Socio-economic characteristics of soybean growers

■ **S.K. JAMANAL AND SYED SADAQATH**

SUMMARY : The study was an *"expost-facto"* research carried out in Dharwad district of Karnataka State during the year 2013- 14. The study covered 15 villages from 3 taluks of Dharwad district to form a sample of 150 respondents. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to collect the data from the respondents by personal interview method.It was observed from the study that 54.00 per cent of the soybean farmers were middle aged, followed by 26.66 per cent of the farmers studied upto high school level, 50.66 per cent of the farmers belong to semi-medium land holding category and 45.33 per cent of the soybean growers had medium level of extension contact.Further it also observed that 63 per cent of the farmers belonged to medium mass media participation category followed by 54.66 per cent of the respondents belonged to the category of medium innovativeness, 45.33 per cent of the respondents had medium level of scientific orientation and 37.33 per cent of the farmers belong to semi-medium soybean crop land holding category.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Soybean is known as "Golden bean", "Miracle crop" etc., because of its several uses. Soybean besides having high yield potential 20-25 q/ha, provides cholesterol free oil 20 per cent and high quality protein 40 per cent. It is a versatile crop with innumerable possibilities of improving agriculture and supporting industry. The soybean protein is rich in Lycine 4 per cent to 6 per cent and the oil extracted is edible one. India is in short supply of proteins and large portion of the population are vegetarians, under this situation crop like soybean with high protein content and high yield potential became an important crop in India.

Soybean protein is receiving more attention than any other sources of protein today. Besides, it contains several vitamins, calcium, phosphorus and iron. Utilization of soybean include beverages, fermented products like soya sauce and yoghurt, cheese analogous like fried and roasted nuts, sarouts etc. Small quantities of soybean flour are already being used in baked goods, primarily biscuits and in snacks. Soya flour is also used in substantial quantity in place of besan in sweets, papads and similar products.

Even though soybean was introduced to India in 1880 A.D., hardly it occupied an area of 9.95 million hectares with production of 10.18 million tonnes and a productivity of 1,234 kg per hectare(Indian Stat., 2012). The area

and production of soybean in Karnataka is 0.20 million hectares and 0.18 million metric tonnes, respectively, with an average yield of 900 kg per hectare (Directorate of Economics and Statistics). In Dharwad district, soybean crop is grown by large number of farmers on an area of 21,270 hectares and with the production of 8,349 tonnes. Due to its characteristics such as short duration, high yielding potential protein and oil content, good fodder and building soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen in the soil, it is becoming popular with the farming community. Hence, in this context the present study was undertaken to study the socio-economic characteristics of Soybean growers.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was an "expost-facto" research carried out in Dharwad district of Karnataka Stateduring the year 2013- 14. Dharwad district comprises of five taluks *viz.,* Dharwad, Hubli, Kalaghatagi, Kundagol and Navalagund. Among these three taluks *viz.,* Dharwad, Hubli and Kalaghatagi were selected based on highest area under Soybean crop cultivation.In selected taluks, seven villages were selected from Kalaghatagi based on highest area under Soybean crop, similarly five villages from Dharwad and three villages from Hubli taluks were selected. From each village, ten farmers were selected randomly.

Hence, the study covered 15 villages from 3 taluks of Dharwad district to form a sample of 150 respondents. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to collect the data from the respondents by personal interview method. The data collected from respondents was tabulated and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools such as frequency, percentage mean and standard deviation.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

An insight in the Table 1 revealed that majority 54.00 per cent of Soybean growers belonged to middle age followed by old age 38.00 per cent and a small proportion of farmers 8.00 per cent belonged to young aged group. The reason might be that, farmers of middle age with better farming experience, more efficient than older and younger category. Further, these individuals of 31 to 50 years of age have more family responsibility than the younger ones. These results are line with the findings of

Sureshkumar (2009) and Wondangbeni (2010).

It is clear from the study that 26.66 per cent of respondents were studied upto high school, followed by 21.33 per cent of the respondents have studied up middle school education, PUC was received by 16.00 per cent and 12.00 per cent of them studied upto primary school and least of 8.00 per cent of them have studied upto graduation.

The results could be attributed to the availability of free basic education and the educational infrastructure in the study area. Few of them opted higher education reflecting on their affordability and interest to learn more and gain good knowledge. The distance of higher study centers from the village might have contributed for only few being educated above high school. These finding are supported by the findings of Shashi (2004) and Chandrashekhar (2007).

Moajority of the respondents 50.66 per cent were semi-medium farmers while 23.33 per cent of the respondents were medium size of land holding farmers. It is observed during the investigation that most of the farm families were joint families. This could be attributed to inheritance of land from their ancestors who might have transferred from generation to generation. Therefore, most of the farmers were found in medium land holding category followed by medium farmers. The results are in line with the findings of Shashidhar (2003) and Madhu (2010).

A critical analysis of Table 2 revealed that 45.33 per cent soybean growers had medium extension contact followed by low 34.66 per cent and high 20.00 per cent level of contact with extension agency. Majority of Soybean growers had medium and lower extension contact which may be due to different subsidy provided under various agricultural developmental programmes, which might have attracted or encouraged farmers to be in touch with the extension official to avail various benefits. These results are in line with Taskeen (2012).

An overall view of mass media participation revealed that majority of the farmers 67.33 per cent belonged to medium level of mass media participation followed by high level accounting for 17.33 per cent and low level 15.33 per cent. This indicates that mass medialike television, radio, news paper and farm magazine were utilized by majority of the farmers to be regular and occasionally listener, viewer and readers of the radio, television and news paper with regard to agricultural

Table 1 : Distribution of the soybean growers according to their socio-economic profile **(n =150)**

Sr. No.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young age (<30 year)	12	8.00
	Middle age (31-50 year)	81	54.00
	Old age (>50 year)	57	38.00
2.	Education		
	Illiterate	24	16.00
	Primary School	18	12.00
	Middle School	32	21.33
	High School	40	26.66
	P. U. C.	24	16.00
	Graduate	12	8.00
3.	Land holding		
	Marginal farmer (< 2.50 acres)	5	3.33
	Small farmers (2.51 to 5.00 acres)	28	18.66
	Semi-medium farmers (5.01 to 10.00 acres)	76	50.66
	Medium farmer (10.01 to 25.00 acres)	35	23.33
	Big farmer (> 25 acres)	6	4.00

Table 2 : Distribution of soybean growers according to their extension contact **(n=150)**

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (<6.34)	52	34.66
2.	Medium (6.34-8.75)	68	45.33
3.	High (>8.75)	30	20.00
	Mean	7.54	
	SD	2.83	

Table 3 : Distribution of soybean growers according to their mass media participation **(n=150)**

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (<5.81)	23	15.33
2.	Medium (5.81-8.07)	101	67.33
3.	High (>8.07)	26	17.33
	Mean	6.95	
	SD	2.66	

Table 4 : Psychological characteristics of the soybean growers **(n=150)**

Sr. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Innovative proneness		
	Low (<17.79)	42	28.00
	Medium (17.79-19.54)	82	54.66
	High (>19.54)	26	17.33
2.	Scientific orientation	Mean=18.66	SD=2.05
	Low (<8.68)	54	36.00
	Medium (8.68-10.02)	68	45.33
	High (>10.02)	28	18.66
		Mean=9.35	SD=1.57

Table 5 : Distribution of soybean growers according to their area under soybean crop		(n=150)
1. Area under soybean crop		
Marginal farmer (< 2.50 acres)	44	29.33
Small farmers (2.51 to 5.00 acres)	56	37.33
Semi-medium farmers (5.01 to 10.00 acres)	42	28.00
Medium farmer (10.01 to 25.00 acres)	7	4.66
Big farmer (> 25 acres)	1	0.66

programmes. The results are in conformity with the findings of Ravindra (2012) as indicated in the Table 3.

The results presented in Table 4 revealed that, 54.66 per cent of respondents belonged to medium level of innovative proneness category, while 28.00 per cent and least of 17.33 per cent of respondents belonged to low and high level innovative proneness categories, respectively.Innovativeness is a cognitive aspect of change, which affects the readiness of an individual to accept new technology. The high and medium innovative proneness of soybean growers might be due to their higher educational status, higher knowledge level and more mass media participation.These results are in line with the results of Nagesh (2006) and Vimalraj (2010).

The results presented in Table 4 revealed that, nearly half of the respondents possessed medium level of scientific orientation 45.33 per cent followed by low 36.00 per cent and high 18.66 per cent scientific orientation category.

Scientific orientation helps an individual to understand the 'pros' and 'cons' of a technology. It helps him/her to judge, study and influences his decision making whether to accept, reject or apply the technology with necessary modifications on his farm/field. These factors might have resulted in the above findings of the study. The findings of the result are similar to the findings of Birajdar (2012).

The Table 5 revealed that majority the respondents 37.33 per cent had 2.5 to 5 acres of Soybean area followed by less than 2.5 acres 29.33 per cent, 5 to 10 acres 28.00 per cent, 10 to 25 acres 4.66 per cent and more than 25 acres 0.66 per cent. Because of sub division and fragmentation the land to individual ratio is coming less. The same thing is reflected here in the form of more number of marginal and small farmers. Irrespective of area every grower will strive to get maximum returns from the crop. This results is in line with the findings of Kishorebabu (2004); Gangadhar (2009) and Madhusekhar (2009).

Conclusion :
Most of the soybean growers belonged to middle age and acquired education upto high school level. Maximum of them having medium size of land holding and medium level of extension contact, medium level of mass media participation, medium level of innovative proneness and medium level of scientific orientation. It was found that considerable soybean growers had 2.5 to 5 acres of soybean area. Therefore, there is an urgent need to create awareness generation campaign to educate the soybean growers. Hence efforts should be undertaken by the Government, Agricultural Universities and other extension agencies in providing information on improved Soybean production technologies so that they could bring about change in their living and improve the socio-economic status of soybean growers.

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