



# Perception of agriculture students towards self employment

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**Abstract :** Perception is considered as one of the important traits of personality of an individual. The study was conducted at the faculty of Agriculture, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Visva Vidyalaya(BCKV). The objectives of the study were to investigate factors responsible for the acceptability of agriculture to generate income. The data were analysed into frequency, percentage and mean. The population consists of all the last semester students of B.Sc (Ag). A total 70 students were selected for this study. In the context of this study, a higher percentage of students (95%) aspired to be opted agriculture as to secure a job in central govt. Agronomy was the most preferred discipline of the respondents closely followed by Soil Sciences and Agricultural Extension. Among the mass media sources the respondents used news papers as a source for job placement 50.00% followed by Journal 24.28 %. Among the least used mass media sources was radio (only 5.72%).

**Key Words :** Perception, Agriculture, Employment, Income generation

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## INTRODUCTION

Agriculture plays an important role in Indian economy. It provides livelihood of about 70% of the total population. It contributes 26 per cent of GDP(Gross Domestic Product). India has one of the largest agricultural research systems in the world with the largest number of scientific personnel of any developing country engaged in research and education relating to agriculture and allied areas. The research system includes approximately 30,000 scientists and more than 100,000 supporting staff actively engaged in research related to agriculture. Although the total number of scientists engaged in agricultural research in India looks very impressive, it compares less favourably with many developed nations in the world.

The research system has evolved over years of innovation and experimentation, and it has withstood the test of time remarkably well. The present agricultural research system comprises essentially two main streams, viz., the ICAR at the national level and the Agricultural Universities at the state level. Besides, several other agencies such as the Conventional / General Universities, Scientific

Organizations, and various Ministries / Departments at the Centre, and also Private or Voluntary Organizations participate directly or indirectly in research activities related to agriculture.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted on the students of Bidhan Chandra Krishi viswavidalaya (Faculty of Agriculture), Post office: Mohonpur; District: Nadia. All the B.Sc. (Ag) students of last semester who were available at time of investigation were considered as respondents. The sample size for the study was 70.

The following statistical tools were used in the present investigation for the precise and meaningful analysis and interpretation of the collected data.

- The descriptive statistics like frequency and
- Percentage etc.

### Frequency distribution:

Sorting of data into categories or class will lead to formation of frequency distribution. Frequency distribution

gives the number of times a category or class occurs.

### Percentage:

Percentages were used for making simple comparisons. For calculating percentage, the frequency of a particular cell was divided by the total number of respondents in the particular category and multiplied by 100.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is observed from the Table 1 that the majority of the students in general belonged to the range of 19 yrs to 20 yrs (50.00%) of the age group. It is also found that the age group of 18 yrs or less was 35.71% and above 20 yrs was 14.29%.

Age group	No. of respondent last semester	Percentage
18yrs or less	25	35.71
19yrs to 20yrs	35	50.00
Above 20yrs	10	14.29
Total	70	100

The distribution of respondents according to the educational level of the parents depicted in the Table 2.

It is evident from the Table 2 that the majority percentage of the respondent father educational level were high school (57.14%) closely followed by graduate and above(35.72%).It can be concluded from the above Table 2 that the probably due to better educational level of the family lead to the student the higher degree in agriculture.

Educational level	Father		Mother	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Illiterate	--	---	---	---
High secondary	40	57.14	56	80.00
Graduate	25	35.72	12	17.14
Post graduate	05	07.14	02	02.86

It is evident from the Table 3 that the highest number of student per semester was in the discipline of Agronomy (20.00) followed by Soil Science and Agricultural Extension (18.59%) and (17.14%) and lowest was in the discipline of Agricultural Statistics (0%).

So from the Table it can be safely concluded that Agronomy was the most preferred discipline of the respondents closely followed by Soil Sciences and Agricultural Extension.

### Factors responsible for students' acceptability of agriculture as means of livelihood:

The students (Table 4) ranked to secure a job in central

Sr. No.	Departments	total	Percentage
1.	Agronomy	14	20.00
2.	Plant breeding	07	10.00
3.	Genetics	03	04.28
4.	Soil science	13	18.59
6.	Agriculture chemistry	04	05.71
7.	Agriculture extension	12	17.14
8.	Agriculture economics	07	10.00
9.	Agriculture statistics	00	---
10.	Entomology	05	07.14
11.	Pathology	03	04.28
14.	Bio-chemistry	02	02.86
Total		70	100

Sr. No.	Variables	Percentage	Position
1.	Parents force me to take agriculture	21	IX
2.	Agricultural has a broad scope	85	III
3.	Agriculture has a bright future	73	IV
4.	Agriculture is a prestigious field	67	V
5.	Interest in agriculture	60	VI
6.	Did not take chance in other discipline	00	X
7.	Has a high potential for self employment	89	II
8.	To secure a job in voluntary organisation	56	VII
9.	To secure a job in central govt.	95	I
10.	To secure a job in cooperative sector	45	VIII

govt as the most important reason for accepting agriculture as a future means of livelihood with a percentage of 95. High potential of agriculture for self employment was the next uppermost reason for the acceptance with a percentage of 89. However, the use of crude implements and obsolete technology by the generality of the farmers hindered the growth of the sector and worsened the economic situations of the farmers. The students also stated that their parents pressured them to read agriculture (ranking ix) as the course offered the last opportunity to pursue a university degree.

In addition 85% and 11.2% of the students strongly accepted agriculture as broad scope and course in which they were highly interested, respectively. Similarly, agriculture was deemed as having bright future with a ranking of IV.

### Information utilized for job placement :

The data on sources of information consulted by students of B.C.K.V for job placement is provided in Table 5.

**Table 5 : Distribution of respondents according to sources of information utilized for self employment (n=70)**

Informal sources	Grand total	Percentage
<b>Informal sources</b>		
Friends	63	90
Neighbours	14	20
Relative	21	30
Parents	35	50.00
<b>Formal sources</b>		
Formal sources	Total	Percentage
University/college placement cell	70	100
Agriculture officers	---	---
Consultants	---	---
others	---	---
<b>Mass media source</b>		
Mass media sources	Grand total	Percentage
Websites	70	100
News paper	35	50
T.V	14	20.00
Journal	17	24.28
Radio	4	5.72

It is observed from these tables that all the respondents used mass media sources to maximum extent. It is also interesting to note that 100% students used university placement cell for obtaining information regarding job placement. Among the mass media sources the respondents used news papers as a source for job placement 50.00% followed by Journal 24.28 %. Among the least used mass media sources was radio (only 5.72%). Among the informal sources it is noted that students received maximum information regarding job from their friends (90%) followed by their parents (50.00%).least used sources for information was neighbours only 20.00%.

### Conclusion:

The study had shown that majority of the students were adolescents. At this age, they should be able to decide on what to do and how to go about achieve their desires. Both male and female were given equal opportunity to pursue educational development in Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya. It was observed that the majority of the students in general belonged to the range of 19 yrs to 20yrs (50.00%) of the age group. It was found that the majority percentages of the respondent father's educational levels were high

school (57.14%) closely followed by graduate (35.72%). The majority of students in this study preferred to secure central Govt. job (95.00%) followed by a high potential in self employment (89.00%). It can be safely concluded that Agronomy was the most preferred discipline of the respondents closely followed by Soil Sciences and Agricultural Extension.

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