

RESEARCH ARTICLE

LINEAR PROGRAMING STRATEGIES FOR MAXIMIZING PROFITS FROM CROP CULTIVATION FOR FARMERS IN JASHORE REGION

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, farmers in the Jashore region of Bangladesh have been struggling to maintain profitability due to rising production costs, limited agricultural land and unpredictable market conditions. This research aims to address farmer challenges by applying linear programming techniques to identify the most profitable crop combination under the specific land, labor and capital constraints for Rabi and Kharif season. Using simplex method, a mathematical model is formed to optimize crop selection and land allocation with the goal of maximizing overall profit. The model considers constraints including total cultivable land, labor availability and investment limits, which are common factors affecting medium scale farmers in the region. An analysis shows that by adopting the optimal crop generated by linear programming model, farmers can significantly increase their net profit without the need for additional land or resources. The result shows the effectiveness of linear programming as a practical tool for data driven agricultural decision making. This approach not only supports better financial outcome for Jashore areas farmers but also promotes more effective and sustainable use of available resources such as land, labor etc. Overall, this study demonstrates that mathematical optimization methods like the simplex method can play a vital role in modernizing traditional farming practices and improving the economic resilience of farmers in Jashore region.

KEYWORDS

Linear programming, Crop optimization, Jashore region

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, linear programming has become a widely accepted tool for solving optimization problems in agriculture, particularly in areas focused on maximizing profitability under resource constraints. Studies such as those demonstrate how linear programming models can assist farmers in selecting the best combination of crops to achieve maximum returns from limited land, labor and capital (Poonia et al., 2022; Sofi et al., 2015). Following a similar approach, this study adopts the simplex method of linear programming to design optimal cropping strategies tailored to the conditions of the Jashore region.

The methodology centers around formulating the farming decision problem as a linear model. An objective function is constructed to maximize the total profit from selected crops, while a set of constraints represents real-world limitations such as available land, labor hours, investment capacity and agronomic requirements. Consistent with the model-building strategies used in crop optimization study, decision variables are defined to represent the area allocated to each crop type, enabling a structured approach to planning (Gupta et al., 2024). By critically reviewing previous studies, this chapter identifies the key method, successes and limitations of existing linear programming application in agriculture. Review not only guides us the development of present study's methodology but also highlights the needs for models that are practical and easily applicable by farmers in regions like Jashore.

Agriculture makes a substantial contribution to the economy of Bangladesh. Bangladesh's geographical topography is special for agriculture since it offers numerous favorable conditions. Because of the growing demand for agricultural products brought on by population increase, agricultural planning has been progressively important in current years. Scientific planning agricultural development is the emphasis of agricultural economics, which has emerged as a crucial field

of study in agriculture. Agricultural planning employing an optimization model depends on the best cropping pattern with most output and profit. This kind of problem can be resolved by applying optimization strategies like goal planning, dynamic programming and linear programming. The proportionate nature of the allocation problems makes the linear programming model more widely used. Small and marginal farmers frequently struggle with how to divide their little resources across various crops in order to optimize their earnings. With a view to dealing with this problem, farmers frequently rely on their intuition and expertise. Planning problems on farms is a long way and more complicated. In addition to producing a range of crops, farmers must select number of production methods. Crop planning may entail decisions regarding pesticide and fertilizer treatments, planting dates and variety. Since its inception, linear programming has been used in agriculture to design the optimal distribution of limited resources. According to this study, traditionally, farmers have relied on experience, intuition, and comparisons with their neighbors to make their decisions (Hazal et al., 1987). Farm planners can provide useful strategies, such as linear programming (LP), to address such problems and generate optimal solutions; however, observation and expertise alone cannot ensure ideal outcomes. This study aimed to use a linear programming approach to maximize the profit and allocate land resources efficiently among marginal farmers in four distinct villages in the Karnal zone of Haryana during both the Kharif and Rabi seasons (Poonia et al., 2022). This study developed a linear programming model by selecting a combination of farm operations that are feasible given a set of fixed farm restrictions and that maximize income while also accomplishing objectives like food security (Felix and Judith, 2013). This study also focused on maximizing profit for marginal and small farmers in Shamsukh village in Hisar district during the Kharif and Rabi seasons through land allocation using the linear programming technique (Poonia et al., 2020). In their analysis of agricultural land use, it was stated that the goal of their study is to increase agricultural output and enhance profits for small and marginal farmers (Patel et al., 2017). In their study on

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Table 2 (cont): The initial table of simplex method				
0	S_1	$q_{11} \ q_{12} \ q_{13} \ \dots \ q_{1n} \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots \dots \ 0$	l_1	
0	S_2	$q_{21} \ q_{22} \ q_{23} \ \dots \ q_{2n} \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ \dots \dots \ 0$	l_2	
0	S_3	$\dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots$	$\dots \ \dots$	
...	...	$\dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots$	$\dots \ \dots$	
0	S_m	$q_{m1} \ q_{m2} \ q_{m3} \ \dots \ q_{mn} \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ \dots \dots \ 1$	l_m	
$z_j - c_j$		$z_1 - c_1 \ z_2 - c_2 \ \dots \ z_n - c_n \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0$	$z=0$	

Table 2 can be written as:

Table 3: Final table of simplex method						
C_j			$C_1 \ C_2 \ C_k \ C_n \ C_{n+1} \ C_{n+r}$	Constant value of the basic variables	Minimum Ratio	
C_B	B	X_B	$y_1 \ y_2 \ y_k \ y_n \ y_{n+1} \ y_{n+r}$			
C_{B1}	α_1	X_{B1}	$y_{11} \ y_{12} \ y_{1k} \ y_{1n} \ y_{1n+1} \ y_{1n+r}$	l_1	$\frac{l_1}{y_{1k}}$	
C_{B2}	α_2	X_{B2}	$y_{21} \ y_{22} \ y_{2k} \ y_{2n} \ y_{2n+1} \ y_{2n+r}$	l_2	$\frac{l_2}{y_{2k}}$	
...	$\dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots \ \dots$...	$\dots \ \dots$	
C_{Br}	α_r	X_{Br}	$y_{r1} \ y_{r2} \ y_{rk} \ y_{rn} \ y_{rn+1} \ y_{rn+r}$	l_r	$\frac{l_r}{y_{rk}}$	
C_{Bm}	α_m	X_{Bm}	$y_{m1} \ y_{m2} \ y_{mk} \ y_{mn} \ y_{mn+1} \ y_{mn+r}$	l_m	$\frac{l_m}{y_{mk}}$	
$z_j - c_j$			$z_j - c_j \ z_2 - c_2 \ z_k - c_k \ \dots \ z_{n+r} - c_{n+r}$	z		

- Key column: The column which contains the most negative $z_j - c_j$ of maximization problem and most positive for minimization problem. It gives the variable represent the column enters the basic solution.
- Key Row: The row with minimum ratio $\left(\frac{X_{Bi}}{y_{ik}}, y_{ik} \geq 0\right) = \frac{l_k}{y_{rk}}$ corresponding to the variable that will leave the basis with a view to making room for entering variable. The leaving variables are known as departing variable.
- Key element: The element at the intersection of key column and key row is known as key element.
- The unit basis matrix: The unit matrix in the simplex table represents the coefficient of slack variable. Each simplex table must contain the unit matrix under the basic variable. The matrix under the non-basic variable is known as coefficient matrix.
- Evaluation row($z_j - c_j$): The last row of simplex table is called the evaluation row. The row is calculated by the formula $z_j - c_j = c_{Bi} \cdot y_j - c_j$. Which indicate that the solution is optimum or not.
 - If all $z_j - c_j \geq 0$ then we get the optimal solution.
 - If at least one $z_j - c_j = 0$ for non-basic variables the problem has alternative solution.
 - If $z_j - c_j < 0$ and all the element of this column is less than or equal to zero, then the problem has an unbounded solution.
 - If none of $z_j - c_j = 0$ and all $z_j - c_j \geq 0$, then the problem has a unique solution.

Table 4: Data for Rabi Season						
Serial No	Crop's Name	Land (acres)	Man-days (days/acres)	Working hours for labor	Operating Capital (Taka/acres)	Output (Taka/acres)
01	Boro Rice	4	51	3	36,000	40,000
02	Maize	2	110	6	62,000	77,000
03	Wheat	5	31	3	20,000	24,000
04	Red Lentil	4	48	2	13,000	47,000
05	Sunflower	2	21	2	50,000	61,000
06	Mung bean	3	45	3	18,000	27,000
Total		20	950	60	5,74,000	8,25,000

Table 5: Data for Kharif Season						
Serial No	Crop's Name	Land (acres)	Man-days (days/acres)	Working hours for labor	Operating Capital (Taka/acres)	Output (Taka/acre)
01	Potato	4	90	7	1,65,000	1,70,000
02	Onion	5	120	5	1,80,000	3,21,000
03	Cauliflower	3	75	4	90'000	1,50,000

Table 5 (cont): Data for Kharif Season

04	Cabbage	2	71	5	83,000	1,10,000
05	Tomato	4	162	12	2,34,000	3,27,000
06	Bitter gourd	2	126	8	96,000	1,57,000
Total		20	2227	140	31,24,000	45,77,000

2.1 Formulation of Model

2.1.1 Model formulation for Rabi Season

Assuming that,

area for growing crop1 (Boro Rice) = x_1

area for growing crop2 (Maize) = x_2

area for growing crop3 (wheat) = x_3

area for growing crop4 (Red Lentil) = x_4

area for growing crop5 (Sunflower) = x_5

area for growing crop6 (Mung bean) = x_6

where x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5 and x_6 are the decision variables.

Objective function:

$$\text{Maximize } Z = 40000x_1 + 77000x_2 + 24000x_3 + 47000x_4 + 61000x_5 + 27000x_6$$

The constraints,

$$\text{For land (acres): } 4x_1 + 2x_2 + 5x_3 + 4x_4 + 2x_5 + 3x_6 \leq 20$$

$$\text{For man-days (days/acres): } 51x_1 + 110x_2 + 31x_3 + 48x_4 + 21x_5 + 45x_6 \leq 950$$

$$\text{For working hours for labor: } 3x_1 + 6x_2 + 3x_3 + 2x_4 + 2x_5 + 3x_6 \leq 60$$

For operating capital taka (Taka/acres):

$$36000x_1 + 62000x_2 + 20000x_3 + 13000x_4 + 50000x_5 + 18000x_6 \leq 574000$$

Non-negativity restrictions:

$$x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6 \geq 0$$

2.1.2 Model formulation for Kharif season

Assuming that,

area for growing crop1 (Potato) = y_1

area for growing crop2 (Onion) = y_2

area for growing crop3 (Cauliflower) = y_3

area for growing crop4 (Cabbage) = y_4

area for growing crop5 (Tomato) = y_5

area for growing crop6 (Bitter gourd) = y_6

where y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4, y_5 and y_6 are the decision variables.

Objective function:

$$\text{Maximize } Z = 170000y_1 + 321000y_2 + 150000y_3 + 110000y_4 + 327000y_5 + 157000y_6$$

The constraints,

$$\text{For land (acres): } 4y_1 + 5y_2 + 3y_3 + 2y_4 + 4y_5 + 2y_6 \leq 20$$

$$\text{For man-days (days/acres): } 90y_1 + 120y_2 + 75y_3 + 71y_4 + 162y_5 + 126y_6 \leq 2227$$

$$\text{For working hours for labor: } 7y_1 + 5y_2 + 4y_3 + 5y_4 + 12y_5 + 8y_6 \leq 140$$

For operating capital taka (Taka/acres):

$$165000y_1 + 180000y_2 + 90000y_3 + 83000y_4 + 234000y_5 + 96000y_6 \leq 3124000$$

Non-negativity restrictions:

$$y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4, y_5, y_6 \geq 0$$

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

i. Rabi Season:

Table 6: Optimal solution of Rabi Season	
Variables	Optimal value of variables
x_1	0
x_2	8.2948
x_3	0
x_4	0.2935
x_5	1.1181
x_6	0

The Maximum profit:

$$Z = 40000x_1 + 77000x_2 + 24000x_3 + 47000x_4 + 61000x_5 + 27000x_6$$

$$= 40000 \times 0 + 77000 \times 8.2948 + 24000 \times 0 + 47000 \times 0.2935$$

$$+ 61000 \times 1.1181 + 27000 \times 0$$

$$= 7,20,701.73$$

ii. Kharif Season:

Table 7: Optimal solution of Kharif Season	
Variables	Optimal value of variables
x_1	0
x_2	0
x_3	0
x_4	0
x_5	5
x_6	0

The maximum profit: = 16,35,000

$$Z = 170000y_1 + 321000y_2 + 150000y_3 + 110000y_4 + 327000y_5 + 157000y_6$$

$$= 170000 \times 0 + 321000 \times 0 + 150000 \times 0 + 110000 \times 0 + 327000 \times 5 + 157$$

3.2 Comparison of result

Table 8: Comparison of land allocation of farmers and LP model for Rabi Season		
Crops	Land (acres) allocation by farmers	Land (acres) allocation by LP model
Boro Rice	4	0
Maize	2	16.5896
Wheat	5	0
Red Lentil	4	1.174
Sunflower	2	2.2362
Mung bean	3	0

3.2.1 Graphical representation of data of table 8

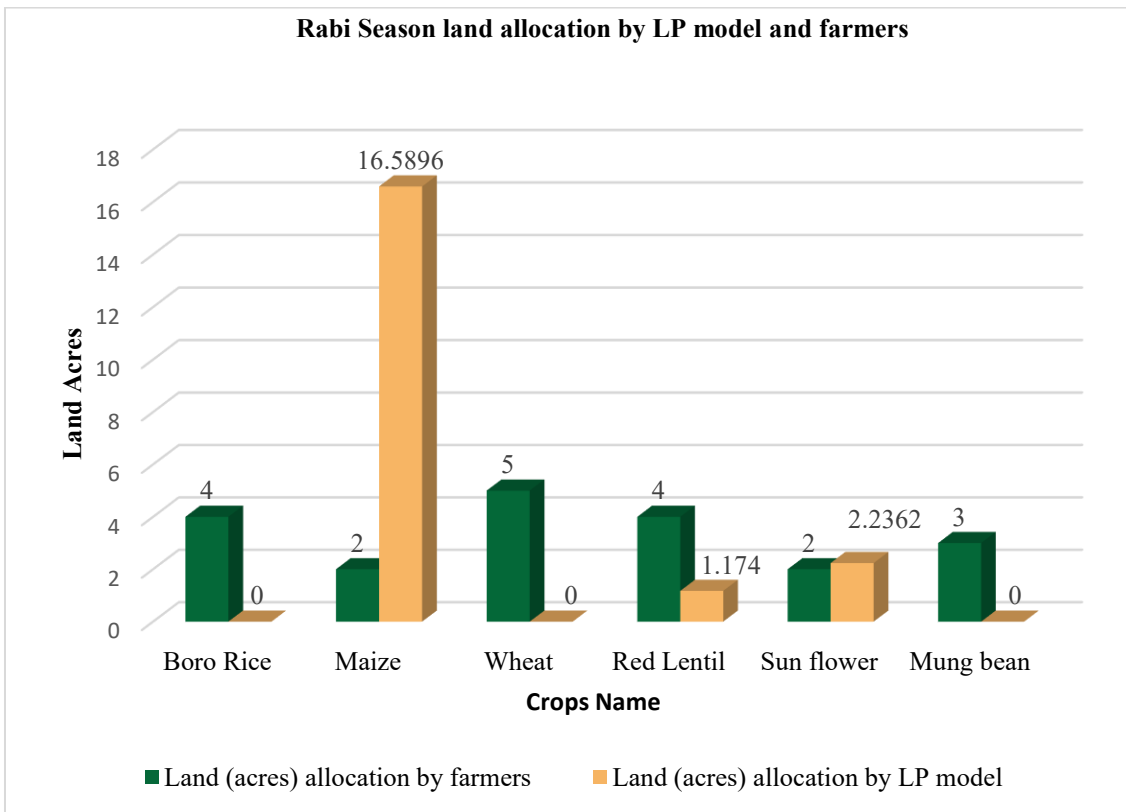


Figure 1: Rabi Season land allocation by LP model and farmers

Table 9: Comparison of profit got from farmers and LP model for Rabi Season	
Comparison of profit(taka)	
Profit from LP model	7,20,701.73
Profit from farmers model	2,51,000.00
Profit increase	4,69701.73

By applying LP model, Profit is maximized 81.83%

Table 10: Comparison of land allocation of farmers and LP model for Kharif Season		
Crops	Land (acres) allocation by farmers	Land (acres) allocation by LP model
Potato	4	0
Onion	5	0
Cauliflower	3	0
Cabbage	2	0
Tomato	4	20
Bitter gourd	2	0

3.2.2 Graphical representation of data of table 10

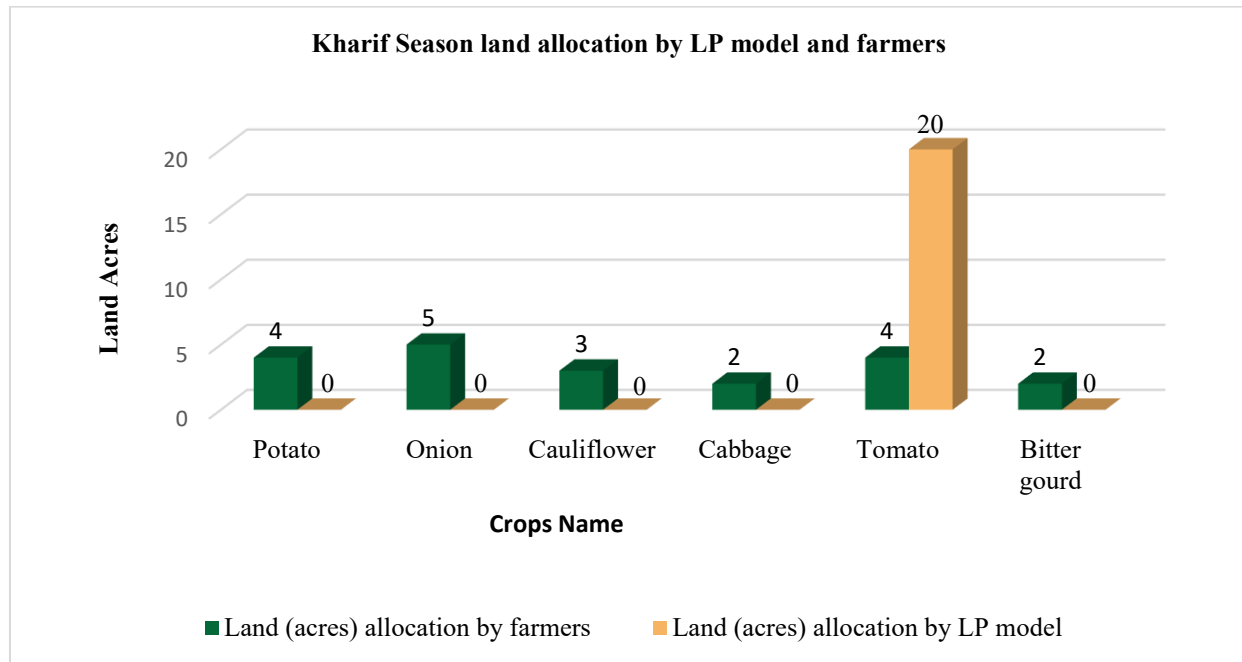


Figure 2: Kharif Season land allocation by LP model and farmers

Table 11: Comparison of profits got from farmers and LP model for Kharif Season

Comparison of profit(taka)	
Profit from LP model	16,35,000
Profit from farmers model	14,53,000
Profit increase	1,82,000

By applying LP model, Profit is maximized 5.82%

4. CONCLUSION

A linear programming (LP) model that formed the ideal of crop combination for Rabi and Kharif season for farmers in Jashore area of Bangladesh is created this study. Crops considered in the Rabi season are Boro rice, Maize, Wheat, Red Lentil, Sunflower and Mung bean on the other hand crops considered in Kharif season are Potato, Onion, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Tomato and Bitter ground. For Rabi season LP model suggests cultivating sixteen point five eight (16.58) acres of maize, one point- one seven (1.17) acres of red lentil and two point two three (2.23) acres of sun flowers for getting profit eighty-one point eight three percents (81.83%) than before. For kharif season LP model suggests cultivating twenty (20) acres of tomato for getting profit five point eight two percents (5.82%) than before.

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