



Research Article

## A study on personal profile and information sources used by the farmers in production of organic jaggery

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**SUMMARY :** The Kolhapur district is the basket of the jaggery. Nearly eleven hundred jaggery preparation units are working (Feb., 2009) in this district. The farmers from Kolhapur district are preparing and selling organic jaggery. The study was undertaken in purposively selected Kolhapur district of Maharashtra State. The data were collected from 20 organic jaggery making farmers. Majority of the respondents were from middle age group of 36 to 50 years (65.00 %), 45.00 per cent respondents were having secondary education *i.e.* std 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 70.00 per cent of the respondents possessed medium family size *i.e.* 6 to 9 members and 55.00 per cent of them owned 1 to 2 ha. of land. The 100.00 per cent of the organic jaggery making farmers always obtained information regarding organic jaggery making from their friends and relatives followed by farmers club of organic farming (80.00 %). Majority of them suggested that, there should be a separate marketing system for the sale of organic jaggery (100.00 %).

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**KEY WORDS:**

Personal profile,  
Information sources,  
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Suggestions

### BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The modern farming system aims at maximizing production through the use of increased quantities of external inputs such as fertilizers and plant protection chemicals without due consideration to their ill effects. Consequently, the traditional agronomic practices such as green manuring, use of farm waste either as such or after composting and other soil ameliorative measures have not become part of farming systems. This has resulted in a slow but steady decline in the productive and recuperative capacity of the soil.

In order to migrate health hazards and bring out natural balance and protection of ecosystem, organic movement has started in several parts of the world, in which no chemical fertilizers and plant protection chemicals are used in the cultivation of field crops, vegetables and fruits. Only organic manures are used to rebuild the fertility of the soil and non-chemical methods for controlling pests and diseases (Saxena and Singh, 2000). The Kolhapur district is the basket of the jaggery. Nearly eleven hundred jaggery preparation units

are working (Feb., 2009) in this district. Day to day there is increasing demand for the organic jaggery. The farmers from Kolhapur district are preparing and selling organic jaggery. Keeping in view the above situations, the present study was undertaken to study the personal profile of organic jaggery making farmers, information sources used by them and to obtain the suggestions from them for improvement in organic jaggery making business.

### RESOURCES AND METHODS

The study was undertaken in purposively selected Kolhapur district of Maharashtra State in the year 2008-09. A list of 30 organic jaggery making farmers from Kolhapur district was obtained from the office of the Chatrapati Shahu Gul Kharedi Vikri Sahakari Sanstha, Kolhapur and the office of the SAO, Kolhapur. Out of these 30 farmers, 20 organic jaggery making farmers were selected on the basis of minimum 5 years of experience in organic jaggery making. Thus, the data were collected from 20 organic jaggery making

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farmers from Kolhapur district. The data was collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule. The same were analyzed and presented in the following tables.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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

### Personal and socio-economic characteristics of the organic jaggery making farmers:

From Table 1, it is observed that, 65.00 per cent of the organic jaggery making farmers were from middle age group *i.e.* 36 to 50 years, 45.00 per cent respondents had secondary education *i.e.* std 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. 35.00 per cent of them were having 11<sup>th</sup> std and above education.

It is also revealed from Table 1 that 70.00 per cent of the respondents possessed medium family size *i.e.* 6 to 9 members and 55.00 per cent of them owned land from 1 to 2 ha.

In case of experience in organic jaggery making 60.00 per cent of the respondents had up to 5 years experience and 65.00 per cent of them had annual income up to Rs. 1.00 lakh.

### Source of information:

The source of information plays an important role in

disseminating the agricultural technologies to the farmers. The data regarding the information sources used by the respondents for getting the information regarding the organic jaggery making are presented in Table 2.

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that 100.00 per cent of the organic jaggery making farmers always obtained information regarding organic jaggery making from their friends and relatives followed by farmers club of organic farming (80.00 %).

### Suggestions made by the respondents for improvement in organic jaggery making business:

Table 3 indicates that most of the respondents suggested that, there should be a separate marketing system for the sale of organic jaggery (100.00 %), guidance should be provided for certification (100.00 %), on the basis of the chemical fertilizers, organic manures should be supplied on subsidized rates (75.00 %), research should be undertaken for the supply of phosphoric and potash fertilizers form organic material increasing the yield and quality of jaggery (70.00 %) and group farming system should be introduced in organic jaggery making to ascertain the continuous supply to the traders (55.00 %).

### Conclusion:

- Majority of the respondents were form middle age

**Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their personal and socio-economic characteristics**

Sr. No.	Characteristics	No. of respondents (n=20)	Per cent
1.	<b>Age</b>		
	Upto 35 years	2	10.00
	36 to 50 years	13	65.00
	Above 51 years	5	25.00
2.	<b>Education</b>		
	Illiterate	1	05.00
	Primary (Upto 4 <sup>th</sup> Std.)	3	15.00
	Secondary (5 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> Std.)	9	45.00
	College (Above 11 <sup>th</sup> Std.)	7	35.00
3.	<b>Size of family</b>		
	Small (Upto 5 members)	2	10.00
	Medium (6 to 9 members)	14	70.00
	Large (10 and above members)	4	20.00
4.	<b>Land holding</b>		
	Upto 1 ha.	3	15.00
	1 to 2 ha.	11	55.00
	Above 2 ha.	6	30.00
5.	<b>Experience in organic jaggery making</b>		
	Up to 5 years	12	60.00
	5 to 10 years	8	40.00
6.	<b>Annual Income</b>		
	Upto Rs.1.00 lakh	13	65.00
	Rs.1.1 to 2 lakh	6	30.00
	Above 2 lakh	1	05.00

**Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to their source of information (n=20)**

Sr. No	Source of information	Always		Sometimes		Never	
		Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Agril. Asstt., Deptt. of Agriculture	-	-	2	10.00	18	90.00
2.	University Scientists	-	-	3	15.00	17	85.00
3.	Friends / Relatives	20	100.00	-	-	-	-
4.	Farmer club of organic farming	16	80.00	4	20.00	-	-
5.	Cooperative institutes	-	-	4	20.00	16	80.00
6.	Television programmes	-	-	2	10.00	18	90.00
7.	All India Radio programmes	-	-	2	10.00	18	90.00
8.	Printed literature	-	-	3	15.00	17	85.00

**Table 3 : Distribution of the respondents according to their suggestions made**

Sr. No.	Suggestion made	No. of respondents (n=20)	Per cent
1.	There should be a separate marketing system for the sale of organic jaggery	20	100.00
2.	Research may be undertaken for the supply of potash and phosphoric fertilizers from organic material for increasing the yield and quality of organic jaggery	14	70.00
3.	Group farming system should be introduced in organic jaggery making to ascertain the continuous supply to the traders	11	55.00
4.	Guidance should be provided for certification	20	100.00
5.	On the basis of chemical fertilizers, organic manures should be supplied on subsidized rates	15	75.00

group of 36 to 50 years (65.00 %), 45.00 per cent respondents were having secondary education *i.e.* std 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 70.00 per cent of the respondents possessed medium family size *i.e.* 6 to 9 members and 55.00 per cent of them owned 1 to 2 ha. of land. In case of experience in organic jaggery making 60.00 per cent of them had up to 5 years experience and 65.00 per cent of them were having the annual income up to Rs. 1.00 lakh.

– Majority (100.00 %) of the respondents always obtained information regarding organic jaggery making from their friends and relatives followed by farmers club of organic farming (80.00 %).

– Majority of them suggested that, there should be a separate marketing system for the sale of organic jaggery (100.00 %), guidance should be provided for certification (100.00 %), organic manures should be supplied on subsidized rates (75.00 %), research should be undertaken for the supply of phosphoric and potash fertilizers from organic material for increasing the yield and quality of organic jaggery (70.00 %) and group farming should be introduced in organic jaggery making to ascertain the continuous supply to the traders (55.00 %).

### Recommendations:

- Farmers clubs of organic jaggery making should be strengthened as they are the main source of information.
- The government should make efforts to establish a separate market for organic jaggery.
- The Department of Agriculture should develop a

separate cell for giving guidance for the certification of organic jaggery to the farmers.

– The Agricultural University should undertake the research for the supply of phosphoric and potash fertilizers from organic material for increasing the yields and quality of organic jaggery.

– The Department of Agriculture should take efforts for forming a group farming in organic jaggery making to ascertain the continuous supply to the traders.

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