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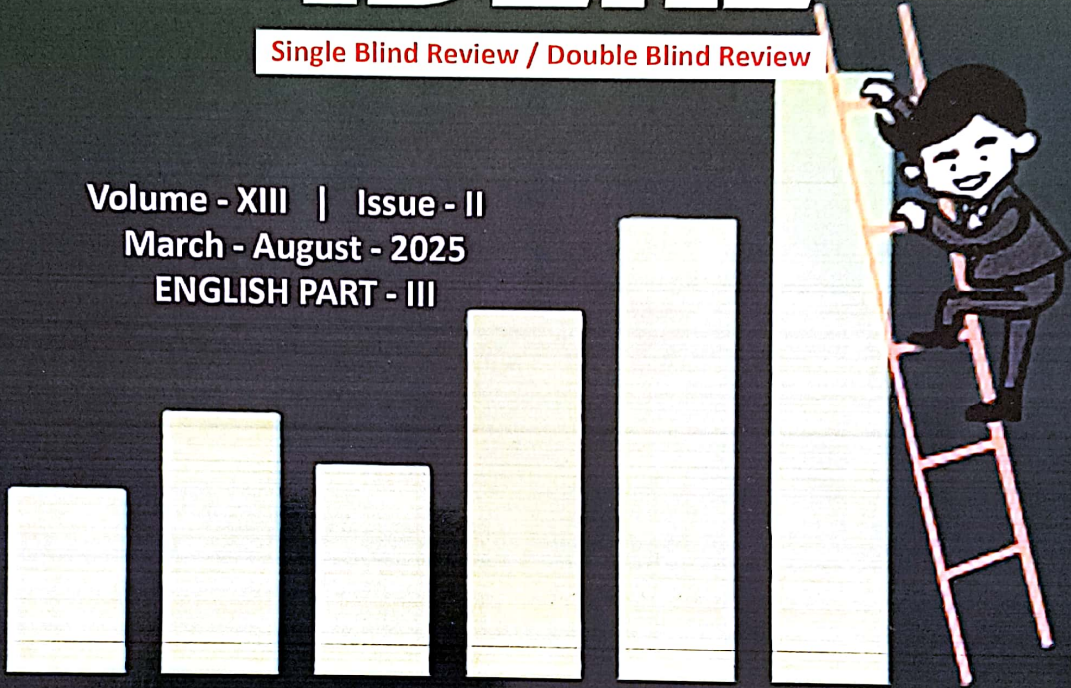


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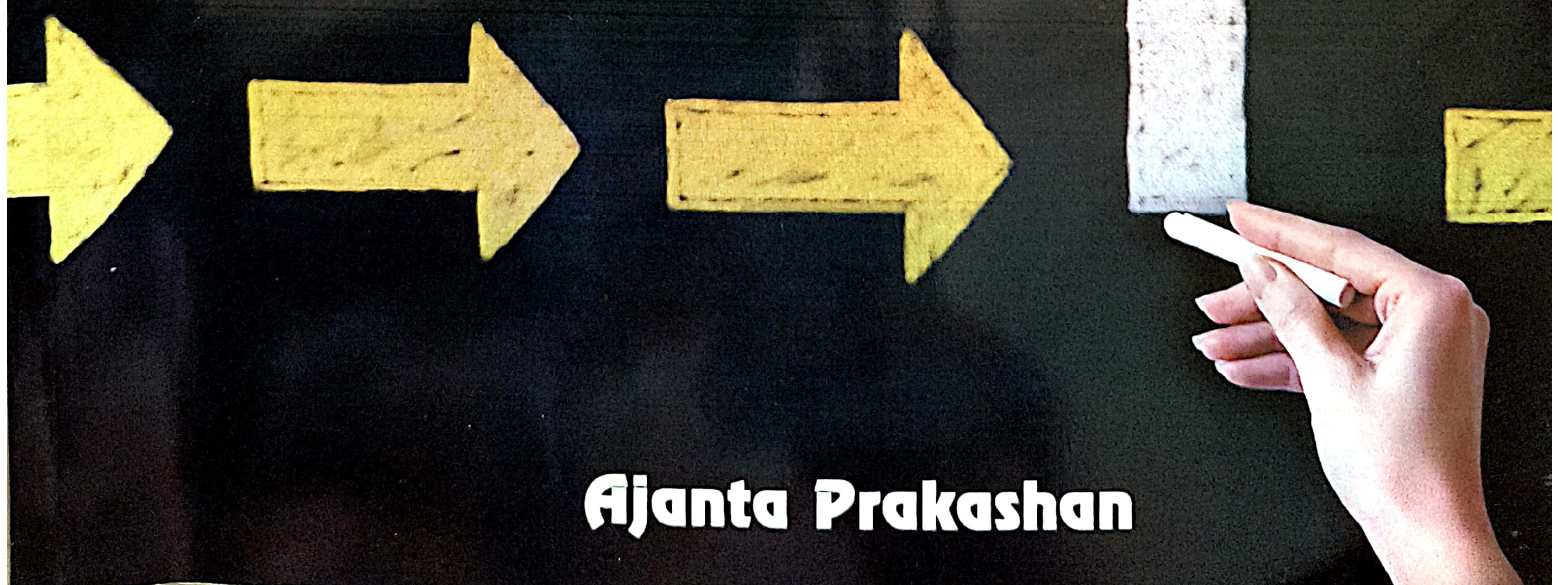
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5. Agro-tourism Models: Cases from Kolhapur District

Vaishali P. Ghatage

Assistant Professor, PVP Mahavidyalaya, Kavathe-Mahankal.

Dr. Arun B. Patil

Principal & Head, Arts and Commerce College Ashta.

Abstract

Agriculture is the main sector of our economy, approximately 68% of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. Out of total GDP 18% GDP comes from agriculture sector. Agro-tourism is a latest model and form of tourism in India. It is a commercial enterprise of working farm, ranch for the enjoyment of visitors that create income for the owners of agriculture. My study basically concentrates on the 6 operational agro - tourist's sites in Karveer and Panhala tehsils of Kolhapur district.

Key Words- Agro-tourism, rural development, Agriculture sustainability, Socio-economic development.

Introduction

Maharashtra state is the pioneer state to introduced agro-tourism concept in India. Agro-tourism is simply diverting the agro-tourists to rural areas. In rural area mainly the people are involved in the farming activities, which generate some income to their development. It provides economic benefits.

"Tourism linked to agriculture directly connected to agrarian environment, agrarian products or agrarian stays" (Sharpley.R&J 1997). Agro-tourism can be one more service that will be the extra source of income, it gives the opportunity to experience the rural life and culture. Agro-tourists can relax and entertain in the natural environment. The urban people life in becoming more hectic and complex, with the experience of agro-tourism the people can get relaxation. It is one of the important sector to support agriculture sustainability. Kolhapur district is important district in agriculture development especially in sugarcane production, study area has huge areas under fruit cultivation, natural scenery, animal life, rural culture, family oriented amusement, different games and traditional cuisine etc.

Study Area

The study area selected for present study is Karveer and panhala tehsil of Kolhapur district. It is the part of South Maharashtra plateau region. The geographical extent between 16° 69' to 16° 81' north latitude and 74° 10' to 74° 22' east longitude. The region lies in the Panchganga basin, Sangli district to the north, Hatkanangle to the east, Kagal to the south east, Radhanagari and bavda to the south west, Ratnagiri district to the west and Shahuvadi to the northwest occupying an area of 1231.32 sq.km. The total population of district is 4135418 (Data as per 2011 census).

Objective

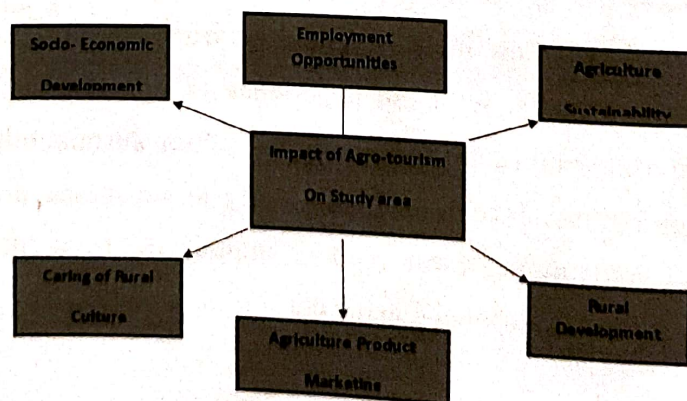
The objectives of the study is to find out the agro-tourism development and practices in Panhala and Karveer tehsil of Kolhapur district, with the help of few case studies from Kolhapur district Maharashtra.

Methodology

The paper focuses on agro-tourism practices in 6 agro-tourism centres of Panhala and Karveer tehsils. Research method adapted is the case study method for which both primary and secondary data is used, for the collection of primary data used tools like personal visits to the centres. Interview schedule was developed for the agro-tourism operators and tourists interactions. Secondary data is collected from the books, journals, agro-tourism websites, attending seminars workshop related to the subject.

Case Study

Growth of agro-tourism depend on natural attractions, farming activities, traditional cuisine and rural culture, these agro-tourism centres attracts to the tourists. Kolhapur district have become developed as agro-tourists few places. The study region is predominantly an agricultural area. It is a rich in natural scenery, cultural and agro bio-diversity. The researcher has selected 6 different agro-tourism centres of Kolhapur district for this study.



Agro-Tourism Centers in Kolhapur District

Sr. No.	Centre Name	Village	Tehsil	Affiliation
1	Siddhagiri Krishi Paryatan kendra	Kaneri	Karveer	ICAR
2	Huma Agri Tourism Center	Kalamba Turf Thane	Karveer	ATDC
3	Pais Agro Tourism Centre	Kalamba Turf Thane	Karveer	MTDC
4	Panhala Pride Agro Tourism	Survewadi	Panhala	ATDC
5	Venkatesh Agro Tourism	Kalamba Turf Thane	Karveer	ATDC
6	Ranwara Agro Farm & Resort	Kerle	Karveer	MTDC

Source: Agri-Tourism Development Corporation, (ATDC) Maharashtra, MTDC,

Field survey

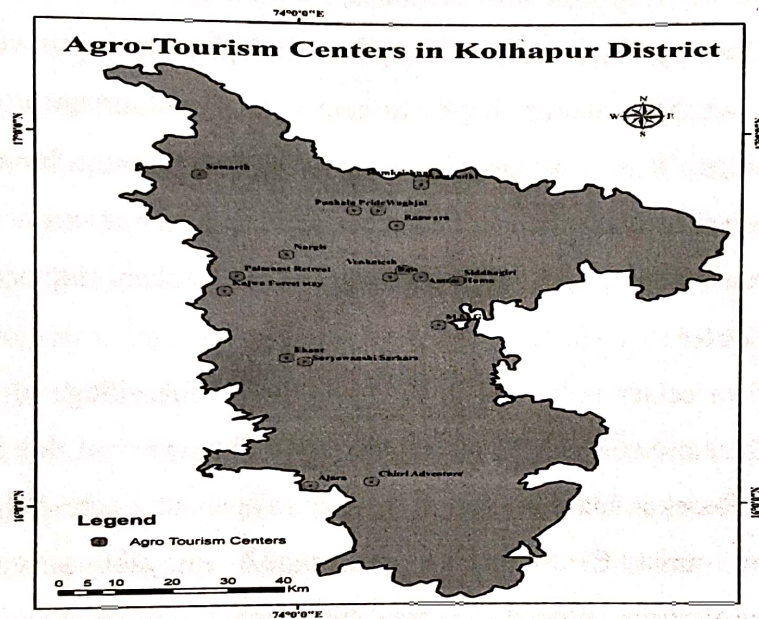


Fig. Agro Tourism Centres in Kolhapur District

Siddhagiri Krishi Paryatan Kendra Kaneri, Kolhapur

This centre was started at Shri. Siddhagiri Krishi Paryatan Kendra, Kaneri village of Kolhapur district. This is one of the best centres in Kolhapur district with excellent infrastructure and training. It is close to Kolhapur city. It has spread over a large area with a large pond for fishing with boats, 1 acre ‘Lakhpati sheti’ (Organic farming learning model) for cultivating 188 variety of crops as well as high-end agricultural technology for demonstration purpose. It has monthly visit of approximately 700-800 peoples. The centre also has attraction like rural museum, 22 rare indigenous cow breeds in Goshala, camel rides, horse riding etc. Additionally they supported rural people engaged in organic farming.

Amrai-Huma Agri Tourism Center

The Amrai-Huma Agro- tourism Centre is developed in Kalamba Turf Thane - Karveer tehsil of Kolhapur district in 2016. This centre near to Katyayani temple. It has 25 acre of land with a large accommodation. This centre owned by Mr. Shahin Hansare. At Amrai, you may take use of two sizable lawns, a garden, kid- and adult-sized sleeping quarters, a water fall, bullock cart safaris, tractor safaris, and ATV safaris. The greenery attracts a variety of birds. Poker, chess, tennis, cricket, musical chairs, and ring fake are just a few of the sports and entertainment options available in this tourist attraction. Agro-tourists take pleasure and interested to involve in farming activities. Some key characteristics of Amrai, Both the apartment and the entire property are kept impeccably clean and hygienic. It is very beautiful place to enjoy weekend and for to have relaxation .Staff members who are happy to help you, Agro-tourism provides locals with employment opportunities. It is now possible to enjoy organic farming, biogas, goat keeping, birdhouses, poultry, cowshed management, and other activities carried out according to Amrai tradition. The tourist can see more than 200 mango trees of the Konkani Hapus mango variety.

Pais Agro Tourism Centre

Pais agro tourism center is located in Kalamba turf Thane village of Karveer tehsil in Kolhapur district. This centre was started in the year 2014. The owner of this Pais agro tourism centre is Mr. Sadashiv Redekar and farm size of this centre is about 2 acre. Which are registered with MTDC. Pais agro- tourism Centre offers a wide range of enjoyable activities for the whole family, including green gardens covered in vibrant blossoms, the inviting shade of trees for an afternoon siesta, a meditation centre to unwind and think, and relaxing massage therapy available. One of the greatest places to visit near Kolhapur if you want to get away from the bustle of the city is Pais agro-tourism Centre, which has beautiful scenery, 5 cottages, expansive parks, and clean, fresh environment. Pais agro tourism is one of the best and full of flora and fauna centre and it is highly visited centre in this area.

Panhala Pride Agro Tourism

This farm is located in Survewadi Waghve Gude, Panhala, of Kolhapur district in the year 2019. The Panhala Pride Agro Tourism Center is a part of the Panhala tehsil in the Kolhapur district and is located near to the Panhala fort. It is owned by Mr. Rajendra Sutar. Farm size of this centre is about 2 acre. It is registered with ATDC. The centre also offers 4 rooms and a dormitory. The farm has about 200 types of fruits plants, 400 types of spices plants. The natural

beauty of the location, the lake view, the fort view, and the native vegetarian and non-vegetarian cuisine make Panhala Pride Agro Tourism popular. The centre has non-conventional energy source as solar energy plant. The farm is capable of attracting tourists. There is a large swimming tank available for visitors in this location, as well as the ancient historical cave known as Parashar Guha. This centre had a huge influx of visitors every year. This centre's buildings are constructed in a distinctive and attractive manner. One bright bullock wagon is seen at the centre's entrance. Children are drawn to a modified red scooter for enjoyment. This centre affected from COVID-19.

Venkatesh Agro Tourism, Kalamba

This centre was started at Kalamba Turf Thane, Karveer tehsil of Kolhapur district in 2021. It is owned by Mr. Pranav Prakash Dongarkar. It has spread over a 2 acres, it is located 9km from Kolhapur city. The centre also has major attraction like beautiful lawn, swimming tank, children play area, agro-tourists enjoying the rain dance, and swimming and indoor, outdoor games. The centre also has attractions like coconut garden. This centre is near to Shri Katyayani temple, maximum tourist's visits to the centre from Kolhapur city area.

Ranwara Agro Farm & Resort

This farm is located in Kerle village of Karveer tehsil of Kolhapur district in 2017. It is owned by Shri Sandeep Mane. It has spread over around 2 acres. This centre affiliated to MTDC, It has beautiful swimming pool and farm scenery, lawn. The major advantage of Ranwara agro-tourism centre is its proximity to the popular Panhala hill station and Jyotiba religious centre. The surrounding farming area is very attractive it has children play area, vegetable plants, fruit cultivation and sugarcane farm etc. The farm also offers 3 rooms and a dormitory.

Conclusion

All the agro-tourism centres that are close to city area. These centres are influenced by irrigation facilities and road accessibility. Farm lakes used for recreational purpose. It creates socio-cultural connectivity. All these centres have enriched agro-tourism scenario of Kolhapur district. But in this region some problems of finance, government aids, limited infrastructure etc. For the better promotion of agro-tourism identification, promotion of agro-tourism attractions and activities are most essential. All of us have a shared responsibility for protecting the nature and agriculture sustainability. Farmers should take knowledge about agro-tourism through

MART, ATDC and MTDC etc. It would need concerted effort of government identify potential areas then agro-tourism can develop and flourish.

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