

Survival Strategy of Farmers: An Ecological Explanation From West Bengal Farms

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ABSTRACT Conventional economic theory traits the 'Economic Man' as a maximizing agent in the sense that as a consumer he tries to maximize his utility and as a producer he tries to maximize his profit. Recent doubts about this maximizing attitude has encouraged us to examine these hypotheses for some sample farmers in West-Bengal. The objective of this paper is to examine the behavior of our peasants with respect to their ecological consciousness, the rationality of their farming activity and the question of survivability.

Our empirical show that the survival strategy of the farmers in recent years has not only forced them to behave irrationally in economic terms but also encouraged them to create ecological imbalances which later reflect themselves into the land, physical environment, plants, health, human beings, society, polity, economy and other animals. Thus, a conflict is inevitable sooner or later between economic growth per se and the eco-system with which we are inseparably linked.