

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Socio economic characteristics of pomegranate growers in Ahmednagar district

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SUMMARY : Present study was socio economic characteristics of selected pomegranate growers in Ahmednagar district. In present investigation the sample of 32 pomegranate growers were selected from study area which input-output data collected based in the year 2015-16. The data was collected by personal interview method by using pre tested interview schedule. The results revealed that most of pomegranate growers were from middle age and which accounted of 65.63 per cent and 46.87 per cent respondents were attended higher secondary education. Most of pomegranate growers had a family size more than 6 members and which accounted 71.87 per cent. It was also observed that 84.37 per cent of pomegranate growers had main occupation of agriculture. Regarding to land holding, more than 2 hectares *i.e.* 46.87 per cent. Average area under pomegranate was 1 hectare. The gross cropped area was 6.16 ha and cropping intensity was 141.60 per cent.

KEY WORDS :

Socio economic characteristics, Land holding, Cropping intensity

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Pomegranate (*Punicagranatum*) is one of the important fruitcrop of tropical and sub-tropical regions of the country, which belongs to family *Punicaceae*. The sweet-acidic fruit which provides a cool refreshing juice and is valued from its medicinal properties. Its popularity is also due to the ornamental nature of the plant which bears bright red, very attractive flowers. Three flowering seasons in pomegranate under Maharashtra conditions are like June-July (Mrig-bahar) coinciding with break of monsoon, September-October (Hasta-bahar) and February-March (Ambe-bahar).

India is one of the largest producers of pomegranate. During 2013-2014 pomegranate was cultivated over 1.31 lakh ha with an annual production of 13.46 lakh tonnes and productivity of 10.27 tonnes/ha in India. At present Maharashtra is the leading state in acreage covering about 68.7% of the area under pomegranate. Production wise Maharashtra ranks first (9, 45,000 tonnes) accounting 70.2%, followed by Karnataka (1, 34,180 tonnes), Gujarat (99,330 tonnes), Andhra Pradesh (90,010 tonnes), Telangana (25,970 tonnes), Madhya Pradesh (25,290 tonnes), Tamilnadu (13,090 tonnes) and other states contributing for the rest of the production. The total area under Pomegranate

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in Ahmednagar district during the year 2013-14 was 4388.0 hectare with the production of 30644 MT and productivity of 6.98 MT/ha. (SAO office Ahmednagar).

Pomegranate has short shelf life and therefore needs of immediate marketing, besides pomegranate cannot be stored for longer period under ordinary conditions, hence it is marketed locally. This results more supply of fruits in market during peak harvesting period, which leads to low prices to the growers.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsils, villages and pomegranate growers. In the first stage, Ahmednagar district was purposively selected for the present study because there was highest area under pomegranate fruit crop in this district. In second stage, Shrigonda and Karjat tehsils were selected because of more number of pomegranate growers. In third stage, from each selected tehsil, four villages were selected on the basis of maximum area under pomegranate cultivation. The data was collected by personal interview by using pre tested interview schedule.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads :

Socio-economic characteristics of pomegranate grower :

Socio-economic characteristics of pomegranate grower were calculated and are presented in Table 1. The results revealed that most of pomegranate growers were from middle age *i.e.* 31 to 50 years old and which accounted of 65.63 per cent. Regarding education, most of the growers were educated upto higher secondary and above (46.87 %). Regarding family size, most of pomegranate growers had a family size more than 6 members and which accounted 71.87 per cent. The family having more members so full time workers are more than 2 and contribute 68.75 per cent. It was also observed that 84.37 per cent of pomegranate growers had main occupation of agriculture. Pomegranate growers had more than 2 hectaresland holding and accounted 46.87 per cent. Average area under pomegranate was 1 hectare. Pomegranate growers have

Table 1 : Socio-economic characteristics of pomegranate grower

| Sr. No. | Particulars | Pomegranate garden | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| | | No. | Percentage |
| 1 | Age | | |
| | Young (up to 30) | 6 | 18.75 |
| | Middle (31 to 50) | 21 | 65.63 |
| | Old (Above 50) | 5 | 15.62 |
| 2 | Education | | |
| | Illiterate | 4 | 12.5 |
| | Primary & High School | 13 | 40.62 |
| | Higher secondary & Above | 15 | 46.88 |
| 3 | Family size (No.) | | |
| | Up to 3 | 2 | 6.25 |
| | 4 to 6 | 7 | 21.88 |
| | More than 6 | 23 | 71.87 |
| 4 | Full time worker | | |
| | up to 1 | 2 | 6.25 |
| | up to 2 | 8 | 25 |
| | More than 2 | 22 | 68.75 |
| 5 | Occupational level | | |
| | Agriculture | 27 | 84.37 |
| | Industry | 1 | 3.13 |
| | Service | 4 | 12.5 |
| 6 | Land holding | | |
| | Up to 2 ha | 5 | 15.63 |
| | 2.1 to 4 ha | 15 | 46.87 |
| | More than 4 ha | 12 | 37.5 |
| 7 | Pomegranate orchard size (ha) | | |
| | Up to 0.40 | 10 | 31.25 |
| | 0.41 to 1 | 14 | 43.75 |
| | More than 1 | 8 | 25 |
| 8 | No. of crops on farm | | |
| | Up to 2 | 1 | 3.13 |
| | 3 to 5 | 12 | 37.5 |
| | More than 5 | 19 | 59.37 |
| 9 | No. of milch animal | | |
| | No of milch animal | 7 | 21.88 |
| | 1 to 3 | 12 | 37.5 |
| | more than 3 | 13 | 40.62 |
| 10 | No. of bullock | | |
| | No bullock pair | 17 | 53.12 |
| | One bullock pair | 13 | 40.63 |
| | More than 1 bullock pair | 2 | 6.25 |

Table 2 : Cropping pattern of pomegranate grower

| Sr. No. | Crops | Area | Percentage |
|---------|--------------------|------|------------|
| | Kharif | | |
| 1 | Cotton | 0.85 | 13.82 |
| 2 | Tur | 0.47 | 7.63 |
| 3 | Mung | 0.41 | 6.67 |
| 4 | Udid | 0.11 | 1.79 |
| | Rabi | | |
| 5 | Gram | 0.37 | 6.02 |
| 6 | Groundnut | 0.16 | 2.60 |
| 7 | Wheat | 0.56 | 9.10 |
| 8 | R. Jowar | 0.38 | 6.18 |
| 9 | Onion | 0.34 | 5.53 |
| | Perennial | | |
| 10 | Pomegranate | 1 | 16.26 |
| 11 | Citrus | 0.64 | 10.41 |
| 12 | Grapes | 0.31 | 5.04 |
| 13 | Sugarcane | 0.38 | 6.02 |
| 14 | cattle grass | 0.18 | 2.93 |
| 15 | Gross Cropped Area | 6.16 | 100 |
| 16 | Net sown Area | 4.35 | 70.62 |
| 17 | Double crop | 1.81 | 29.38 |
| 18 | Cropping Intensity | - | 141.60 |

more number of crops on farm *i.e.* more than 5 crops cultivated per annum and contributed 59.37 per cent. In case of pomegranate growers 40.62 per cent farmers maintained more than 3 milch animals.

Cropping pattern of pomegranate growers :

Cropping pattern of pomegranate growers were estimated and presented in Table 2. The result revealed that gross cropped area was 6.16 hectare of pomegranate grower. It was observed that in kharif, area under cotton was highest as 13.82 per cent. After that Tur, Mung and udid crops having area 0.47, 0.41 and 0.11 hectare, respectively and contributes 7.63, 6.67 and 1.79 per cent, respectively. While in Rabi season the area under wheat was highest *i.e.* 0.56 ha contributed as 9.10 per cent. After that more area requiring crops are R.Jowar, Gram, Onion and Groundnut having area 0.38, 0.37, 0.34 and 0.16 hectares, respectively and contribute 6.18, 6.02, 5.53 and 2.60 per cent. In summer season, due to lack of water very less area under cultivation. With regard to perennial crops, area under Pomegranate was highest as 1 hectare (16.26 %). The area about 1.81 hectare was double cropped. While net sown area was 4.35

hectare contributed 70.62 per cent. With regard to cropping intensity was 141.60 per cent.

Conclusion :

- Average age of pomegranate growers was between 31 to 50 years.
- It is observed that pomegranate growers were educated near about higher secondary level.
- Average size of family was 6 members.
- Average area under pomegranate growers was 1 ha. The gross cropped area was 6.15 ha and cropping intensity was 141.38 per cent.

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