

## Participation of rural youth in farming

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### ABSTRACT

This investigation was carried out during the year 2010-2011. From 10 villages of Amravati Taluka of Amravati district, 120 respondents (rural youths) were randomly selected for the study. Data were collected from the rural youths with help of pre-tested schedule by personal interview method. The result revealed that majority (65.00 per cent) of the respondent rural youths had medium level of participation in farming while, 17.50 per cent of respondents had low level of participation in farming and also 17.50 per cent of respondents possessed high level of participation in farming. The correlation analysis related to independent variables viz., age, land holding, size of family, type of family, social participation, extension contact, cosmopolitanism, attitude, motivation and knowledge about farming showed significant and positive relationship with participation in farming. While education showed significant negative relationship with participation in farming. Majority of respondents expressed electricity and irrigation water as constraints, low price returns, uncertainty in farm income due to weather hazards and expressed lack of knowledge about improved farm technologies also as a constraint.

**KEY WORDS :** Participation, Rural youth, Farming

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### INTRODUCTION

India is said to be the land of youths and villages. Its 72.00 per cent population resides in rural area, with farming as their main occupation and contributes to the extent of 30.00 per cent national income. However, Indian agriculture still assumes the character of traditional farming because of reluctance of farming population particularly the old aged to accept the modern technology. Rural youths are expected to be more innovative than old people.

United Nations Organization for the purpose of celebration of International youth year defined youth as those people within age group of 15 to 35 years.

More than 300 million youth, "the world's best resource" is unable to find job. However, their potentialities are being wasted through unemployment, underemployment and disgusted so participation in farming can solve the problem of unemployment and achieve our target of food production because agriculture having self-employment potential is more elastic in its ability to absorb labour.

The specific objectives have been undertaken as follows, to study the profile of rural youth, to study the

extent of participation of rural youth in farming, to explore the relationship between personal characteristics of rural youth and their extent of participation in farming, to identify the constraints experienced by rural youth in participating the farming.

### METHODS

Amravati block was properly selected for the study. The study was conducted in Amravati Taluka of Amravati district. Rural youths in 10 villages were contacted at their places of residence and data were collected by personal interview. From 10 villages, 120 rural youths were selected. The interview schedule was constructed by formulating relevant questions in accordance with objectives of the study. The schedule included questions pertaining to age, education, land holding, size of family, type of family, social participation, extension contact, cosmopolitanism, attitude, motivation and knowledge about farming as well as participation of rural youths in farming and constraints faced by them while participating in farming.

The information from respondents was collected by personal interview methods and their responses were considered for the purpose of the present study. Data

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related to the participation and constraints faced by rural youths while participating in farming were collected. Mean, standard deviation, correlation and t test methods were used for analysis of the data.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

It could be seen from Table 1 that out of five personal characteristics, namely age, land holding, size of family and type of family were found to be positive and significantly correlated with participation in farming. Education personal characteristics group showed negative and significant relationship with participation in farming. Like wise social participation, extension contact, cosmopolitaness, attitude, motivation and knowledge about farming showed significant and positive relationship with participation in farming.

**Table 1 : Coefficient of correlation of selected characteristics of respondents with their participation**

Sr. No.	Variables	Participation	
		'r'	't'
1.	Age	0.6569	9.4626**
2.	Education	-0.2792	3.1577**
3.	Land holding	0.2007	2.2249*
4.	Size of family	0.0236	2.2584
5.	Type of family	0.2142	2.3814*
6.	Social participation	0.2779	3.2703**
7.	Extension contact	0.5032	6.3241**
8.	Cosmopolitaness	0.2670	3.0088**
9.	Attitude	0.4214	5.0312**
10.	Motivation	0.2341	2.6149*
11.	Knowledge	0.2529	2.8280**

\*\* and \* indicates significance of values at P= 0.01 and P= 0.05, respectively

From Table 2, it was observed that with regarding to constraints reported, majority (87.50 per cent) of respondents had faced constraint like lack of electricity and irrigation water, 81.66 per cent respondents had faced constraint like low price returns from farm produce, 69.16 per cent faced constraint like uncertainty in farm income due to weather hazards, 68.33 per cent faced the constraint as lack of knowledge about improved farm technologies, 64.16 per cent respondents reported constraint as lack of labours for performing farm operations, 61.66 per cent respondents reported higher interest on crop loan as a constraint, and about 55.83 per cent of rural youths respondent faced insufficient capital availability as a constraint while participating in farming. Ahire *et al.* (2001) and Nale (2003) have also made some investigations on participation of rural youth in farming and changing

**Table 2 : Constraints faced by rural youths while participating in farming**

Sr. No.	Constraints	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Lack of electricity and irrigation water	105	87.50
2.	Low price returns from farm produce	98	81.66
3.	Uncertainty in farm income due to weather hazards	83	69.16
4.	Lack of knowledge about improved farm technologies	82	68.33
5.	Lack of labours for performing farm operations	77	64.16
6.	Inadequate and untimely availability of crop loans	74	61.66
7.	Insufficient capital availability	67	55.83

participation of rural youth in agriculture, respectively.

## Conclusion:

The findings revealed that 65.00 per cent of rural youths possessed medium level of participation. Out of the selected characteristics only education of rural youths showed negative and significant relationship with participation level in farming. Hence, the study suggested that intensive efforts should be made by extension workers to increase the participation of well educated youths in farming for implementation of the new technologies on the farm for increase in agricultural productivity.

To overcome the constraints, it is suggested that efforts could be made by the planners to mould the rural youth's aspiration towards different agro-based enterprises and also efforts could be made by Government agencies to provide better agricultural projects for rural youths with various infrastructural facilities like knowledge, credit, marketing etc., to take up agriculture enterprise in a better way.

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