

Socio-economic status and cropping pattern of medium farm owner in Marathwada region

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ABSTRACT

The study was based on farm level primary data collected from 100 sample farms under assured rainfall zone in Marathwada region. The data pertained to the year 2006-07. The information revealed that the holding size of medium farmer in Marathwada region was 4.84 hectares. Middle age *i.e.* 31 to 50 years group was mostly found in farmers with education level up to high school. Family size of farmers ranged between 5 to 7. Majority of medium farmers had medium type of soil. Main occupation of the farmers was agriculture. Generally medium farmers were growing major crops as rainfed cotton, soybean, pigeonpea, sugarcane, wheat, bajra, rainfed *rabi* jowar and mung and in fruit crops most of the area was occupied by sweet orange. In livestock enterprise, cow and buffalo enterprise were found.

Key words : Socio-economic status, Cropping pattern, Livestock pattern.

Research on socio-economic aspect of the villages is an integral part of agricultural development. The problems of how to overcome the major obstacles as low crop yield, poverty, limited resources, low level of education and technology and how to initiate and achieve better social and economic progress in the underdeveloped villages.

An analysis of structural changes in the land use pattern over a period of time provides scope for planned and judicious management of land. Rational utilization of land plays a crucial role in developing the national income. The information on land use pattern is necessary to develop future research strategies on land use planning and land use policies. The agricultural area have been grouped in to thirteen classes but for the purpose of analysis have been grouped into five as marginal small, semi-medium, medium and large *i.e.* 0 to 1 hectare, 1 to 2 hectares, 2 to 4 hectares, 4 to 10 hectares and above 10 hectares, respectively.

Nowadays farmers are doing farming in the point of view of business so as to analyze the various concepts of farm business income like return to land, family labour and fixed capital singly or combination has been discussed. Thus, farm business management means a science which deals with judicious decision on the use of scarce farm resources having alternative uses to obtain the maximum

profit and family satisfaction on a continuous basis from the farm as a whole and under sound farming programmes.

METHODOLOGY

Marathwada region of Maharashtra was purposively selected in order to study the role of socio-economic characteristics, land use pattern on medium farm. Multiple stage sampling design was used for selection of zone, tehsils villages and farms. One hundred farm sample from 50 cluster villages were selected from the eight districts of region, because of their involvement in cost of cultivation scheme. From each cluster village, two farmers of medium categories were selected. Thus, total 100 sample farms were selected. Data pertained to the year 2006-07. Technique like tabular analysis, frequency and percentage method were used to analyze the data in the present study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics of medium farmers:

The farm business analysis is largely influenced by socio-economic characteristics *i.e.* age, education, family size, type of soil and occupational level, frequency and percentage method with respect to different socio-economic characteristics in relation to medium farmer were calculated.

Family size with proportionate of male, female and child were calculated and are presented in Table 1. It was with observed that family size was 5.87 persons in which male was 35.43 per cent followed by female 33.90 and child 30.67 per cent.

The results of table also revealed that 7.00 per cent farmers belonged to young group *i.e.* upto 30 years.

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