

Economic status of farmers in Marathwada region of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The study on economic status of farmers was conducted in Marathwada region of Maharashtra during the year 2006-07. Multistage sampling design was used for selection of zone, tehsils, villages and farms in Marathwada region of Maharashtra. From fifty villages 100 farms *i.e.* marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large farms were selected for present study. It was observed that the age of farmer slightly increased with an increase in the size of farm. Thus, net worth was found to be Rs. 172206 on marginal farm. In case of small farm, total assets, total liabilities and net worth was Rs.451820, Rs.40092 and Rs. 172206, respectively. The total assets on semi medium, medium and large farm were Rs.719020, Rs.1181623 and Rs.1547879 while liabilities were Rs.64532, Rs.110481 and Rs. 173216, respectively. It was observed that annual expenditure on food stuff in family of marginal farm was the lowest (Rs.35647) while in family of large farm was the highest (Rs.51872). The expenditure increased due to increase in the size of family. It was observed that in existing condition, repaying capacity of marginal farmer was the lowest as Rs.-32189 followed by small and semi medium farmers as Rs. -20038 and Rs. -4550, respectively. The results revealed that the subsistence income from all sources was the highest of Rs. 125729 on large farm followed by Rs. 91704, Rs.56791, Rs.48901 and Rs.39111 on medium, semi medium, small and marginal farmers, respectively. On an average, it was Rs.72447. Semi-medium farmers had supernumerary income of Rs.50 only. The families could be able to improve their living standard by using the surplus income.

Key words : Economic status of farms, Marginal farms, Small farms, Living expenses, Liabilities, Repaying capacity.

Solution of economic problem faced by a farmer is greatly facilitated through recording of data relating to the farm business. The problems and their solutions will vary from time to time, in the developing countries. Economic holding according to Keatinge is a holding which allows a man a chance of producing sufficient to support himself and his family in reasonable comfort after paying his necessary expenses. The Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee (1949) defined an economic holding as one which could provide a reasonable standard of living to the cultivator and give full employment for a family of normal size. Amartya Sen has argued that much of Indian agriculture appears un-remunerative and that profitability of agriculture increases with the size of holding. In farm management, socio-economic characteristics, net worth statement, income statement, working expenses, living expenses are important aspects in order to know the economic condition of farmer. Keeping in view the above aspects, the present study has been undertaken.

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METHODOLOGY

Multistage sampling design was used for selection of zone, tehsils, villages and farms in Marathwada region of Maharashtra. In first stage, assured rainfall zone was purposively selected on the basis of wide spread of zone. In the second stage, in twenty eight tehsils were selected because of their involvement in the cost of cultivation scheme. In the third stage, fifty villages were considered. In fourth stage, ten farmers were selected with equal distribution in marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large categories of farms. In other words, from fifty villages 100 marginal farms, 100 small farms, 100 semi-medium farms, 100 medium farms and 100 large farms were selected for present study. Cross sectional data were collected by technical status of cost of cultivation scheme with respect to investment, costs, returns, living expenses, from farmers by personal interview method with the help of pre-tested schedule. Data were pertained for the year 2006-07. Statistical tools like arithmetic mean, percentage and ratio were used for estimating the results with respect to investment, costs, returns and living expenses of farm families. Budgeting technique and financial tests were used.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of farmers with respect to age, family size, farm size, proportionate