

THESIS

**IMPACTS OF SURFACE DRAINAGE ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION IN IRRIGATED AREAS**



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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to assess the impact of surface drain on farm Income. To quantify the impacts of surface drainage on socio-economic conditions and farm income two adjacent areas "with and without surface drainage facility" having similar agro-climatic conditions were selected. Data for the baseline survey was collected through focus group discussion and by individual interview of the farmers of the two areas. Additionally, 15 respondents each from head, middle and tail reaches of the two areas were contacted randomly having large (>25 acres), medium (<12.5 to 25 acres) and small size (upto 12.5 acres) land holdings. A questioner performa regarding demographic, socio-economic and agricultural profiles was also filled during field visits.

The results of the study revealed that farm income of the farmers having small farm size has increased 12.2 % as a result of providing surface drain in the area. The drain has considerable effect on the cropping pattern of the area due to timely and regularly evacuation of ponded water from the fields. Farmers preferred to grow wheat and rice in the Rabi and Kharif seasons respectively rather than other crops. The results show that drain has increased monthly per capita income of Rs.581, Rs.1,198 and Rs.2,598 for small, medium and large farm sizes respectively, which directly contributes in poverty alleviation in the irrigated areas.