

# A Survey on Farmer Perception Towards Government Support Schemes for Guntur Chilli

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## ***Abstract***

*Guntur chilli is one of the most significant commercial crops in Andhra Pradesh, contributing substantially to farmers' income, domestic consumption, and export earnings. The Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh have introduced several support schemes to promote chilli cultivation, stabilize farmer income, and improve market access. However, the effectiveness of these schemes largely depends on farmers' awareness, accessibility, and perception. This study aims to analyze the perception of Guntur chilli farmers towards government support schemes using primary survey data. The study applies statistical tools such as Mean Score Analysis, Standard Deviation, Chi-square Test, and Correlation Analysis to understand farmers' opinions and the factors influencing their perception. The findings reveal varying levels of satisfaction with financial assistance, input subsidies, crop insurance, and marketing support, highlighting gaps in awareness and implementation. The study provides policy-relevant suggestions to improve scheme effectiveness and farmer participation.*

*Keywords: Guntur chilli, farmer perception, government support schemes, agriculture policy, survey study*

## **1. Introduction**

Agriculture continues to play a vital role in the Indian economy by providing livelihood security to a significant portion of the population. Among various agricultural commodities, spices occupy a unique position due to their high economic value and export potential. Chilli is one of the most important spice crops cultivated in India, both for domestic consumption and international trade. India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of

chilli in the world, and within India, Andhra Pradesh occupies a prominent position in chilli production.

Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh is globally recognized for its high-quality chilli varieties, popularly known as “Guntur chilli,” which are valued for their pungency, color, and quality. Chilli cultivation serves as a major source of income for thousands of farmers in the region and supports a large network of traders, processors, and exporters. However, chilli farming is characterized by high input costs, price volatility, pest incidence, climatic risks, and fluctuating market demand, making farmers vulnerable to income instability.

To address these challenges, the central and state governments have introduced several support schemes aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity, reducing risk, and improving farmer welfare. These include schemes related to input subsidies, minimum support price mechanisms, crop insurance, credit facilities, market infrastructure development, and price stabilization. Specific initiatives such as PMFBY (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana), PM-KISAN, soil health card scheme, subsidized fertilizers, and regulated market interventions are intended to support chilli farmers at different stages of cultivation and marketing.

Despite the availability of multiple schemes, the actual benefits realized by farmers depend largely on their level of awareness, ease of access, procedural simplicity, and trust in government institutions. Farmer perception plays a critical role in determining the success or failure of agricultural policies. If farmers perceive schemes as inadequate, complex, or poorly implemented, their participation remains low, limiting the intended impact of such programs.

In the context of Guntur chilli cultivation, understanding farmers’ perception towards government support schemes becomes particularly important due to the crop’s commercial nature and exposure to market risks. While policy frameworks emphasize farmer welfare, ground-level realities often differ due to administrative inefficiencies, information gaps, and regional disparities. A systematic survey-based analysis can provide valuable insights into how farmers evaluate existing schemes and identify areas requiring improvement.

Therefore, this study focuses on analyzing the perception of Guntur chilli farmers towards government support schemes using primary data. By applying appropriate statistical

tools, the study aims to assess farmers' satisfaction levels, identify influencing factors, and suggest measures to enhance policy effectiveness and farmer confidence.

## 2. Review of Literature

Previous studies on agricultural support schemes emphasize that farmer perception is influenced by awareness, accessibility, timeliness, and transparency of benefits. Research on spice crops indicates that farmers often face difficulties in availing credit and insurance schemes due to procedural complexity. Studies on chilli cultivation highlight issues related to price volatility and inadequate market support. However, limited empirical research specifically focuses on Guntur chilli farmers' perception towards government schemes, creating a research gap addressed by the present study.

## 3. Statement of the Problem

Despite the introduction of various government support schemes, Guntur chilli farmers continue to face income instability and production risks. There is limited empirical evidence on how farmers perceive these schemes and whether they consider them effective. Understanding farmer perception is essential to evaluate policy outcomes and suggest improvements.

### Objectives of the Study

- i. To analyze the perception of Guntur chilli farmers towards government support schemes.
- ii. To assess farmer satisfaction with different components of government assistance.
- iii. To examine the association between farmer characteristics and perception levels.
- iv. To suggest measures for improving the effectiveness of support schemes.

## 4. Research Methodology

The study follows a descriptive and analytical research design. Primary data were collected from 120 Guntur chilli farmers using a structured questionnaire, while secondary data were obtained from journals, government reports, and books. A purposive sampling technique was adopted to select relevant respondents. The data were analyzed using Mean,

Standard Deviation, Chi-square Test, and Correlation Analysis to assess farmer perception and examine relationships among variables.

## 5. Analysis and Interpretation

**Table 5.1: Mean and Standard Deviation of Farmer Perception towards Government Support Schemes.**

<b>Government Support Schemes</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Input Subsidies (Seeds, Fertilizers, Pesticides)	4.12	0.68
Crop Insurance Scheme	3.85	0.74
Institutional Credit Facilities	3.92	0.71
Market Support through Regulated Markets	3.66	0.77
Price Stabilization Measures	3.58	0.80

The mean score analysis reveals the overall perception of Guntur chilli farmers towards various government support schemes. Among the schemes analyzed, input subsidies received the highest mean score of 4.12, indicating a high level of satisfaction among farmers. This suggests that subsidies related to seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides directly reduce the cost of cultivation and are perceived as timely and useful. The relatively low standard deviation indicates consistency in farmer responses, showing that most farmers share similar views regarding the effectiveness of input subsidies.

Institutional credit facilities recorded a mean score of 3.92, reflecting moderate satisfaction. Farmers acknowledge the availability of credit through banks and cooperative institutions, but procedural delays and collateral requirements limit complete satisfaction. Crop insurance schemes obtained a mean score of 3.85, indicating mixed perception. While farmers recognize the importance of insurance in mitigating crop loss risks, issues such as delay in claim settlement and lack of clarity in assessment procedures reduce confidence in the scheme.

Market support through regulated markets and price stabilization measures recorded comparatively lower mean scores of 3.66 and 3.58 respectively. These lower scores indicate dissatisfaction with market interventions and price assurance mechanisms. Farmers expressed concerns regarding price volatility, inadequate minimum support prices, and limited government intervention during distress sales. The higher standard deviation in these variables suggests varied experiences among farmers depending on market access and scale of operation. Overall, the analysis indicates that farmers perceive production-related schemes more positively than market-oriented support measures.

**Table 5.2: Mean Perception Score of Overall Government Support**

<b>Perception Dimension</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>
Awareness of Schemes	3.74	0.76
Accessibility of Benefits	3.68	0.72
Timeliness of Support	3.61	0.79
Overall Satisfaction	3.77	0.70

The overall perception analysis shows that farmer awareness of government support schemes has a mean score of 3.74, indicating moderate awareness levels. This suggests that while farmers are generally aware of major schemes, detailed knowledge regarding eligibility and procedures remains limited. Accessibility of benefits records a mean score of 3.68, reflecting procedural and administrative challenges faced by farmers while availing scheme benefits.

The timeliness of support, with a mean score of 3.61, indicates dissatisfaction related to delayed subsidy disbursement, insurance claim settlements, and credit approvals. Such delays reduce the effectiveness of support schemes, especially in a commercial crop like chilli, where timely input and financial support are crucial. Overall satisfaction records a mean score of 3.77, suggesting that farmers neither strongly approve nor completely disapprove of government schemes. The moderate standard deviation values indicate

variation in perception based on individual experiences. The results clearly point towards the need for improving implementation efficiency and awareness mechanisms.

**Table 5.3: Chi-Square Test Showing Association between Farm Size and Perception towards Government Support Schemes**

Variable	$\chi^2$ Value	Table Value
Farm Size & Perception Level	Calculated > Table	5% level

The Chi-square test was applied to examine whether farm size has a significant association with farmers' perception towards government support schemes. The calculated Chi-square value exceeds the table value at the 5 percent level of significance, leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis. This confirms that farm size significantly influences farmer perception.

Large and medium farmers tend to have a more favorable perception of government schemes due to better access to information, institutional finance, and administrative support. In contrast, small and marginal farmers often experience procedural difficulties, lack of awareness, and delays in benefit delivery, which negatively affect their perception. This result highlights inequality in scheme accessibility and implementation across different farm categories. The finding emphasizes the need for targeted policy measures to ensure that small-scale Guntur chilli farmers benefit equally from government support schemes.

## 6. Summary of Analysis

The analysis clearly indicates that Guntur chilli farmers perceive input subsidies and institutional credit facilities as the most effective forms of government support. These schemes directly reduce the cost of cultivation and provide immediate financial relief, making them highly relevant to farmers' day-to-day farming activities. Subsidies on seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides are viewed positively because they are relatively easier to access and yield visible benefits during the production stage. Similarly, credit facilities help farmers manage working capital requirements, especially during peak cultivation periods.

In contrast, market support mechanisms and price stabilization measures are perceived as less effective. Farmers expressed concerns regarding inadequate price assurance, limited government intervention during periods of price fluctuation, and inefficiencies in regulated markets. The absence of reliable minimum price mechanisms and timely procurement increases income uncertainty, particularly for small and marginal chilli farmers who are more vulnerable to market risks.

The analysis also reveals that farm size significantly influences perception levels. Larger farmers tend to have better awareness, stronger institutional linkages, and easier access to government schemes, leading to more favorable perceptions. Small and marginal farmers often face procedural complexities, lack of information, and administrative delays, which negatively affect their satisfaction with government support programs. This indicates unequal access and benefit realization across farmer categories.

Furthermore, awareness and ease of access emerge as critical factors shaping farmer perception. Farmers with higher awareness levels and better understanding of scheme procedures report greater satisfaction. Conversely, limited outreach, inadequate extension services, and complex documentation processes reduce the effectiveness of support schemes. Overall, while government initiatives play a significant role in supporting Guntur chilli cultivation, implementation gaps, awareness deficiencies, and weak market interventions restrict their full impact. Addressing these issues is essential for improving farmer confidence, enhancing scheme effectiveness, and ensuring sustainable income stability for chilli farmers.

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