

# Purpose-wise utilization pattern of agricultural credit in Rajasthan

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## Abstract

The present study was conducted to examine the purpose-wise utilization pattern of agricultural credit in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. The study results revealed that the overall borrowed amount of credit was Rs.1,06,259. Out of which, 75.97 per cent (Rs. 80,730) was utilized for stipulated purposes and the remaining 24.03 per cent (Rs. 25,529) was diverted to other purposes. It may be noted that the highest (94.79 per cent) amount of credit advanced was utilized for purchase of sprinkler system and the lowest (57.58 per cent) for crop production. The diversion of credit was found to be the highest for crop loans (42.42 per cent) and the lowest (5.21 per cent) for purchase of sprinkler system. Out of the total diverted amount of credit, 27.43 per cent (Rs. 7,003) was used for other productive purposes and 72.57 per cent (Rs. 18,526) was used for non-productive purposes. The study also revealed that 70.59 per cent of the farmer borrowers had completely utilized the credit for the stipulated purposes, 23.98 per cent had partially utilized and the remaining 5.43 per cent of the farmer borrowers had completely diverted the loan for other purposes.

**Keywords:** Utilization, construction, farm implements, stipulated purposes, sprinkler system.

India is an agricultural country where about 60 per cent population is engaged in the agriculture industry. This sector contributes about 14 per cent in country's GDP. The development of agriculture depends on the adoption of new technologies and the adoption of new technology demands agricultural credit (Aroutselvam and Zeaudeen, 2000). Thus, it's a precondition for the overall economic growth which itself depends upon availability of timely and adequate credit facilities. Besides, the incarnation of modern and improved farm technology in agriculture has necessitated an expansion of farm credit. Timely and adequate credit is also essential for capital formation to the farmers. In order to provide substantial amount of credit to farmers, various

institutional financial agencies have been followed for disbursing credit to agricultural sector but the farmers use a part of productive credit for un-productive purposes to meet out their consumption requirements as well as social obligations because they do not have sufficient income to fulfill the consumption requirements. Thus, utilization aspect of credit is more important than availability of credit. If available credit is utilized for the proper uses, it helps not only in increasing the returns of the farmer, but also creates its repaying capacity with the resource-starved farmers. In the above context, this research has been done to focus on the purpose-wise utilization of agricultural credit.

## Methodology

The main focus of this paper is to examine the credit utilization pattern of farmer borrowers. The study is based on households' survey conducted within two panchayat samitis *viz.*, Govindgarh and Sambhar Lake in Jaipur district of Rajasthan. Two gram panchayats from each panchayat samitis were selected randomly for the study purpose. These were Kisanpura and Jaitpura from Govindgarh panchayat samiti and Badhal and Lalasar from Shambhar Lake panchayat samiti. All the villages falling within each gram panchayat were selected for further investigation. From the selected villages, a list of all the farmers who borrowed the loan from institutional agencies was obtained from the records of financial agencies and categorized them into five standard categories on the basis of their size of land holdings. From each category, only 15 per cent farmers were selected randomly for detailed study. Thus, a sample of 221 farmer borrowers which consisted of 55 marginal, 51 small, 45 semi-medium, 52 medium and 18 large farmer borrowers was selected at random in probability proportion to their number in their categories. The primary data related to credit utilization pattern were collected from farmer borrowers by survey method through personal interview with the help of a set of pre-tested schedules. The secondary data regards to credit disbursement were collected from the record maintained by the financial agencies of the study area. The data were statistically tabulated and analyzed by calculating simple percentages and averages to arrive at the objective specific results. For examining the credit utilization pattern, both per farm and per hectare amount of credit utilized for and diverted from stipulated purposes and utilization of diverted credit for other productive or un-productive purposes were studied.

The agricultural credit utilization for stipulated purposes was measured by using the following formula:

Similar formula was used to measure the credit utilization for other purposes as given below:

## Results and Discussion

### *Purpose-wise disbursement of credit*

Table 1 depicts that the per farm average credit advanced by financial institutions was ₹ 1,06,259. The purpose-wise break-up of credit reveals that the credit advanced for purchase of farm machinery accounted for highest 33.36 per cent share followed by crop production (26.49 per cent), construction of farm buildings and other farm structures (14.41 per cent), purchase of livestock (8.80 per cent), purchase /improvement of land (8.50 per cent), purchase of farm implements (5.82 per cent) and purchase of sprinkler system (2.62 per cent) in the total credit advanced to farmer borrowers. In case of marginal farmer borrowers, the loan for sprinkler system, purchase of farm implements, purchase of farm machinery and purchase / improvements of land was not advanced. The magnitude of loan amount was noticed to be positively associated with the size of holdings. The per hectare total credit advanced by the lending agencies to the selected farmer borrowers is depicted in table 2. The purpose-wise break up of credit indicated that the credit advanced for purchase of farm machinery shared the highest (Rs. 11,079) portion followed by crop production (Rs. 8,797), construction of buildings and other farm structures (Rs. 4,784), purchase of livestock (Rs. 2,921), purchase /improvement of land (Rs. 2,822), purchase of farm implements (Rs. 1,933) and purchase of sprinkler system (Rs. 870) of the total credit disbursement. The per hectare amount of credit advanced for crop production, purchase of livestock and purchase of sprinkler system decreased with the increase in the size of holdings. The credit advanced for purchase of farm machinery and implements was noted to be the highest for the medium farmer borrower as compared to others.

### *Purpose-wise utilization of credit*

The amount of credit actually utilized for the purposes for which it was advanced was ₹ 18,336 by marginal farmers, ₹ 41,662 by small farmers, ₹ 79,187 by semi-medium farmers, ₹ 1,40,830 by

**Table 1.** Per farm purpose-wise disbursement, utilization and diversion of credit

(In rupees)

Purposes	Particulars	Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large	Overall
Crop production	Disbursement	20042 (68.56)	22933 (39.34)	25872 (23.96)	39442 (22.07)	40792 (15.45)	28151 (26.49)
	Utilization	10869 (59.28)	13219 (31.73)	15037 (19.00)	22391 (15.90)	26070 (12.27)	16209 (20.08)
	Diversion	9173 (84.19)	9714 (58.43)	10835 (37.58)	17051 (44.98)	14722 (28.62)	11942 (46.78)
Purchase of livestock	Disbursement	8274 (28.31)	9010 (15.46)	9714 (9.00)	9962 (5.57)	10873 (4.12)	9346 (8.80)
	Utilization	6654 (36.29)	7389 (17.74)	8053 (10.18)	8729 (6.20)	9785 (4.60)	7852 (9.73)
	Diversion	1620 (14.87)	1621 (9.75)	1661 (5.76)	1233 (3.25)	1088 (2.12)	1494 (5.85)
Purchase of sprinkler system	Disbursement	915 (3.13)	1745 (2.99)	2669 (2.47)	3577 (2.00)	9445 (3.58)	2785 (2.62)
	Utilization	813 (4.43)	1635 (3.92)	2587 (3.27)	3365 (2.39)	9110 (4.29)	2640 (3.27)
	Diversion	102 (0.94)	110 (0.66)	82 (0.28)	212 (0.56)	335 (0.65)	145 (0.57)
Purchase of farm implements	Disbursement	-	1944 (03.34)	1990 (01.84)	16481 (09.22)	17846 (06.76)	6185 (05.82)
	Utilization	-	1668 (4.00)	1710 (2.16)	15168 (10.77)	16452 (7.74)	5642 (6.99)
	Diversion	-	276 (1.66)	280 (0.97)	1313 (3.46)	1394 (2.71)	543 (2.13)
Purchase of Farm machinery	Disbursement	-	14706 (25.23)	36667 (33.96)	73558 (41.16)	89445 (33.89)	35453 (33.36)
	Utilization	-	11996 (16.30)	34898 (6.14)	71544 (5.31)	76354 (25.45)	32927 (9.89)
	Diversion	-	2710 (9.42)	1769 (20.74)	2014 (14.05)	13091 (16.63)	2526 (14.41)
Construction of farm buildings/ structures	Disbursement	-	5490 (9.42)	22389 (20.74)	25115 (14.05)	43889 (16.63)	15310 (14.41)
	Utilization	-	4630 (11.11)	12892 (16.29)	13618 (9.67)	36559 (17.20)	9875 (12.23)
	Diversion	-	860 (5.17)	9497 (32.94)	11497 (30.33)	7330 (14.25)	5435 (21.29)
Purchase / improvement of land	Disbursement	-	2459 (4.22)	8667 (8.03)	10578 (5.92)	51665 (19.57)	9029 (8.50)
	Utilization	-	1125 (2.70)	3960 (5.00)	5988 (4.25)	38185 (17.97)	5585 (6.92)
	Diversion	-	1334 (8.02)	4707 (16.33)	4590 (12.11)	13480 (26.21)	3444 (13.49)

Total	Disbursement	29231 (100)	58287 (100)	107968 (100)	178713 (100)	263955 (100)	106259 (100)
	Utilization	18336 (100)	41662 (100)	79137 (100)	140803 (100)	212515 (100)	80730 (100)
	Diversion	10895 (100)	16625 (100)	28831 (100)	37910 (100)	51440 (100)	25529 (100)

Figures in parentheses are the percentages to the total

medium farmers and ₹ 2,12,515 by the large farmer which accounted for 62.79 per cent, 71.48 per cent, 73.30 per cent, 78.89 per cent and 80.51 per cent, respectively of the total credit advanced to them (Table 1). The overall amount of credit utilized by these farmer borrowers was ₹ 80,730 which was 75.97 per cent of the total credit advanced. The utilization of credit for the stipulated purposes increased in both absolute and percentage terms with the increase in the size of holdings. The table also shows that the farmer borrowers utilized 57.58 per cent, 84.01 per cent, 94.79 per cent, 91.22 per cent, 92.88 per cent, 64.50 per cent and 61.86 per cent amount of credit advanced for crop production, purchase of livestock, sprinkler system, farm implements, farm machinery, construction of farm buildings and other farm structures and purchase / improvement of land, respectively. It may be noted that the highest (94.79 per cent) amount of credit advanced was utilized for purchase of sprinkler system and the lowest (57.58 per cent) for crop production. The per hectare utilization pattern of credit is given in table 2. It is clear from the table that per hectare actual amount of credit utilized for stipulated purposes by marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmer borrowers was ₹ 35,261, ₹ 28,932, ₹ 26,918, ₹ 26,871 and ₹ 19,111, respectively. It decreased with the increase in the size of holding. It may be seen from the table that large farmer borrowers were advanced less credit on per hectare basis as compared to others. The per hectare amount of loan utilized for purchase of farm implements (Rs. 2,895) and farm machinery (Rs. 13,653) was higher for medium farmer borrowers as compared to other farmers. It may be attributed to more investment opportunities in purchase of farm implements and farm machinery.

#### ***Purpose-wise diversion of credit***

The table 1 also reveals that the per farm amount of diverted credit was varied from ₹ 10,895 to ₹ 51,440 by the marginal to large farmer borrowers. In percentage terms, it was estimated to be highest 37.27 per cent by marginal farmer borrowers followed by small (28.52 per cent), semi-medium (26.70 per cent), medium (21.21 per cent) and large farmer borrowers (19.49 per cent). The overall amount of credit diverted by the sample farmer borrowers was ₹ 25,529 which was 24.02 per cent of the total credit advanced. The amount diverted in absolute terms was positively associated with increase in the size of holdings. On the other hand, the percentage of amount diverted to total credit advanced decreased with the increase in the size of holdings. The table also reveals that the highest diversion of credit was found to be the highest for crop loans (42.42 per cent) followed by that for purchase / improvement of land (38.14 per cent), construction of farm buildings and other farm structures (35.50 per cent), purchase of livestock (15.99 per cent), purchase of farm implements (8.78 per cent), purchase of farm machinery (7.12 per cent) and purchase of sprinkler system (5.21 per cent).

Per hectare amount of credit diverted by the marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmer borrowers was ₹ 20,952, ₹ 11,545, ₹ 9,806, ₹ 7,235 and ₹ 4,626, respectively (Table 2). It was observed to decrease with increase in the size of holdings. The highest amount was noted to be diverted from crop loans (Rs. 3,732) followed by construction of farm buildings and other farm structures (Rs. 1,698), purchase / improvement of land (Rs. 1,076), purchase of farm machinery (Rs. 790), purchase of livestock (Rs. 467), purchase of farm implements (Rs. 170) and purchase of sprinkler

**Table 2: Per hectare purpose-wise utilization and diversion of credit**

(In rupees)

Purposes	Particulars	Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large	Overall
Crop production	Disbursement	38542	15926	8800	7527	3668	8797
	Utilization	20902	9180	5115	4273	2345	5065
	Diversion	17641	6746	3685	3254	1324	3732
Purchase of livestock	Disbursement	15911	6257	3304	1901	978	2921
	Utilization	12796	5131	2739	1666	880	2454
	Diversion	3115	1126	565	235	98	467
Purchase of sprinkler system	Disbursement	1760	1212	908	683	849	870
	Utilization	1563	1136	880	642	819	825
	Diversion	196	76	28	40	30	45
Purchase of farm implements	Disbursement	-	1350	677	3145	1605	1933
	Utilization	-	1158	582	2895	1479	1763
	Diversion	-	191	95	251	126	170
Purchase of Farm machinery	Disbursement	-	10212	12472	14038	8043	11079
	Utilization	-	8331	11870	13653	6866	10290
	Diversion	-	1882	602	385	1177	790
Construction of farm buildings/ structures	Disbursement	-	3812	7615	4793	3947	4784
	Utilization	-	3215	4385	2599	3288	3086
	Diversion	-	597	3230	2194	659	1698
Purchase / improvement of land	Disbursement	-	1708	2948	2019	4646	2822
	Utilization	-	781	1347	1143	3434	1745
	Diversion	-	927	1601	876	1212	1076
Total	Disbursement	56213	40477	36724	34106	23737	33206
	Utilization	35261	28932	26918	26871	19111	25228
	Diversion	20952	11545	9806	7235	4626	7978

system (Rs. 45). The diversion in the loan for machinery, implements and sprinkler system was noted to be less as compared to others because such amounts of loan were directly supplied by the banks to the dealers.

#### ***Total diversion of credit***

The investigation revealed that the farmer borrowers utilized a fraction of the amount borrowed. The remaining amount was diverted to other purposes- both productive and un-productive. The findings

pertaining to per farm diversion of credit for productive and non-productive purposes are presented in table 3. The results reveal that the per farm credit diversion by the marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmer borrowers was of the order of ₹ 10,895, ₹ 16,625, ₹ 28,831, ₹ 37,910 and ₹ 51,440, respectively. The overall total credit diversion amounted to ₹ 25,529. Out of which, 27.43 per cent (Rs. 7,003) was used for other productive purposes and 72.57 per cent (Rs. 18,526) was used for non-productive purposes.



**Table 3: Total amount of diverted credit by the selected farmers**

(In rupees)

Size groups	Amount diverted for other productive purposes		Amount diverted for un-productive purposes		Total amount diverted	
	Per farm	Per hectare	Per farm	Per hectare	Per farm	Per hectare
Marginal	3391 (31.12)	6521	7504 (68.88)	14431	10895 (100.00)	20952
Small	4761 (28.64)	3306	11864 (71.36)	8239	16625 (100.00)	11545
Semi-medium	7789 (27.02)	2649	21042 (72.98)	7157	28831 (100.00)	9806
Medium	9870 (26.04)	1884	28040 (73.96)	5351	37910 (100.00)	7235
Large	14139 (27.49)	1272	37301 (72.51)	3354	51440 (100.00)	4626
Overall	7003 (27.43)	2189	18526 (72.57)	5789	25529 (100.00)	7978

Figures in parentheses are the percentages to the total

Per hectare credit diversion for marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmer borrowers was estimated at ₹ 20,952, ₹ 11,545, ₹ 9,806, ₹ 7,235 and ₹ 4,626, respectively. The overall credit diversion amounted to ₹ 7977, of which ₹ 2,188 was used for other productive purposes and ₹ 5,789 was used for non-productive purposes. The per hectare amount of credit diverted was inversely related to increase in the size of holdings.

#### ***VI.1 Diversion of credit for other productive purposes***

Table 4 reveals that the per farm diversion of credit for productive purposes (other than the stipulated one) was ₹ 3,391, ₹ 4,761, ₹ 7,789, ₹ 9870 and ₹ 14,139 by the marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmer borrowers, respectively.

The overall credit diversion amounted to ₹ 7,003 of which, 37.00 per cent (Rs. 2,591) was used for making payments to hired labour, 31.25 per cent (Rs. 2,188) for deepening and repairing of wells, 22.90 per cent (Rs. 1,604) for establishing dairy booths for milk collection and 8.85 per cent (Rs. 620) for other productive purposes like education, purchase of chaff cutter etc. Likewise, the per hectare credit

diverted by the marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmer borrowers were ₹ 6,521, ₹ 3,306, ₹ 2,649, ₹ 1,884 and ₹ 1,271, respectively with an overall amount of ₹ 2,188. Out of which ₹ 809 was used for making payment to hired labour followed by ₹ 684 for deepening and repairing of wells ₹ 501 for establishing dairy booths for milk collection and ₹ 194 for other purposes like education, purchase of chaff cutter, etc. The per hectare amount of credit diverted for other productive purposes was also noted to be negatively associated with increase in the size of holdings.

#### ***VI.2 Diversion of credit for un-productive purposes***

The per farm credit diversion for un-productive purposes varied from as low as ₹ 7,504 by marginal farmer borrowers to as high as ₹ 37,301 by large farmer borrowers. In percentage terms the credit diversion varied from 69 per cent to 74 per cent among different categories of the farmer borrowers (Table 4). Of the total un-productive credit over one third was used for organizing social and religious ceremonies and about 27 per cent each for repayment of old debts and domestic consumption. Rest was spent for meeting medical treatment and other

**Table 4. Diversion of credit to other productive as well as un-productive purposes by the selected farmer borrowers**

(In rupees)

Particulars	Size Groups					
	Marginal	Small	Semi-medium	Medium	Large	Overall
Other productive purpose						
Payment for hired labour	1235 (36.42)	1823 (38.29)	3415 (43.84)	3652 (37.00)	3784 (26.76)	2591 (37.00)
Establishment of dairy booth for milk collection	742 (21.88)	885 (18.59)	1467 (18.83)	2190 (22.19)	4924 (34.82)	1604 (22.90)
Deepening and repairing of wells	975 (28.75)	1564 (32.85)	2179 (27.98)	3261 (33.04)	4585 (32.43)	2188 (31.25)
Others	439 (12.95)	489 (10.27)	728 (9.35)	767 (7.77)	846 (5.99)	620 (8.85)
Per farm	3391 (100)	4761 (100)	7789 (100)	9870 (100)	14139 (100)	7003 (100)
Per hectare	6521	3306	2649	1884	1272	2189
Un-productive purpose						
Domestic consumption	2698 (35.95)	3255 (27.44)	5688 (27.03)	7362 (26.26)	8089 (21.69)	4972 (26.84)
Repayment of old debts	1640 (21.86)	3460 (29.16)	5397 (25.65)	7974 (28.44)	10126 (27.15)	5007 (27.03)
Medical care	195 (2.60)	1068 (9.00)	1181 (5.61)	1521 (5.42)	2952 (7.91)	1134 (6.12)
Social and religious ceremonies	2842 (37.87)	3317 (27.96)	7616 (36.20)	9240 (32.95)	13344 (35.77)	6284 (33.92)
Others	129 (1.72)	764 (6.44)	1160 (5.51)	1943 (6.93)	2790 (7.48)	1129 (6.09)
Per farm	7504 (100)	11864 (100)	21042 (100)	28040 (100)	37301 (100)	18526 (100)
Per hectare	14431	8239	7157	5351	3354	5789

Figures in parentheses are the percentages to the total

expenditure like litigation, purchase of motor cycle, entertainment aids etc. The table shows that the marginal farmer borrowers diverted about 38 per cent un-productive loan for social and religious ceremonies closely followed by 36 per cent for domestic consumption. In case of small farmer borrowers it was around 28 and 27 per cent, respectively. Semi-medium and large farmer borrowers spent about 36 per cent each of the un-productive loan on social and religious ceremonies. These farmer borrowers spent about 27 per cent and 22 per cent of un-productive loan on domestic

consumption. In case of medium farmer borrowers, they diverted about 33 per cent of the unproductive loan for social and religious ceremonies closely followed by 28 per cent for repayment the old debts.

Similarly, the per hectare diversion of credit for un-productive purpose by the marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farmer borrowers was ₹ 14,431, ₹ 8,239, ₹ 7,157, ₹ 5,351 and ₹ 3,354, respectively with an overall average of ₹ 5,789. Out of which ₹ 1,940 was used for social and religious ceremonies followed by ₹ 1565 for repayment of

**Table 5:** Credit utilization pattern among the selected farmer borrowers

Size groups	Credit utilization pattern			Total number of borrowers
	Complete utilization	Partial utilization	Complete diversion	
Marginal	34 (61.82)	17 (30.91)	4 (7.27)	55 (100.00)
Small	35 (68.63)	13 (25.49)	3 (5.88)	51 (100.00)
Semi-medium	32 (71.11)	10 (22.22)	3 (6.67)	45 (100.00)
Medium	40 (76.92)	10 (19.23)	2 (3.85)	52 (100.00)
Large	15 (83.33)	3 (16.67)	-	18 (100.00)
Total	156 (70.59)	53 (23.98)	12 (5.43)	221 (100.00)

Figures in parentheses are the percentages to the total

old debts, ₹ 1,554 for domestic consumption, ₹ 377 for other purposes like litigation, purchase of motor cycle, entertainment aids etc. and ₹ 354 for medical care. The table also shows that the per hectare credit diversion for un-productive purposes decreased with increase in the size of holding. It varied from ₹ 14,431 by marginal farmer borrowers to ₹ 3,354 by large farmer borrowers. The amount utilized for domestic consumption and repayment of old debts also decreased with the increase in the size of holding. No specific trend was observed in diversion of credit for medical care, social and religious ceremonies and other purposes. The marginal farmer borrowers with ₹ 5,465 were observed to spend the highest amount on social and religious ceremonies followed by semi-medium (Rs. 2,590), small (Rs. 2,303), medium (Rs. 1,763) and large farmer borrowers (Rs. 1,200).

#### ***Credit utilization pattern of farmer borrowers***

Table 5 indicates that 70.59 per cent of the farmer borrowers had completely utilized the credit for the stipulated purposes, 23.98 per cent of the farmer borrowers had partially utilized the credit and remaining 5.43 per cent of farmer borrowers had completely diverted the loan for other purposes. 7.27 per cent of the marginal farmer borrowers had completely diverted the credit followed by semi-

medium farmer borrowers (6.67 per cent), small farmer borrowers (5.88 per cent) and medium farmer borrowers (3.85 per cent). None of the large farmer borrowers had completely diverted the sanctioned amount of credit.

The complete utilization of credit among the farmer borrowers ranged from as high as 83.83 per cent in the large farmer borrowers to as low as 61.62 per cent in the marginal farmer borrowers. The percentage of farmer borrowers increased with the increase in the size of holding. In case of partial utilization the trend was observed to be reverse. It was 30.91 per cent among the marginal farmer borrowers as compared to 16.67 per cent among the large farmer borrowers.

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