

### **Short Communication**

## **Impact of socio-economic profile on potato growers**

---

VINOD PRAKASH

Department of Extension, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, ETAWAH (U.P.) INDIA

(Accepted :November, 2006)

**P**otato is one of the four major food crops of the world. The other three crops being rice, wheat and maize. The global area under potato during 1998 was about 18 million ha with a total production of about 295 million tonnes. U.P. is the major potato growing state in India followed by West Bengal and Bihar with the production of 10455.30, 7482.30 and 1720.20 thousand tones, respectively. The highest productivity of the crop is in West Bengal followed by Gujrat. In respect to Uttar Pradesh, Kannauj district is the highest producer of potato followed by Farrukhabad and Agra with the production of 942299,832744 and 647025 metric tonnes and area being 34595,29793 and 18156 hectares, respectively. But in average productivity (q./ha) district Agra having 1<sup>st</sup> place (356.37 ) followed by Mathura (339.37 q/ha) and Rampur (336.49 q/ha). ( U.P ke pramukh krishi ankare. Directorate of Agriculture, Lucknow, 2001-2002). With this point of view the study was concluded in the objective of to study the socio-economic profile of potato growers.

The two districts namely, Kannauj and Etawah were selected purposively for the present investigation. These are the main potato growing districts in U.P. From each village, 25 potato growers were selected on random basis. Thus, 50 respondents from each block and 100 respondents from each district selected for investigation. A sample of 200 respondents were selected from potato growing formers through proportionate random sampling technique and the investigator himself collected data with the help of pre tested interview schedule.

Maximum 48.50 per cent respondents were observed from middle age (30 to 45 years) group where as, old age (above 45 years) 33.0 per cent and young age (up to 30 years) 18.50 per cent. Therefore, it is apparent that the farmers from middle and old age groups were mostly engaged in potato production under study.

The literacy percentage of the respondents was observed 85.50 per cent while, 14.50 per cent respondents were found illiterate. Further, the educational standard of literate respondents in descending order was found as 22.50, 18.00, 15.50, 14.50, 11.50 and 3.50 per cent for primary school, High School, Junior high school, graduate, can sign only and above graduate, respectively.

It is concluded that the ratio between literate and illiterate respondents was around 6:1.

Maximum 40.50 per cent respondents belonged to backward class category while, the general and scheduled castes were 32.00 per cent and 27.50 per cent, respectively. Thus, it is concluded that the maximum 40.00 per cent of potato growers were from backward class.

Most of the respondents 40.00 per cent were found in the marginal holding category followed by 36.00 per cent under small category, 13.50 per cent under medium category and 10.50 per cent were found in the category of big farmers, respectively. Therefore, it is concluded that the maximum number of respondents were found as marginal farmers' category.

Majority 50.00 per cent of the respondents were observed in the category of 0.6 to 2.5 ha. area of potato group followed by 38.50 per cent in the category upto 0.5 ha area and 11.50 per cent respondents in above 2.5 ha. area of potato cultivation. Thus, it is clear from the above results that the maximum respondents were found in the category of 0.6 to 2.5 ha area of potato group.

Regarding the housing pattern, that maximum 62.50 per cent respondents were found having their house of Pucca type, 27.50 per cent were residing in mixed houses, 7.50 per cent in Kachcha houses and 2.50 per cent potato growers were residing in Hut. Thus, it can be described that the housing pattern in the area under study was of mostly 62.50 per cent in Pucca type

Maximum 64.00 per cent of the respondents have adopted agriculture as main occupation followed by agricultural labour 18.50 per cent, service 8.5 per cent, business 7.50 per cent and caste occupation 1.50 per cent, respectively. Since, most of the respondents families viz. 64.00 per cent reported agriculture as main occupation, it can be inferred that rest of the families were associated with other occupation like service, business, agricultural labour and caste occupation. Beside, the families engaged in their main occupation other than agriculture were observed to be engaged directly or indirectly in agriculture as their subsidiary occupation too.

Maximum 68 per cent respondents belonging to the