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Custom Hiring Centre (CHC) for Farm Operations: Boon for Indian Farmers

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Abstract

Farm equipment and machines that can be used for conducting a wide range of agricultural operations such as land development, seed bed preparation, sowing, planting, weeding, inter-cultivation, plant protection, harvesting and threshing. These machineries are used for the production of crops and agricultural livestock. The Indian agriculture is multidimensional perspective. On one hand it includes highly mechanized farms like Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh and on other, it is characterized by small fragmented land holding, hill farming, shifting cultivation which in general managed through animate source of energy, Mechanization brings in timeliness and precision to agricultural operations, greater field coverage over a short period, cost-effectiveness, efficiency in use of resources and applied inputs, conservation of available soil moisture under stress conditions and provision of adequate drainage of excess rain and floodwaters.

Introduction

The farm mechanization has been well received world over as one of the important elements of modernization of agriculture. Farm Mechanization provides the technology to facilitate agricultural growth through efficient utilization of inputs. Adoption of mechanization ensures timeliness of agricultural operations reduces cost of production as well as reduces drudgery in carrying out various agricultural operations. Equipment for various operations like tillage, sowing, irrigation, plant protection, harvesting and threshing etc, are generally being used by farming community. It is generally believed that the benefits of modern farm technology have been availed of only by large farmers. The fact, however, is that even small farmer utilizing the traditional or selected farm equipment for farm operations. Now-a-days custom hiring centre (CHC) is the essential need for those farmers (small and marginal) who all are not able to purchase the improved machinery/implements due to low land holding, poorness.



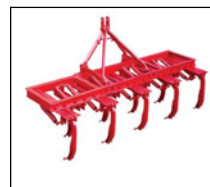
Disc plough



MB Plough



Bund Maker



Cultivator



Reversible Plough



Seed drill



Figure 1: Different Types of Implements in CHC

Objectives of CHC

- To make available various farm machinery/ equipments to small and marginal's farmers.
- To improve mechanization in places with low farm availability.
- To offset the adverse economic of sale arising due to small high cost of individual ownership.
- To provide hiring service or various agricultural machine/ implements applied for different operations.
- To expand mechanized activity during cropping seasons in large area especially in small & marginal's land holding.
- To provide hiring service or various high value crop specific machines applied for different operations.
- To increasing the reach of farm mechanization to small & marginal's farmers in low farm power availability.
- To promoting custom hiring centre to hire out of agricultural machine/ implements on nominal charges to the needy farmers.

Impact of CHC

- Timeliness operation.
- Time saving.
- Labour saving.
- Seed and water saving.
- Resource conservation.
- Land development.
- Drudgery reducing.

- Increase crop productivity.
- Increase income of farmers from agriculture/ horticulture.
- To enhance crop yield and water productivity.
- Not require to purchase costly machinery.
- Soil moisture conservation.
- Attaining the sustainability.

Advantages of CHC

- Provides accesses to marginal and small farmers to costly farm equipment/ machinery.
- Facilitates timeliness in farm operations, efficient use of inputs and increase the living standard of farmers.
- Promotes adoption of climate resilient practices and technologies by farmers because of availability of appropriate machines at reasonable hiring charges.
- Reduces drudgery in all farm operation.
- Promotes increase in cropping intensity wherever feasible.
- Facilitates crop residue recycling and prevents burning of residues which control environment pollution.
- Reduction in cost of cultivation and increase farm productivity.
- Provides work opportunities to skilled labour and small artisans.

Mobile App for Hiring Agricultural Equipment/ Machine from CHC

To enable farmers to get agricultural equipment/ machinery easily, the government has launched the Mobile app "CHC-Farm Machinery". With this app farmers will easily get all types of agricultural machines related to farm operation. This app is available in 12 language including Hindi, English, Urdu and download on Google play store.

Conclusion

CHC for farm operation is an excellent hub for hiring the equipment/ machinery on the basis of farmer's requirement. It is very good hub of hiring the machines for small and marginal farmers, especially for those farmers, who all are not able to purchase the machinery due to low land holding, shortage of skill labour and poorness. It is more useful centre, which provides the all types of farm machinery/ equipments on custom hiring which improve the mechanization in places with low farm availability.