



RESEARCH ARTICLE.....

Socio-personal and economic characteristics of buffalo owners in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT..... For the present study total 240 respondents were randomly selected from purposively selected four districts of two divisions in Maharashtra State to explore the socio-personal and economic characteristics of buffalo owners. The study revealed that about 37.10 per cent of the farmers belonged to middle age followed by old (36.30%) and young age (26.70%) categories. Majority of the respondents were male, educated, Hindu (97.10%) and belonged to nuclear families (74.60%). About social category 37.9 per cent belonged to OBCs followed by General (36.70%), Scheduled Caste (12.10%) and Scheduled Tribes (13.30%). Mean family size was 6.65 ± 0.17 members. The agriculture was main occupation for majority (58.80%) of the respondents while, 41.2 per cent were dependent on animal husbandry farming for main occupation. Landholding ranged from zero to 12 ha with mean land holding of 1.98 ± 0.14 ha. About 28.80 per cent respondents belonged to semi-medium farmer category, followed by landless (20.40%), marginal (18.30%), small (16.70%), medium (14.60%) and large (1.30%). Majority of the respondents had medium livestock rearing experience (12-29 years), small herd size (7.28-22.81 SAUs), low milk production (13-52 liters) and low annual income (Rs. 1,00,000-Rs. 3,20,000).

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