK wise and Mandalwise progress.
- GPS, Geo fence feature (5KM) are being used for tracking activities.
- Push Notifications and Offline Features are available.

RBKs as a Game Changer

The government opened the RBKs which will be a game-changer in the socio-economic conditions of rural Andhra Pradesh. The RBKs are the One Stop Centres, the game changer for farmers. Multipurpose facilities will be available at the RBKs. They are:

- Godowns
- Crop Drying Platforms
- Milk Collection Centres
- Cold Rooms (Storage)
- Custom Hiring Centres
- Primary Processing Centres
- Janatha Bazaars
- Bulk Milk Cooling Centres
- Cattle Sheds
- Aqua Infra (in Selected Villages)
- Procurement
- E-Marketing
- Assaying Equipment

The government has set up as many as 10,275 RBKs in the state of Andhra Pradesh covering all most all the villages. The RBKs reiterate that the welfare of the farmers is the topmost priority of the Government. The Rythu Bharosa Kendras are expected to supply quality seeds, fertiliser and pesticides to the farmers. Meters are made available in the RBKs to measure water moisture in the grain for the farmers and they will also act as the paddy procurement centres at the end of the harvesting season. Soil testing and seed quality testing would be done at the labs attached these centres. It may be noted that the government has been providing free power for nine hours during day time, and it is reported 60 per cent of feeders are supplying a 9-hour power supply. Within the short period the remaining 40 per cent feeders in the State would also start providing 9-hour free power.

Agriculture, horticulture, sericulture, veterinary assistants and doctors along with revenue officials who are the part of the village secretariats are attached to these centres. Measures are being taken to ensure bankers too are available at these centres from time to time. Live workshops would be organised to explain the best agricultural practices and train the farmers. The grievances of the farmers would be settled at these centres itself. A group of experts and direct call centres will be attached to these centres so as to clarify the doubts of farmers on different issues. Direct video interaction with experts from the field will be organised at the centres to suggest the best possible solutions to farmers. Market Intervention Scheme will be introduced for the stabilisation of the price of farm produces and provide remunerative price. Only quality-certified seeds, fertilisers and pesticides will be sold through the centres. Similarly, for aquaculture farmers, the best quality feed and suggestions on best practices will be provided. For the first time, health cards for livestock will be issued. Awareness is created among farmers about crop insurance, cattle insurance and other related issues. It is also ensured that the farmers will not suffer from lack of proper price for their produce but the Government assured MSP for the crops.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

Agriculture associates would send showcase insight reports to District Collectors Day by day. The District Collectors, thus, would refresh them all the time. The procedure helps in guaranteeing gainful cost to the farmers' production through market intervention plot, whenever required. The YSR App is to monitor the services being rendered by the Rythu Bharosa Kendras to farmers from time to time. The app gives updates on the government policies and schemes being implemented, the facilities available at RBKs and their utilities among others. The app also helps in giving feedback to the government on the various programmes it has been implementing. The data of all the activities of RBKs is stored in the app and it is monitored by the Government at a high level.

YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme has been launched on the 15th of October 2019 by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Under this scheme, monetary benefits will be provided to the farmers of the state within the period of next 5 years and the financial incentives will be provided to all the eligible farmers of the state.

Objective of the Scheme

Following are the major objectives of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to launch Rythu Bharosa Scheme:

- To help farmers financially.
- To develop the agriculture sector.
- For increasing crop production.
- To reduce the debt burden on farmers.

The prime objective of the Rythu Bharosa Scheme is to help farmers financially. The beneficiary will receive Rs. 13,500 per year under this scheme in three instalments which are directly transferred into the bank account of the beneficiaries through the direct benefit transfer method.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicant must be permanent resident of Andhra Pradesh.
- Applicant must be associated with agricultural sector.
- Under this scheme small marginal or agricultural tenant can also apply.
- The farmer must hold 5 acres of cultivated land.

Exclusions under YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme

Any person who is under the excluded category cannot apply for this scheme. The list of exclusions under YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme are as follows:

- All those super annuated or retired persons who get a monthly pension of rupees 10,000 or more (excluding multi-tasking staff/class 4/group D employees) are excluded.
- Those individuals who pay commercial tax/professional tax/GST during the last assessment year are excluded.
- Persons who are owing farmlands converted into house sites, aquaculture or any other non-agricultural usage (updated or not updated in revenue records) are excluded.
- All those people who have paid income tax in the last assessment year are excluded.
- Professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers, chartered accountants, architects, etc., who are registered with professional bodies and carrying out their practices are excluded.
- State of Central Public Sector Enterprises and attached offices or autonomous institution under government as well as regular employees of local bodies (excluding multi-tasking staff/class 4/group D employees) are excluded.
- If a person is serving or retired, officer or employee of central government ministry or state government ministry/officers/ departments and their fields are excluded.

- If a person is a former or present member of loksabha/rajyasabha/statelegislative assembly/state legislative council are excluded.
- Former or present mayors of municipal corporation are excluded.
- Former and present chairperson of district panchayat are excluded.
- All the institutional land holders, farmer families in which one or more of its members are former or present holder of constitutional post and former or present minister and state minister are excluded.

Beneficiary Under YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme

The beneficiary list under YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme is prepared by Real-Time Government Society (RTGS). merging it with the Prime Minister Kisan Scheme for land owner farmers. A list of eligible farmers beneficiaries are displayed in the gram panchayat office or at RBKs before the supply of seeds on subsidized rate starts via Rythu Bharosa Centres. Those whose name is not on the list can contact Mandal Extension Officer (MEO) and the village volunteer helps in the process. The farmers need know the guidelines and awareness and sensitisation must be done by the stake holders of RBKs. There are certain conditions that are required to be followed by the farmers in order to get the benefit of YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme. Under YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme there is no restriction on land holdings by land owner families. For tenant farmer there is a minimum required area which the farmer is required to take on lease which is as follows:

- 1 acre for agriculture, horticulture or sericulture
- Half acre if the tenant grows vegetables, flowers and fodder crops
- 1 acre for beta vines.

Benefits of YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme

- Farmers of the state will get a loan at zero per cent interest.
- The sum of Rs. 13,500/- per year or Rs. 67,500 in five years as financial help to each farmer family.
- Tenant farmers will get Rs. 2,500/- per year.
- Farmers will get free electricity for nine hours in a day.
- The Farmers will get free borewell facilities.
- Farmers need not pay road tax for tractors.
- Cold storage units will establish all over the state.
- Life insurance cover of Rs. 5 Lakh for the farmers family.
- A premium of the insurance will be paid by the government.

- Pending irrigation projects will be completed.
- If any query regarding the Scheme, Call on 1902 and 155251.

Budget for the Year 2021-22

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has decided to credit the first instalment of Rythu Bharosa for the financial year of 2021-22. The Government is expected to spend about Rs. 3,900 crores for the first instalment which is to be deposited into the bank account of 52.34 lakh farmers on 13th May 2021 so that each farmer's bank account is to be credited Rs. 7,500 as the first instalment. In the previous financial year, the government had already deposited Rs. 4,400 crore into 54 lakh farmer's accounts. Other than the financial assistance of Rs. 3,900 crore, another Rs. 2,000 crore is being provided by the government to the farmers. The Government directly deposited all the three phases amount to the farmers used by Direct Bank Transfer Method(DBT) in three instalments. The details are shown in table-1 given under.

Table-1: All Three Phase Details of YSR Bharosa

Instalment	Disbursal	Date
First Instalment	Rs.2000 + Rs. 5500 Amount	15 th May 2020
Second Instalment	Rs 4000	27 th Oct 2020
Third Instalment	Rs 2000	28 th Dec 2020
Total	Rs 13500	Till the end of 2020

The following table gives the overview of YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme

Table-2: Overview of YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme

Name of the scheme	YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme
Article about	YSR Rythu Bharosa&Kendras
Launched by	Sri Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
Department	Department of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare
Beneficiary	Farmers of SC / ST / Minority / BC category
Start date of Scheme	15th October, 2019
Date of Releasing 1st Instalment	15th May, 2020
Date of Releasing 2nd Installment	27 th October, 2020
Date of Releasing 3rd Installment	28 December, 2020

Benefits of Scheme	Rs. 13,500/- Per Annum for 5 Years
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The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken great initiative in providing welfare schemes among the agricultural sector of the State and the budget of Rs. 68,000 crore for the year 2021-22 has been sanctioned despite all the Covid-19 pandemic conditions. Out of Rs. 68,000 crore, Rs. 17,030 crore will be provided for YSR Rythu Bharosa Scheme. Under the YSR Rythu Bharosa scheme, the 1st tranche of Rs 3,928 crore, directly deposited into the accounts of 52.38 lakh farmers and the remaining is released in the second and the third instalments.

RBKs in Khajipet, YSR District, Andhra Pradesh

Profile :

Andhra Pradesh's economy is mainly based on agriculture and livestock. Important rivers of India, the Godavari, the Krishna, the Penna, and the Tungabhadra flow through the state and provide irrigation and about 60 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and related activities such as livestock, poultry, fisheries and shrimp. Andhra Pradesh is known as "Rice Bowl of India" and it is also nicknamed as "Egg Bowl of Asia." Andhra Pradesh has thirteen districts, six located in Coastal Andhra region, three located in Uttarandhra and four located in the Rayalaseema region. YSR Kadapa District is one among four Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa and Kurnool districts of Rayalaseema region. Kadapa Falls in the National Agricultural Research Project (NARP) Zone(s) which was launched by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), for initiating agricultural research in the agro-climatic zones of the country. The objective of the NARP was to set up or upgrade a zonal research station in each agro-climatic zone for generating location specific, needbased research targeted for specific agro-ecological situations. The focus of NARP has been on analysing agro-ecological conditions and cropping patterns and come out with a programme directly targeted to solve the major bottlenecks of agricultural growth in a zone based on natural resources, major crops, farming systems, production constraints and socio-economic conditions prevalent in the zone and the stress is on technology generation. YSR Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh is one of the 127 divided agro-climatic zones in NARP in the country. Paddy, groundnut, corn, cotton, red gram, bengal gram, black gram, chana, castor oil, sugar cane, sunflower, chilli, turmeric, sesamum, mango, banana, etc., are the important cultivated crops growing in YSR Kadapa District. Khajipet Village is one of the 8 Panchayats in Khajipet Mandal of 51 Mandals of YSR Kadapa District.

4. CASE STUDY

A case study is undertaken with the prime aim to appraise the performance of the Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) with special reference to Khajipet, a major panchayat, in Khajipet Mandal of YSR Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh. There are two RBKs functioning in Khajipet Panchayat. The RBK-1 has been functioning since February, 2020 and the RBK-2 has been servicing since May, 2020. Since then, the RBKs have started rendering all sorts of services needed to the farmers. The RBKs are providing one-stop facility helping the farmers get from certified seeds, pesticides, fertilisers, animal feed to sale of agricultural

produce and crop insurance claims in case of loss. There are about 1200 farmers in Khajipet who come under the two RBKs. As a first step, green manure seeds such as Pillapesara, diancha, sunhemp, etc., are provided 10 Kgs up to 5 acres, to the farmers with 50 per cent subsidy. Crop insurance premium is paid by the Government of Andhra Pradesh on behalf of all the farmers. The chemical fertilisers, urea, DAP, 14-35-14 NPK, 28-28-0, MOP and pesticides are supplied for both Karif and Rabi seasons at subsidised prices. The standardised quality seed are made available to the farmers at times of sowing. Chana, paddy and cotton for Karif and for Rabi, bengal gram, black gram, chana, groundnut and sunflower and also sesamum for summer, seeds are provided to the farmers. As it is the first year, in spite of rigorous campaign, it is reported that only 50 per cent of farmers took the green manure seeds but almost all the paddy growing farmers availed the green manure seeds and about 60 per cent of the farmers availed the fertilisers from the RBKs. Zero interest loan of less than one lakh is also available to the eligible farmers. Majority of the farmers availed the loan facility. Minimum Support Price (MSP) which is the form of market intervention by the Government of India to ensure the agriculture products of the farmers the fair price. Procurement of paddy, Bengal gram, turmeric and groundnut was undertaken in the agriculture year 2020.

The Advisory Board with its Sarpanch, Veterinary Assistant, Village Agriculture Assistant, Vice Person of farmers and progressive farmers as members has been constituted to meet every Friday at the RBK and discuss the problems faced by the farmers and necessary measures are initiated as the solutions and to bring awareness and sensitise the farmers about the services and facilities provided by the RBKs.

Survey and Observations:

The survey has been conducted in the Khajipet Panchayat area collecting the farmers list of 1200 with their contact phone numbers and selected 120 farmers accounting 10 per cent at random as a sample. The sample farmers are contacted both personally and on phone and the response is good. The experiences of the farmers in the study area are quite encouraging and it reflects the effective functioning and usefulness of the RBKs. The RBKs are taking care of financial needs, inputs and particularly crop insurance or cattle insurance and the farmers are getting compensation for the crop loss, for example farmers got compensation for the paddy crop loss in the recent flood situation in Khajipet area.

When asked about the RBKs, only 6 that is 5 per cent of the farmers do not know fully about the services of the RBKs. Very few know about the help of call centre and its toll-free number 155251 at Vijayawada. Majority of the respondent farmers particularly paddy growers expressed their happiness over the supply of green manure seeds. About 72 farmers constituting 60 per cent availed fertilisers. As far as the Minimum Support Price (MSP) is concerned, a guarantee price for the farmers' agricultural produce in a form of market intervention by the Government of India is concerned, the farmers expressed that the need did not arise because the market price is more than that of MSP.

5. SUGGESTIONS

In spite of a strong grass root network and machinery like village or ward volunteer system and village secretariate providing services at the door steps, the farmers are still ignorant of the procedure to avail the services and facilities available for the farmers. Hence, there is a need to further ease the procedure

and more sensitisation through awareness programmes, besides taking the services to the farmers as if it is done in case of distribution of rations under the public distribution system and pension system being done at the very first day of every month.

It may be suggested that the RBKs need to get in touch with the research institutes and take continuous suggestions for updating the farmers in respect of seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, cultivation technology, machinery and other cultivation practices for better yields particularly through mobile apps.

It is observed that there is a need for additional personnel and recommended that an agriculture volunteer per RBK is needed because more concentration is possible in the areas of field assistance and finding and helping the farmers who are not able to avail the facilities on time and from time to time.

6. CONCLUSION

The RBK, the brain child of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Sri Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, has been in the service of farmers only about a year. It is too early and premature for making an appraisal on the services offered by the RBK scheme to the farming community and expect fast track results. It has to be admitted the fact that the setting up of the RBK system is a panacea for all the pains and pathetic troubles of the farmer and it is the giant leap towards the development of agrarian Andhra Pradesh at fast pace. The success of it depends upon the awareness and effective implementing and supporting the cultivators in meeting the investment needs during the crop seasons with a view to enable them to timely sourcing of quality inputs and services for higher crop productivity adopting the right and suitable need-based strategies. Hence, there is a need for further study on the efficacy of agriculture finance, agriculture inputs and other supporting activities to the farmers to strategies and achieve the sustained development of the agrarian economy in the country.

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