

Impact of Agricultural Land Use Dynamics on Income Generation of Rural People in District Pulwama, Jammu & Kashmir

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Abstract—*Land use is the function or functions that humans apply to the land available to them. Agricultural Land use involves the land devoted to various human controlled agricultural systems. It is dynamic in nature and provides a comprehensive understanding of the interaction and interrelationship of anthropogenic activities. Changes in the composition of agricultural land use/land cover affect the income of the people. The significance of the study lies in the fact that since 1990 Pulwama district has witnessed a remarkable change in agriculture land use pattern which has boosted the economy of rural people in terms of raising income per-capita. The data for the study was generated by primary survey with the help of questionnaire. The survey followed the procedure of stratified random sampling plan. Household living standard survey is used to observe the impact of agriculture land use dynamics on household consumption expenditure. The consumption expenditure of apple cultivators has increased considerably. The impact of agriculture land use dynamics on purchasing power of people is shown with the help of cost of living index. The real income of paddy growers has declined in terms of rising prices in local market. Based on the study it is observed that agriculture land use shift has considerably raised the income of those people who have converted their agriculture fields to apple orchards. With the help of cost-benefit analysis it is observed that profit margin for apple cultivation is much greater than that of paddy cultivation. In other words, the apple growers earn abnormal profits while paddy cultivators are only able to cover their costs of cultivation.*

Keywords: *Agricultural land use, Real income, Profit margin, Costs of cultivation.*