RESEARCH PAPER

Profile of farmers about impact of farmer field school on soybean growers

S. R. Akulwar*, S. R. Jakkawad **and** G.B. Bhosale

Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi
Vidyapeeth, Parbhani (M.S.) India (Email: shantanuakulwar3012@gmail.com)

Abstract : The present study was undertaken in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State during the year 2020-21 with the objective to study "Impact of farmer field school on soybean growers." Parbhani district was selected randomly from Marathwada region. Three talukas were selected from district and four villages from each taluka were selected randomly for the study. From each selected village 10 trained respondents under FFS were selected randomly, in this way total 120 respondents were considered for the study. An Ex-post-facto research design was followed for the study. Data was gathered using a well-structured interview schedule created with the study's objectives in mind. The collected data was analysed, classified and tabulated. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and co-efficient correlation were used to interpret findings and draw conclusions The detailed analysis of profile characteristics of farmers indicated that majority of the farmers were medium aged (56.67%), educated up to primary school level (37.50%), small land holder (37.50%), medium farming experience (65.84%), medium level of annual income (49.18%), medium social participation (53.33%), medium level of scientific orientation (42.51%), medium level of economic motivation (54.17%), medium level of knowledge (43.33%).

Key Words : Impact of FFS, Profile of farmers

INTRODUCTION

Soybean contributes significantly to the Indian edible oil pool. Presently soybean contributes 43 % to the total oil seeds and 25% to the total oil production in the country. Currently, India ranks fourth in respect to production of soybean in the world. The crop helps earn valuable foreign exchange Rs.62000 million in (reference soybean report FICCI) by way of soya meal exports. Soybean has largely been responsible in uplifting farmer's economic status in many pockets of the country. It usually fetches higher income to the farmers owing to the huge export market for soybean de oiled cake. The Farmer Field School is a form of adult education, which evolved from the concept that farmers learn optimally from field observation and experimentation. It was developed to help farmers tailor their Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices to diverse and dynamic ecological conditions. In regular sessions from planting till harvest,

*Author for correspondence:

S. R. Akulwar, S. R. Jakkawad and G.B. Bhosale

groups of neighboring farmers observe and discuss dynamics of the crop's ecosystem. Simple experimentation helps farmers further improve their understanding of functional relationships (e.g. pests-natural enemy, population dynamics and crop damage-yield relationships). In this cyclical learning process, farmers develop the expertise that enables them to make their own crop management decisions. Special group activities encourage learning from peers, and strengthen communicative skills and group building.

Keeping in view the factual position the present research study was undertaken with the following specific objective :

– Profile of farmers about impact of farmer field school on soybean growers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was undertaken in Parbhani district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State during the year 2020-21 with the objective to study "Impact of farmer field school on soybean growers." Parbhani district was selected randomly from Marathwada region. Three talukas were selected from district and four villages from each taluka were selected randomly for the study From each selected village 10 trained respondents under FFS were selected randomly, in this way total 120 respondents were considered for the study. An Ex-post-facto research design was followed for the study. Data was gathered using a well-structured interview schedule created with the study's objectives in mind. The collected data was analyzed, classified and tabulated. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and co-efficient correlation were used to interpret findings and draw conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads :

Profile characteristics of farmers :
Age :
It is revealed from Table 1 that about 56.67 per cent of respondents were from middle age group of 30 to 52 years, followed by 22.50 per cent of the respondents from young age group (upto 29 years) and 20.83 per cent of the respondents were from old age group (53 years and above).

Table 1 : Profile characteristics of the respondents

Sr. No.	Profile characteristics of the respondents	Respondents (n=120) Frequency	Percentage
1.	**Age**		
	Young (up to 29 years)	27	22.50
	Middle (30 to 52 years)	68	56.67
	Old (53 years and above)	25	20.83
2.	**Education**		
	Illiterate	10	08.33
	Can read only	00	00
	Can read and write	23	19.16
	Primary	45	37.50
	Middle	19	15.84
	High school	17	14.17
	Graduate	06	05.00
3.	**Land holding**		
	Marginal (up to 1.00 ha)	30	25.00
	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	45	37.50
	Semi Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	34	28.33
	Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha)	6	05.00
	Large (Above 10.00 ha)	5	04.17
4.	**Farming experience**		
	Low	22	18.33
	Medium	79	65.84
	High	19	15.83
5.	**Annual income**		
	Low	17	14.16
	Medium	59	49.18
	High	44	36.66
6.	**Social participation**		
	Low	26	21.67
	Medium	64	53.33
	High	30	25.00
7.	**Scientific orientation**		
	Low	35	29.16
	Medium	51	42.51
	High	34	28.33
8.	**Economic motivation**		
	Low	24	20.00
	Medium	65	54.17
	High	31	25.83
9.	**Knowledge**		
	Low	39	32.51
	Medium	52	43.33
	High	29	24.16

It was observed from the above findings that Farmers Field School users belonged to middle age farmers. The reason might be that middle aged persons are more experienced. They are actually doing agriculture. This finding is consistent with the finding of Mallikarjun (2014), Prajapati (2016) and Kushwah (2016).

Education :

The education is the process of the brining about desirable changes in the behaviour. Education is nothing but process of developing knowledge, wisdom and other desirable qualities of mind, character and general competencies, especially by a source of formal instruction. With regard to educational qualification it is evident from Table 1 that 15.84 per cent of the respondents were educated up to middle school level (5th to 7th std.), 14.17 per cent of the respondents were educated up to high school (8th to 10th std.), 37.50 per cent of the respondents were educated up to primary school (1st to 4th std.), 19.16 per cent of the respondents can read and write, none of them were can read only, 05.00 per cent of the respondents were educated up to graduate level (above 12th std.). While 08.33 per cent of the respondents were illiterate.

This result was observed because most of the selected villages having primary school level facility. This finding is in consonance with the observations of Maida (2015), Kushwah (2016), Jamir and Sharma (2018).

Land holding :

The number of standard acres/hectares of land owned and cultivated by each respondent family was considered in determination of their size of land holding. It is observed from Table 1 that 05.00 per cent of the respondents were medium farmer (4.01 to 10.00 ha), 28.33 per cent of the respondents were semi medium farmer (2.01 to 4.00 ha), 37.50 per cent of the respondents were small farmer (1.01 to 2.00 ha), 04.17 per cent of the respondents were large farmer (above 10.00 ha). While 25.00 per cent of the respondents were marginal farmer *i.e.* land holding up to 1 ha only.

The most probable reason for the above finding was in rural India land is fragmented year after year and very low land holding transfer to next generation therefore, most of the farmers have marginal land holding. This finding is in line with the finding of Makashre (2014) and Maida (2015).

Farming experience :

Experience in farming indicates the level of familiarity of farmers in farming. The experience is important factor that influence the decision making ability, management ability and help the farmer in taking risk. It is revealed from Table 1 that about 65.84 per cent of respondents were have medium farming experience (7 to 29 years). There were 18.33 per cent of respondents were have low farming experience (up to 6 years). As much as 15.83 per cent of respondents were have high farming experience (30 years and above).

This was happened because most of the respondent's farmers were from medium farming. This finding is in line with the finding of Desmukh (2013) and Kushwah (2016).

Annual income :

Annual income is referring to the total income in year of all the family members of the respondent from all the sources. Annual income is a major determinant of the economic well-being of an individual. It is found from Table 1 that a majority (49.18%) of respondents were in medium level of annual income category, 36.66 per cent of the respondents were in high level of annual income category and 14.16 per cent of the respondents were in low level of annual income category.

This result was observed because majority of the farmers have high to medium size land holding and farming was the main income source. This finding is consistent with the findings of Mallikarjun (2014), Prajapati (2016) and Kushwah (2016).

Social participation :

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that, the higher number of the soybean growers (53.33%) were of medium level of social participation followed by high level social participation (25.00%) and low level of social participation (21.67%), respectively.

It might be due to most of the farmers are always engaged in farming operations and they have very small time to participate in social events. They participate only important and agricultural related events therefore they have medium social participation. This finding is consistent with the finding of Chavai (2000) and Prajapati (2016).

Scientific orientation :

Scientific orientation is the degree to which a farmer is oriented to use of scientific methods in decision making

and farming. It is characterized by a belief in the science and scientific approach to solve problems in farming**.** It was clear from the Table 1, that (42.51%) of the FFS participants belonged to medium level of scientific orientation, followed by low (29.16%) and high (28.33%) level of scientific orientation.

Scientific orientation makes individual to systematically proceed from problem identification to a solution, thus making the decision more effective. High to medium scientific orientation is a promising trend in the study area. More exposure to newer technologies might have influenced the farmers to have high scientific orientation. It is imperative that the farmers with low scientific orientation should get themselves trained and also have information access to latest production technologies. Higher scientific orientation of the farmer leads to a desire acquire more knowledge order to keep themselves abreast with recent improved agricultural practices from various sources. This finding is consistent with the finding of Chouhan (2013), Makashre (2014) and Athwale (2008).

Economic motivation :

Table 1 indicated that majority of soybean growers (54.17%) were in medium level of economic motivation. Followed by 25.83 per cent in high level and only 20.00 per cent soybean growers were in low level of economic motivation.

This might be due to continuous guidance to farmers from the various informal sources such as FFS, POCRA, State agricultural department, Agricultural University etc. On farm and non-farm related aspects leading to development of goal seeking behaviour. This finding is consistent with the finding of Makashre (2014).

Knowledge :

From the findings indicated in Table 1 that the highest percentage (43.33%) of the soybean growers were having medium knowledge level followed by (32.51%) and (24.16%) of them were in low and high knowledge level, respectively.

This might be due to that most of the farmers have been involved in farming for long years and well farming experience so they have good knowledge about various farming practices. This finding is in consonance with the observations of Maida (2015) and Prajapati (2016).

Conclusion :

The study provides us profile characteristics of farmers. They were from majority of farmer middle age category, majority of farmer were educated up to primary school level, majority farmers possessed small land holding, majority of farmer were medium farming experience, majority of farmer were medium level of annual income, majority of farmer were medium level of social participation, majority of farmer were medium level of scientific orientation, majority of farmer were medium level of economic motivation, majority of farmer were medium level of knowledge.

REFERENCES

Chouhan, S., Singh, S.R.K., Pande, A.K. and Gautam, U.S. (2013). Adoption dynamics of improved sugarcane cultivation in Madhya Pradesh. *Indian Res. J. Ext. Edu.,* **13**(2): 26-30.

Deshmukh, N.D. Wadkar, J.R. and Khodke, M.V. (2013). Impact of farmers schools on knowledge level of cotton growers regarding improved cultivation practices, *Mysore J. Agric. Sci.,* **47**(2) : 360-367.

Jamir, I. and Sharma, A. (2018). Socio-economic and constraint status assessment of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Training Programmes in Nagaland, *International Journal of Current Microbiology & Applied Science,* **7** (11) : 1759-1770.

Kushwah (2016). A study on impact of farmer field school on knowledge and adoption level of wheat growers in Ujjain District, Madhya Pradesh. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Gwalior,M.P. (India).

Maida (2015). A study on knowledge and attitude of small and marginal farmers towards high yielding varieties of chickpea in Piploda block of Ratlam district in Madhya Pradesh. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa-vidyalaya, Gwalior, M.P. (India).

Makashre (2014). A study on knowledge and adoption of soybean production technology by the farmers of Tikamgarh district, Madhya Pradesh. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur, M.P. (India).

Mallikarjun (2014). A study on the impact of farmers field school on soybean growers in Bidar district of Karnataka. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka (India).

Prajapati (2016). A study of farmer's field school on chickpea management practices in Sehore block of Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh. M.Sc. (Ag.) Thesis, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa-vidyalaya, Gwalior, M.P. (India).

20th Year
★★★★★ of Excellence ★★★★★