

2005-06

Farmers' Suicides in Andhra Pradesh

MANAGE has taken up a study on 'Farmers' Suicides in Andhra Pradesh - causes, remedies and implications for agricultural extension'. The overall objective of the study was to analyze and understand the exact causes of suicidal deaths of the farmers in the state of Andhra Pradesh. The study covered three districts viz., Prakasam, Anantapur and Medak representing Coastal, Rayalaseema and Telangana regions respectively.

The study revealed that a majority of the victim households belong to small and marginal farmers. The share of institutional borrowing was a meager 18 per cent. The major cause which led farmers to commit suicides was indebtedness due to severe and continuous drought. Among different regions, mono cropping and failure of borewells were other causes for indebtedness and consequent debt trap which eventually led them to commit suicides.

The report highlights policy interventions requiring immediate attention at the state and national level. Policy implications having a bearing on agricultural extension are also outlined in the report.