



WEATHER BASED CROP INSURANCE SCHEME A NEW TOOL FOR CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE

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ABSTRACT

Government of India has introduced weather index based crop insurance scheme (WBICS) in 2007 kharif season on pilot basis. Now WBICS is a component of National crop insurance program along with modified national agricultural insurance scheme and coconut palm insurance scheme. WBICS is important because of its product nature, quick claim settlement, transparent and easy administration. This particular study is taken up to study reasons for farmers' participation in WBICS in Karnataka, their perceptions, problems and improvements needed in the product. For this both primary and secondary data sources are used and the study revealed that represented by more marginal farmers' having less than one hectares of land, WBICS is a financial risk transfer tool in case of yield loss due to adverse weather conditions. Majority of farmers do not have full awareness about crop insurance thus they seek more insurance education programs. Finally, with collective efforts by insurance providers, government, reinsurers can extend their support to strengthen the insurance safety net to small and marginal farmers in Karnataka and thereby to achieve all developmental objectives.

KEYWORDS: *ClimateRiskManagement, MitigationStrategies, WeatherInsurance, Agriculture, Crop Insurance*