

RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Socio-economic characteristics of lime growers

■ JAMEER R. ATTAR AND S.G. ASKI

ARTICLE CHRONICLE :

Received :

06.09.2017;

Revised :

01.10.2017;

Accepted :

17.10.2017

SUMMARY : In the present investigation, *ex-post-facto* research design was used. The study was conducted in the purposively selected Vijayapura and Kalaburagi district of Northern Karnataka on the basis of largest cultivated area under lime. The total sample size of the respondents is 140 for the study. The study results revealed that 55.71 per cent of lime growers were middle age group and old age (24.29 %), 23.58 per cent of lime growers studied upto primary school and high school (22.14 %), majority (65.00 %) of the farmers belonged to medium family size and big (19.29 %). Further, 35.00 per cent of lime growers had semi-medium land holding and 25.71 per cent lime growers had medium size land holding, as high as 46.43 per cent of lime growers were found under high income group of more than Rs. 1,20,000, majority (52.86 %) of the farmers belonged to medium experience in lime cultivation, 50.17 per cent of lime growers were observed under medium level of extension contact and 17.14 per cent of lime growers were members of farmers service co-op societies.

How to cite this article : Attar, Jameer R. and Aski, S.G. (2017). Socio-economic characteristics of lime growers. *Agric. Update*, 12(4): 685-690; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/12.4/685-690.

KEY WORDS :

Socio-economic,
Family size, Land
holding, Lime growers

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Fruits are man's oldest food and are the chief source of vitamins, minerals and proteins which are necessary to maintain proper health and acquire resistance to diseases. Nutritional experts have recommended the consumption of 400 g of fruit per head per day and as much variety as the season permits. Along with these, it also provides the year-round occupation and orchards help in maintaining ecological balance contributing to the aesthetic side of rural home life. People follow the fruit production not only to make a living and earn money but also to derive much more than that which cannot be measured in terms of money. The important fruits grown in the country are mango, citrus, banana, apple, guava, sapota,

papaya, pomegranate and grapes. Fruits of the citrus family are amongst the most widely grown fruits of the world. Though citrus is mainly a subtropical crop, it is found growing in tropical zone and also in some parts of temperate zone. In India citrus occupies a commercially very important place among the fruit crops after mango. Acid lime has a typical fragrance, high vitamin C content, thin peel, attractive shape, size and colour of fruits. Limes do not face the same competition as of other fruits (grapes, banana, apple etc.) since these are used for salad garnishing and processing purposes and not as dessert fruit like an orange or tangerine. Lime fruits are extensively being used in making delicious and refreshing cool drinks, preparation of pickles,

Author for correspondence :

S.G. ASKI

Department of
Agricultural Extension
Education, College of
Agriculture (UAS),
VIJAYAPURA
(KARNATAKA) INDIA
Email : askisubhash@
gmail.com

See end of the article for
authors' affiliations

citric acid, citrate of lime and cosmetics. Lime or lemon juice is useful as a natural cosmetic and also for external application as a hair rinse, skin lotion and as a mouth wash.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

In the present investigation, *ex-post-facto* research design was used. The study was conducted in the purposively selected Vijayapura and Kalaburagi district of Northern Karnataka in the year 2013-14 on basis of largest cultivated area under lime (Anonymous, 2014a). Among the five taluks of Vijayapura district, Indi taluk had the maximum area under lime (3564 ha) followed by Vijayapura (1464 ha) taluk (Anonymous, 2014b). Similarly among seven taluks of Kalaburagi district, Afzalpur taluk (315 ha) had maximum area followed by Aland (235ha) taluka (Anonymous, 2014b). Hence, Indi taluk in Vijayapura district, and Afzalpur taluk from Kalaburagi district were purposively selected for the study. The list of villages having highest area and production in the taluk was obtained from the Department of Horticulture and villages having highest area and production were selected for the study. From each taluk seven villages were selected and from each village 10 lime growers who have minimum one acre of lime orchard and who have at least five years and above old orchard were selected randomly. Thus, the total sample size of the respondents was 140 for the study.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

Personal and socio-economic characteristics of lime growers :

Age :

It is revealed from Table 1 that, 55.71 per cent of lime growers were middle age group, followed by old age (24.29 %) and young age group (20.00 %). This is natural to expect that middle age lime growers are more enthusiastic, have more knowledge and have more farming experience. Further, lime growers between 31 to 50 years have physical stability and more responsibility towards family than younger ones. Lime growers of middle age with medium to high farming experience work more efficiently than older and younger ones. Thus, most

of the lime growers fell in the middle age group could be justified. The studies of Sanjota (2014) and Naik (2016) were in agreement with the present findings.

Education :

A look in to Table 1 indicates that, 23.58 per cent of lime growers studied upto primary school, followed by high school (22.14 %), pre-university (20.00 %) and middle school (18.57 %). Whereas, graduation was noticed with 10.71 per cent and only five per cent of the respondents were noticed in illiterates group. In general results shows that most of the farmer had fair amount of formal education. The inclination to education has been increasing in general and more in rural areas. The education generally empowers the human being not only to understand the situation but also make a more of problems and solution to get out of deprived situation. The government policy of free education upto high school might be another reason for fair amount of education. The results are in line with the findings of the studies reported by Kudari (2014) and Naik (2016).

Family size :

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that, majority (65.00 %) of the farmers belonged to medium family size followed by big (19.29 %) and small (15.71 %) family size. Agriculture is the main occupation of farmers that requires active participation of more number of family members. In study area majority of the farmers were growing lime along with fields crops which requires more man power. Further, awareness and formal education of respondents might have helped them to maintain the medium size of family by adopting family planning measures. Hence, many of the respondents might have opted for medium size families. The results are in line with the findings of the studies reported by Kudari (2014) and Maheshwari (2015).

Land holding:

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that 35.00 per cent of lime growers had semi-medium land holding and 25.71 per cent lime growers had medium size land holding. The small land holding was noticed with 19.29 per cent of farmers and 17.14 per cent had marginal size of land holding. However, only 2.86 per cent lime growers had big size of land holdings. The possible reason might be that increase in trend of nuclear families leads to

fragmentation of ancestor land from generation to generation. Hence had small, marginal and semi-medium land holdings. The findings of the study are supported by the studies of Sanjota (2014)

Annual income :

It could be observed from Table 1 that, as high as 46.43 per cent of lime growers were found under high income group of more than Rs. 1,20,000 while, 30.00 and 23.57 per cent lime growers found under medium (Rs. 60,000- Rs. 1,20,000) and low (60,000) income

category, respectively. This might be due to higher market prices of lime. The findings of the study are supported by the studies of Priya (2011).

Experience in lime cultivation :

The results revealed that majority (52.86 %) of the farmers belonged to medium experience in lime cultivation, followed by high experience in lime cultivation (29.29 %). While, 17.85 per cent of respondents noticed in low experience in lime cultivation. The possible reason might be that, more number of lime growers belonged to

Table 1 : Distribution of respondents based on their personal and socio-economic characteristics			(n = 140)
Sr. No.	Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young age (18 to 30 years)	28	20.00
	Middle age (31 to 50 years)	78	55.71
	Old age (>50 years)	34	24.29
2.	Education		
	Illiterates	07	05.00
	Primary school (1-4 th std)	33	23.58
	Middle school (5 -7 th std)	26	18.57
	High School (8 -10 th std)	31	22.14
	PUC (11 th - 12 th std)	28	20.00
	Graduate	15	10.71
3.	Family size		
	Small family (Upto 4 members)	22	15.71
	Medium (5 to 8 members)	91	65.00
	Big (>8 members)	27	19.29
4.	Land holding (acres)		
	Marginal farmers (Upto 2.50 acres)	24	17.14
	Small farmers (2.51 to 5.00 acres)	27	19.29
	Semi medium (5.01 to 10.00 acres)	49	35.00
	Medium farmers (10.01 to 25.00 acres)	36	25.71
	Big farmers (Above 25.01 acres)	4	2.86
5.	Annual income		
	Low income group (<Rs. 60,000)	33	23.57
	Medium income group (Rs.60,000- Rs.1,20,000)	42	30.00
	High income group (>Rs.1,20,000)	65	46.43
6.	Experience in lime cultivation		
	Low (<10 Years)	25	17.85
	Medium (10-20 Years)	74	52.86
	High (>20 Years)	41	29.29
7.	Economic motivation		
	Low (<20.51)	49	35.00
	Medium (20.51-23.13)	56	40.00
	High (>23.13)	35	25.00
	Mean = 21.82 SD = 3.08		

middle age category. Further, nearly three fourth of lime growers studied upto high school and above. The lime growers might have engaged in agriculture only after completion of their high school education, hence percentage of lime growers with medium experience is high. The findings of the study are supported by the studies of Naik (2016).

Economic motivation :

The distribution of respondents in economic motivation (Table 1) highlighted that 40.00 per cent of lime growers belonged to medium level economic motivation and 35.00 per cent lime growers belonged to low economic motivation category. Whereas, 25.00 per cent of lime growers possessed high economic motivation. Commercial value of lime crop and regular employment man days have resulted for this situation. The other probable reasons might be due to less number of illiterates, more mass media participation of lime growers. Similar findings were noticed in the studies of Gotyal (2007) and Bennur (2015).

Extension contact :

Further, the data furnished in the Table 2.1 indicates that, 50.17 per cent of lime growers were observed under medium level of extension contact, while 32.12 and 17.11 per cent of farmers were observed under low and high level of extension contact, respectively. Farmers need technical guidance to follow lime cultivation practices.

Different subsidies provided under horticultural development programmes also attract farmers to be in touch with the extension official to avail various benefits. These results are in agreement with the findings of Gotyal (1989) and Thippeswamy (2007).

Mass media participation :

The results in the Table 3 revealed that television was the most effective common medium possessed by 97.86 per cent of lime growers. The results also revealed that radio was possessed by 22.85 per cent of lime growers. A common man can easily afford a radio and even an illiterate farmer can make the use of this two media.

Television and radio were mainly used to view/hear entertainment programme other than agricultural programme. Reasons for this might be after tedious work on the field lime growers wish to view/listen light entertainment programmes. Another reason might be broadcasted and telecasted agriculture programmes may not be relevant to all the lime growers because information may be general form, not specific to particular farmer.

As one of the cheapest mass communication media, newspaper was subscribed by 55.71 per cent of the respondents. This was due to the fact that majority of the respondents were literates and they expose themselves to print media like newspaper.

The farm magazine was subscribed by 41.42 per

Sr. No.	Extension worker	Frequency of contact					
		Regularly		Occasionally		Never	
		f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Horticultural Assistants	19	12.15	67	45.71	54	38.57
2.	Assistant Horticultural Officers	14	10.00	36	25.71	90	64.29
3.	Assistant Director of Horticulture	9	6.43	23	16.43	108	77.14
4.	Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture	3	2.14	24	17.14	113	80.71
5.	Deputy Director of Horticulture	2	1.43	22	15.71	116	82.85
6.	Assistant Agricultural Officers/Agricultural officers	21	15.00	74	52.86	45	32.14
7.	Specialists of UAS	9	6.43	66	47.15	65	46.43

f = Frequency % = Percentage

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (<11.15)	45	32.12
2.	Medium (11.15-12.78)	71	50.17
3.	High (>12.78)	24	17.11
Mean = 11.97 SD = 1.92			

cent of lime growers and 32.15 per cent of the respondents were regular readers of agriculture articles. Lack of applicability and monotonous agricultural information might be resulted in this kind of result.

It is quite interesting to note from the results in Table 3.1 indicates that, 55.72 per cent of lime growers had medium level of mass media participation and an equal percentage (22.14 %) of lime growers had high and low mass media participation, respectively. This indicates that

mass media like television, newspaper, farm magazines and radio were utilized by the lime growers occasionally whenever need. The findings of the study are supported by the studies of Naik (2016).

Organizational participation :

The data in Table 4 depicts that 17.14 per cent of lime growers were members of farmers service co-op societies, followed by youth club (8.57 %), Gram

Table 3 : Mass media participation extent of participation of lime growers in various mass media (n = 140)

Sr. No.	Categories	Subscriber		Mass media participation					
		F	%	Regular		Occasional		Never	
				f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Newspaper	78	55.71						
	Agricultural articles			45	32.14	37	26.43	58	41.42
	Information / News			74	52.86	43	30.71	23	16.43
	Recreational articles			29	20.71	48	34.29	63	45.00
2.	Farm magazine	58	41.42						
	Agricultural articles			45	32.15	15	10.71	80	57.14
	Information / News			43	30.71	18	12.86	79	56.43
	Recreational articles			26	18.57	15	10.71	99	70.72
3.	Radio	32	22.85						
	Agricultural programmes			12	8.57	54	38.57	74	52.86
	Information / News			18	12.86	51	36.43	71	50.71
	Entertainment			25	17.86	57	40.71	58	41.43
4.	Television	137	97.86						
	Agricultural programmes			37	26.43	65	46.43	38	27.14
	Information / News			106	75.71	21	15.00	13	9.29
	Entertainment			110	78.57	11	7.86	19	13.57

f = Frequency % = Percentage

Table 3.1: Distribution of lime growers according to overall mass media participation (n = 140)

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (< 23.52)	31	22.14
2.	Medium (23.52 – 27.28)	78	55.72
3.	High (> 27.28)	31	22.14
	Mean = 25.40 SD = 4.42		

Table 4: Organization participation (n = 140)

Sr. No.	Organization	Member	Office Bearer	Participation					
				Regularly		Occasionally		Never	
				f	%	f	%	f	%
1.	Gram Panchayat	6 (4.29)	1 (0.71)	6	4.29	11	7.85	123	87.86
2.	Taluk Panchayat	2 (1.43)	-	2	1.43	12	8.57	126	90.00
3.	Zilla Panchayat	1 (0.72)	-	1	0.72	21	15.00	118	84.29
4.	Farmers service co-op. society	24 (17.14)	-	17	12.15	67	47.86	56	40.00
5.	Youth club	12 (8.57)	-	4	2.86	23	16.43	113	80.71

f = Frequency % = Percentage

Figures in parentheses indicates percentage

Panchayat (4.29 %), Taluk Panchayat (1.43 %) and Zilla Panchayat (0.72 %). Whereas, only 0.71 per cent of lime farmer is office bearer.

The results also indicates that, large majority 90.00, 87.86, 84.29 and 80.71 per cent of lime growers never participated in Taluk Panchayat, Gram Panchayat, Zilla Panchayat and youth club, respectively. Whereas, 47.86 per cent of lime growers participated occasionally in farmers service co-op society.

The possible reasons might be that these organizations are functioning at the village level and most of them had taken loan from farmer's organization and cooperative societies for various agricultural purposes. As a result, they might have participated in the activities. None of the respondents never participated in the activities of Taluka Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat. As these organizations exist at taluka and district level. Hence, majority of them might have felt inconvenient to attend the meetings as well as the participation is open for members only. The findings of the study are in consonance with Gundappagol (2014).

Authors' affiliations :

JAMEER R. ATTAR, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNATAKA) INDIA
Email : jameerattar543@gmail.com

REFERENCES

- Anonymous (2014a). Directorate of economic and statistics, Vijayapura, pp. 117-151.
- Anonymous (2014b). Indian Horticulture Database 2014, National Horticulture Board, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India pp. 62-70.

Bennur, C.U. (2015). Analysis of production and marketing of tuberoses in North Karnataka. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Karnataka (India).

Gotyal, S.H., Aski, S.G., Patil, M.B. and Hanumanaikar, R.H. (2011). Adoption of recommended lime cultivation practices by lime growers of Bijapur district. *Agric. Update*, **6** (1): 122-124.

Gundappagol, J.B. (2014). Management efficiency of vegetable growers of Belgaum district. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Karnataka (India).

Kudari, M.B. (2014). A study on perception of precision farming by the farmers, M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) India.

Maheshwari, K.D. (2015). Dairy management practices adopted by farm women of self-help groups in Gadag district. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) India.

Naik, V.S. (2016). Technological gap in adoption of recommended cultivation practices of arecanut growers. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur (Karnataka) India.

Priya, V. (2011). Comparative study on precision and conventional methods of onion cultivation in Theni district of Tamil Nadu. M. Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, Agriculture College and Research Institute, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Madurai (T.N.) India.

Sanjota, K.P. (2014). Technological gap in pepper cultivation in Uttara Kannada district. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) India.

Thippeswamy, R. (2007). A study on knowledge and adoption of plant protection measures in coconut cultivation by farmers of Chitradurga district. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) India.

12th
Year
★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★