

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Lease-in Behaviour of Tenant Farmers in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The urge of landless to increase their income is the purpose of lease-in behaviour of agricultural land. The people who are land less and the farmers who have marginal and small land holdings usually lease-in the agricultural land. The study was conducted in 2020 sampling tenant farmers and owner-cum tenant farmers in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh. The attitude of farmers towards lease-in behaviour was studied. Results revealed that less than two-third of the tenant farmers had high (62.22%) lease-in behaviour, followed by medium (20.00%) and low (17.78%) lease-in behaviour. Two-third of the owner cum tenant farmers had medium (66.67%) lease-in behaviour, followed by high (20.00%) and low (13.33%) lease-in behaviour. Non-parametric Friedman test was used to find whether any difference lies between lease-in behaviour of different groups of the respondents. The mean rank of tenants (1.73) is higher than that of owner cum tenant (1.27) farmers indicating higher attitude of tenant farmers for lease-in behaviour.

Key words: Tenant farmer; Lease-in behaviour; Motivation; Attitude; Land lease.

Science, technology and innovation continuum should be farmer centric and demand driven. The innovative technologies will bring agricultural transformation only if it addresses the farming community including tenant farmers. In field situation, it is observed that there are three types of people who are actually cultivating the land. They include the people who don't have any own land but practice cultivation on leased lands called as tenant farmers. The second group consist of the people practicing farming on own land as well as on leased land called as owner cum tenant farmers. The third group of farmers consists of the people practicing farming on own land called owner farmers. It is observed that there is an increase in the number of tenant farmers and owner cum tenant farmers in the recent past. This increase is many a times off the record. Agriculture is considered as the backbone of Indian economy. Every farmer is important to make this backbone strong and so the tenant farmers also.

The urge of landless to increase income is the reason for lease-in behaviour. Uneconomic land holdings is one of the reason for owner cum tenant

farming. However, in the recent times, it is observed in field situation that the real land owner is rarely in the fields. Small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour are taking up lands on rent basis for increasing their farm annual income. According to Cess Report 2014, there are about 13,48,035 tenant farmers in Andhra Pradesh which is a considerable figure. Among the 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh, East Godavari is having highest number of tenant farmers accounting to 2,50,000 (Revathi, 2014).

Lease-in behaviour was operationally defined as the attitude towards tenancy and leasing the agricultural land by tenant farmers and owner cum tenant farmers. Lease-in behaviour would make us understand the responsible factors and intentions behind leasing in the land on rent basis. At this juncture a study on lease-in behaviour of farmers was taken up.

METHODOLOGY

An *Ex-post facto* research design was used for carrying out the study. The study was conducted in Andhra Pradesh state during the year 2020. Based

on the highest number of tenant farmers among the districts in Andhra Pradesh, East Godavari was selected for the study. Three mandals viz., *Kirlampudi*, *Peddapuram*, *Kajuluru* were selected using simple random sampling procedure. A sample of 45 tenant farmers, 45 owners cum tenant farmers were selected for the study. The people who don't have any own land but practice cultivation on leased lands are operationalised as tenant farmers. The people practicing farming on own land as well as on leased land are operationalised as owner cum tenant farmers.

Lease-in behaviour was calculated using scale developed by *Gopal et al. (2019)* making suitable modifications. The scale consisted of twenty statements measured on a 5-point continuum of strongly agree, agree, undecided, disagree, strongly disagree. The scale consisted of both positive and negative statements. The scoring pattern adopted for positive statements was 5 weights to strongly agree, followed by 4 weights to agree, 3 weights to undecided, 2 weights to disagree and 1 weight to strongly disagree. Whereas the scoring pattern was reversed in case of negative statements i.e., 1 weight to strongly agree, followed by 2 weights to agree, 3 weights to undecided, 4 weights to disagree and 5 weights to strongly disagree. By adding the scores of all statements, the individual total score was worked out. The maximum and minimum scores one could get for lease-in behaviour were 100 and 20 respectively. The scores so obtained for each respondent was summed up and the respondents were grouped into three lease-in behaviour categories based on mean and S.D. as Low (Mean - S.D and below), Medium (Mean \pm S.D) and High (Mean + S.D and above).

Based on the responses, frequency and percentage were calculated for the respondent tenant farmers and owner cum tenant farmers.

Friedman test was used to know the difference in lease-in behaviour among the groups of tenant and owner cum tenant farmers. Chi-square test for independence of attributes was calculated to test the association between two or more categorical variables. Friedman's test for related samples was calculated for testing whether samples originate from the same distribution and for comparing two or more samples that are related. When the Friedman's test leads to significant results, it indicates that at least one of the samples is different from the other samples.

$$Q = \frac{12n}{k(k+1)} \sum_{j=1}^k (r_j - \frac{k+1}{2})^2$$

Where

$$\bar{r}_j = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n r_{ij}$$

n = number of rows; k = number of treatments

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The item wise responses on lease-in behaviour of tenant farmers and owner cum tenant farmers is given in Table 1. The item wise content analysis of the lease-in behaviour of tenant farmers and owner cum tenant farmers is discussed below.

Climatic problems are discouraging lease-in farmers: Majority of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (84.44%) with the statement, followed by agreed (11.12%) and undecided (4.44%). Majority of the owner cum tenant farmers also strongly agreed (84.44%) with the statement, followed by agreed (8.89%), disagreed (4.44%) and undecided (2.22%).

There is no other option to increase my income except land lease-in: More than three-fourth of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (77.78%) with the statement, followed by agreed (22.22%). Less than half of the owner cum tenant farmers agreed (42.22%) with the statement, followed by strongly agreed (37.78%), disagreed (13.33%), undecided (4.44%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%).

Lease-in fulfils the urge of possession of land: Nearly half of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (48.89%) with the statement, followed by disagreed (26.67%), undecided (15.56%) and agreed (8.89%). One-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (33.33%) with the statement, followed by disagreed (26.67%), agreed (20.00%), undecided (13.33%) and strongly disagreed (6.67%).

Inspite of having less land holding, I enjoy the status of big farmer through lease-in: Two-third of the tenant farmers disagreed (66.67%) with the statement, followed by strongly disagreed (20.00%), strongly agreed (8.89%), agreed (2.22%) and undecided (2.22%). More than one-third of the owner cum tenant farmers disagreed (35.56%) with the statement, followed by strongly disagreed (33.33%), strongly agreed (13.33%), agreed (8.89%) and undecided (8.89%).

I am happy in cultivating the crops: More than half of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (51.11%) with the statement, followed by agreed (20.00%), undecided

Table 1. Content analysis of lease-in behaviour for tenant farmers and owner cum tenant farmers

Statements	Respondent	Strongly agree (5)		Agree (4)		Undecided (3)		Disagree (2)		Strongly disagree (1)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Climatic problems are discouraging lease-in farmers.	Tenant	38	84.44	5	11.12	2	4.44	--	--	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	38	84.44	4	8.89	1	2.22	2	4.44	--	--
There is no other option to increase my income except land lease-in.	Tenants	35	77.78	10	22.22	--	--	--	--	--	--
	owner cum tenants	17	37.78	19	42.22	2	4.44	6	13.33	1	2.22
Lease-in fulfils the urge of possession of land.	Tenant	22	48.89	4	8.89	7	15.56	12	26.67	--	--
	owner cum tenants	15	33.33	9	20.00	6	13.33	12	26.67	3	6.67
Inspite of having less land holding, I enjoy the status of big farmer through lease-in.	Tenant	4	8.89	1	2.22	1	2.22	30	66.67	9	20.00
	Owner cum tenants	6	13.33	4	8.89	4	8.89	16	35.56	15	33.33
I am happy in cultivating the crops.	Tenant	23	51.11	9	20.00	7	15.56	5	11.11	1	2.22
	Owner cum tenants	16	35.56	16	35.56	9	20.00	4	8.89	--	--
The source of security for my family is lease-in.	Tenant	36	80.00	8	17.78	1	2.22	--	--	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	27	60.00	9	20.00	3	6.67	3	6.67	3	6.67
Acquisition of inputs is difficult in lease-in cultivation.	Tenant	25	55.56	11	24.44	1	2.22	8	17.78	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	15	33.33	11	24.44	8	17.78	10	22.22	1	2.22
I have enough labour force to cultivate substantial area of land.	Tenant	1	2.22	2	4.44	5	11.11	14	31.11	23	51.11
	Owner cum tenants	--	--	2	4.44	5	11.11	9	20.00	29	64.44
I prefer to lease-in the land if the tenure is long term	Tenant	22	48.89	3	6.67	7	15.56	7	15.56	6	13.33
	Owner cum tenants	9	20.00	17	37.78	2	4.44	5	11.11	12	26.67
Lease-in is a better option than opting agricultural labour work.	Tenant	11	24.44	17	37.78	7	15.56	9	20.00	1	2.22
	Owner cum tenants	4	8.89	20	44.44	3	6.67	17	37.78	1	2.22
I prefer only commercial linkage with my owner.	Tenant	35	77.78	8	17.78	1	2.22	1	2.22	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	28	62.22	12	26.67	3	6.67	1	2.22	1	2.22
Poor financial status is compelling me for land lease-in.	Tenant	41	91.11	3	6.67	--	--	1	2.22	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	28	62.22	9	20.00	2	4.44	4	8.89	2	4.44
I am forced to be a lease-in farmer as I have low education.	Tenant	40	88.89	3	6.67	1	2.22	1	2.22	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	21	46.67	16	35.56	2	4.44	4	8.89	2	4.44
Lease-in is the traditional practice in our family.	Tenant	31	68.89	1	2.22	1	2.22	5	11.11	7	15.56
	Owner cum tenants	22	48.89	4	8.89	4	8.89	14	31.11	1	2.22
Lease-in on large scale is better than limited scale.	Tenant	7	15.56	9	20.00	2	4.44	6	13.33	21	46.67
	Owner cum tenants	8	17.78	8	17.78	3	6.67	3	6.67	23	51.11
I have my own obligation with the owner for lease-in.	Tenant	35	77.78	10	22.22	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	22	48.89	19	42.22	--	--	3	6.67	1	2.22
There are no good avenues for marketing of farm produce at large scale.	Tenant	41	91.11	3	6.67	--	--	1	2.22	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	37	82.22	5	11.11	1	2.22	2	4.44	--	--
I am leasing-in the land to meet my farming system needs.	Tenant	38	84.44	7	15.56	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	29	64.44	14	31.11	1	2.22	1	2.22	--	--
Lease-in promotes no contacts with the people in the society.	Tenant	2	4.44	2	4.44	--	--	6	13.33	35	77.78
	Owner cum tenants	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	11.11	40	88.89
Land lease rents are exorbitant to afford.	Tenant	35	77.78	8	17.78	--	--	2	4.44	--	--
	Owner cum tenants	26	57.78	13	28.89	5	11.11	1	2.22	--	--

(15.56%), disagreed (11.11%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%). More than one-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (35.56%) with the statement, followed by agreed (35.56%), undecided (20.00%) and disagreed (8.89%).

The source of security for my family is lease-in: Majority of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (80.00%) with the statement, followed by agreed (17.78%) and undecided (2.22%). Less than two-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (60.00%) with the statement, followed by agreed (20.00%), undecided (6.67%), disagreed (6.67%) and strongly disagreed (6.67%).

Acquisition of inputs is difficult in lease-in cultivation: More than half of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (55.56%) with the statement, followed by agreed (24.44%), disagreed (17.78%) and undecided (2.22%). One-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (33.33%) with the statement, followed by agreed (24.44%), disagreed (22.22%), undecided (17.78%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%).

I have enough labour force to cultivate substantial area of land: More than half of the tenant farmers strongly disagreed (51.11%) with the statement, followed by disagreed (31.11%), undecided (11.11%), agreed (4.44%) and strongly agreed (2.22%). Less than two-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly disagreed (64.44%) with the statement, followed by disagreed (20.00%), undecided (11.11%) and agreed (4.44%).

I prefer to lease-in the land if the tenure is long term: Less than half of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (48.89%) with the statement, followed by undecided (15.56%), disagreed (15.56%) strongly disagreed (13.33%) and agreed (6.67%). More than one-third of the owner cum tenant farmers agreed (37.78%) with the statement, followed by strongly disagreed (26.67%), agreed (20.00%), disagreed (11.11%) and undecided (4.44%).

Lease-in is a better option than opting agricultural labour work: More than one-third of the tenant farmers agreed (37.78%) with the statement, followed by strongly agreed (24.44%), disagreed (20.00%), undecided (15.56%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%). Less than half of the owner cum tenant farmers agreed (44.44%) with the statement, followed by disagreed (37.78%), strongly agreed (8.89%), undecided (6.67%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%).

I prefer only commercial linkage with my owner: More than three-fourth of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (77.78%) with the statement, followed by agreed (17.78%), undecided (2.22%) and disagreed (2.22%). Less than two-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (62.22%) with the statement, followed by agreed (26.67%), undecided (6.67%), disagreed (2.22%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%).

Poor financial status is compelling me for land lease-in: Great majority of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (91.11%) with the statement, followed by agreed (6.67%) and disagreed (2.22%). Less than two-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (62.22%) with the statement, followed by agreed (20.00%), disagreed (8.89%), undecided (4.44%) and strongly disagreed (4.44%).

I am forced to be a lease-in farmer as I have low education: Majority of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (88.89%) with the statement, followed by agreed (6.67%), undecided (2.22%) and disagreed (2.22%). Less than half of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (46.67%) with the statement, followed by agreed (35.56%), disagreed (8.89%), undecided (4.44%) and strongly disagreed (4.44%).

Lease-in is the traditional practice in our family: More than two-third of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (68.89%) with the statement, followed by strongly disagreed (15.56%), disagreed (11.11%), agreed (2.22%) and undecided (2.22%). Less than half of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (48.89%) with the statement, followed by disagreed (31.11%), agreed (8.89%), undecided (8.89%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%).

Lease-in on large scale is better than limited scale: Less than half of the tenant farmers strongly disagreed (46.67%) with the statement, followed by agreed (20.00%), strongly agreed (15.56%), disagreed (13.33%) and undecided (4.44%). More than half of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly disagreed (51.11%) with the statement, followed by strongly agreed (17.78%), agreed (17.78%), undecided (6.67%) and disagreed (6.67%).

I have my own obligation with the owner for lease-in: More than three-fourth of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (77.78%) with the statement, followed by agreed (22.22%). Less than half of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (48.89%) with the statement, followed by agreed (42.22%), disagreed (6.67%) and strongly disagreed (2.22%).

There are no good avenues for marketing of farm produce at large scale: Great majority of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (91.11%) with the statement, followed by agreed (6.67%) and disagreed (2.22%). Majority of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (82.22%) with the statement, followed by agreed (11.11%), disagreed (4.44%) and undecided (2.22%).

I am leasing-in the land to meet my farming system needs: Majority of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (84.44%) with the statement, followed by agreed (15.56%). Less than two-third of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (64.44%) with the statement, followed by agreed (31.11%), undecided (2.22%) and disagreed (2.22%).

Lease-in promotes no contacts with the people in the society: More than three-fourth of the tenant farmers strongly disagreed (77.78%) with the statement, followed by disagreed (13.33%), strongly agreed (4.44%) and agreed (4.44%). Majority of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly disagreed (88.89%), with the statement, followed by disagreed (11.11%).

Land lease rents are exorbitant to afford: More than three-fourth of the tenant farmers strongly agreed (77.78%) with the statement, followed by agreed (17.78%) and disagreed (4.44%). More than half of the owner cum tenant farmers strongly agreed (57.78%) with the statement, followed by agreed (28.89%), undecided (11.11%) and disagreed (2.22%).

On the basis of lease-in behaviour, the respondents were categorised into three categories namely low, medium and high. The results are presented in Table 2.

It could be inferred from Table 2 that less than two-third of the tenant farmers had high (62.22%) lease-in behaviour, followed by medium (20.00%) and low (17.78%) lease-in behaviour. Two-third of the owner cum tenant farmers had medium (66.67%) lease-in behaviour, followed by high (20.00%) and low (13.33%) lease-in behaviour. The findings are in conformity with that reported by Pradhan and Chauhan (2012); Revathi Nagamani et al. (2020); Singh, (2012) and Vijayabhinandana et al. (2018).

It could be inferred from the above findings that the greater proportion of the tenant farmers had high lease-in behaviour while greater proportion of the owner cum tenant farmers had medium lease-in behaviour. The results indicate that tenants have more affinity towards lease-in behaviour than owner cum tenants. Lack of own land, coupled with family needs

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to lease-in behaviour

Category	Tenants		Owner cum tenants	
	No.	%	No.	%
Low	8	17.78	6	13.33
Medium	9	20.00	30	66.67
High	28	62.22	9	20.00
Total	45	100.00	45	100.00
	Mean=78.89		Mean=70.69	
	SD=6.55		SD=13.63	

Table 3. Mean ranks of lease-in behaviour of the respondents as per Friedman test

Category	Mean Rank
Tenants	1.73 A
Owner cum tenants	1.27 B

Table 4. Friedman test statistics for lease-in behaviour of the respondents

Test statistics	
n	45
Chi-Square	10.756*
Chi-Square (Critical)	3.842
df	1
p	0.001

might the strong reason for lease-in behaviour of tenant farmers. However, owner cum tenant farmers also with an urge to improve the financial status and meet the family needs showed interest towards leasing the land. However, the extent of leasing the land depends on their needs, interest, resources available, management capacity, etc. The results are also in agreement with those reported by Vijayabhinandana et al. (2019) and Pordhiya et al. (2022).

Non-parametric Friedman test was used to find whether any difference lies between lease-in behaviour of different groups of the respondents. The mean rank of tenants (1.73) is higher than that of owner cum tenant (1.27) farmers as presented in Table 3 and Friedman test statistics presented in Table 4.

It is evident from Table 4. that Friedman test

statistic chi-square value for the lease-in behaviour of the respondents is higher than the critical value (3.842) with $df = 1$ at 5% level of significance. The test statistic value recorded was 10.756. As the p (0.001) value is less than the significant level, it can be inferred that there is a significant difference in lease-in behaviour between tenant farmers and owner cum tenant farmers.

CONCLUSION

Finding ways to surge motivation is crucial as it allows to streamline and strengthen our behaviour, develop competencies, grow interests, be creative, set goals, make plans, develop talents and boost engagement. The intentions and reasons behind lease-in behaviour are important. The attitude behind farmers leasing the land tells us the motivational factors for such a behaviour. Based on the motives, farmers could be derived to adopt low-cost innovative technologies to get higher yields and profits.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

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