

A CASE STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF FARMERS PRACTICING ORGANIC-FARMING IN HARYANA

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Dry Zone of Haryana state during the year 2019-20. From Dry Zone one district, two taluks and 120 respondents were selected. Data was collected using structured schedule and questioners procedure was followed for quantifying socio-economic status of farmers practicing organic farming. The data revealed that more than half of the respondents (51.67 per cent) were medium landholders, more than one-third of respondents had high school (38.33 per cent) education, nearly two third (65.00 per cent) of the respondents were having pakka house, Majority (66.67 per cent) of the respondents were belonged to OBC category, majority (95.00 per cent) of the farmers had small family (less than five members) and Cent percent of the respondents were following agriculture as their main occupation.

Paper Identification



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INTRODUCTION

The practice of organic farming, said to be the well known alternative to the conventional method, also originated in the west, which suffered from the ill effects of chemical agriculture. Organic farming is gaining momentum all over the world as it offers a means to

address food self reliance, rural development and nature conservation. Organic farming requires less financial and external inputs and places more reliance on the natural and human resources on farm, which are abundant in our country.

The Government of India and many State Governments have felt it necessary to promote organic farming in a big way. In this direction Government of India launched the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), standards and accreditation during 2000 and National Organic logo "India Organic" has been created. The Government of Karnataka has also initiated action to promote organic farming in the State and intends to formulate policies related to its promotion. The Indian domestic market being quite large, there is ample opportunity for marketing organic produces in the country. Greater opportunities are also available for exporting certified organic products to countries like USA, Japan and European Union. With this background an effort has been made to study and report the Socio-economic status of farmers practicing organic farming.

METHODOLOGY

The present research study was conducted in Eastern Dry Zone (EDZ) of Haryana state during the year 2019-20. The study was conducted in the Dry Zone of Haryana. By seeing the convenience and familiarity of the researcher with the area Dry Zone was purposefully selected. It covers one district: Jind. Since there were organic farming mission societies (savayava krishi parivara/sanghas) operating at the taluk level in every taluk of state, the groups which are coming under Narwana and Alewa taluks of Jind district, were considered using simple random technique. A list of farmers practicing organic farming who are active members of the organic farming groups was obtained from the concerned groups. sixty farmers were selected randomly from each taluk as respondents for the purpose of study. Hence, the total sample size was 120 from two taluks. The research design adopted for this study was ex-post-facto technique, since the phenomenon has already started and is continuing.

Socio-economic status is the position which the individual farmer occupies with reference to the prevailing average standards, material possession, social participation and other factors.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Table I shows that more than two-fifth of the farmers (41.67 per cent) had medium level of socio-economic status followed by low level of socio economic status (31.67 per cent) and

remaining respondents (26.67 per cent) had low level of socio-economic status. Here, organic farming farmers saving the money which they earlier spent on chemical pesticides and fertilizers and also they are getting yield nearly equal to the previous yield. Further, there is no chemical residue on produce as they were not using chemical pesticides and the farmers recognized in the village due to adoption of organic farming. This may be the possible reasons for medium level of socio-economic status of organic farming farmers (Sidram, 2008).

Table I. Overall percentage of Socio-economic status of farmers practicing organic farming (n=120)

Category	Number	Percent
Low	38	31.67
Medium	50	41.67
High	32	26.67
Total	120	100.00

Table II. Socio economic characteristics of farmers practicing organic farming (n = 120)

Sl. No.	Dimensions	Category	Number	Percent
1.	Landholding	< 5acres	52	43.33
		5-10 acres	62	51.67
		>10acres	6	5.00
2	Education	Illiterate	2	1.67
		Primary school	6	5.00
		Middle school	30	25.00
		High school	46	38.33

		College	30	25.00
		Degree	6	5.00
		Post-graduate	0	0.00
3	Home	Hut	0	0.00
		Kachha house	42	35.00
		Pakka house	78	65.00
4.	Occupation	Agriculture	120	100.00
		Non agriculture	0	0.00
5.	Caste	SC/ST	40	33.33
		OBC	80	66.67
		Others	0	0.00
6.	Farm power:	Draught animals	18	15.00
		Power tiller	3	2.50
		Tractor	0	0.00
7.	Agricultural implements	Wooden plough	47	39.17
		M.B. Plough	70	58.33
		Seed cum fertilizer drill	27	22.50
		Sprayer	20	16.67
		Bullock cart	2	1.67
		Tractor	0	0.00
8.	Material possession	Bicycle	118	98.33
		Radio	111	92.50
		Motor cycle	22	18.33
		Television	114	95.00
		Gobar gas plant	39	32.50

		Car	0	0.00
9.	Family	Size: Up to 5	114	95.00
		More than 5	6	5.00

Land holding

Table II revealed that more than half of the respondents (51.67 per cent) were medium landholders, followed by only 43.33 per cent in small land holders' category. Whereas big land holdings was observed to the least extent of only 5.00 per cent. The possible reasons that could be attributed to this result were those who had agriculture as the main occupation almost depend on their land for their lively hood. So they always try to possess more acres of land. It could also be their ancestor's property. The results were in line with the others findings (Hanumanaikar, 1995). On this aspect, the views of earlier researcher was in contradiction with the present study (Parvathamma, 2006).

Education It was observed that more than one-third (38.33 per cent) of the respondents had high school education followed by middle school (25.00 per cent) and pre university education (25.00 per cent). Whereas, equal per cent (5.00 per cent) of the respondents had primary school and graduation level of education. Illiterates were noticed to the extent of 1.67 per cent but there were no post Graduate respondents were noticed. This indicated that more educated farmers visualize the problems of scientific Agriculture and the scope of practicing organic farming which revealed that more number of farmers were educated up to high school level (Parvathamma, 2006).

Home

The perusal of data indicated that note that the social justice concept is also in built in to the mechanism of organic majority (65.00 per cent) of the respondents were having pakka house followed by kachha house (35.00 per cent). However, none of the respondents were living in the huts. The reasons behind these results may be majority of the respondents were having sufficient income which help them to construct a pakka house.

Occupation

It is evident from the table that all the 120 respondents were following agriculture as their main occupation for their lively hood. It is needless to say that farmers had Agriculture as

the major occupation since ages. Further, it is also true that the farmers major breadearning is only through Agriculture by cultivating field (*Uma 2007*).

Caste

Majority (66.67 per cent) of the respondents belonged to OBC category and rest (33.33 per cent) were belonged to SC/ST category. It is very happy to farming. Almost equal representation is provided to all the groups of the society including the weaker sections. This might help in narrowing down the gap that may create among the different sections of the society (*Umashankar,2004*).

Farm power

Fifteen per cen

t of the respondents were having draught animals as farm power followed by (2.50 per cent) of farmers were having power tiller. And none of the respondents were noticed having tractor as their source of farm power. The observations in the earlier tables revealed that majority of the respondents were small farmers who cannot afford tractor with high investment. Further, it is also true that the small and medium land holdings do not permit them to have the tractor and it cannot be used for more than 15-20 days in farm operations. Under such circumstances, the only alternative for them is to have draft animals for farm operations.

Agricultural implements

Table II reveals the farm implements possessed by the farmers. Pooled data depicts that majority of the farmers (58.33 per cent) owned the MB plough, 39.17 per cent of the farmers possessed wooden plough, seed cumfertilizer drill was owned by the 22.50 per cent of the farmers and 16.67 per cent of the farmers had Sprayer. Least percentage of farmers (1.67 per cent) possessed Bullock cart and none of the farmers possessed Tractor. It is not surprising to note that majority of the farmers possess all the materials required for farming.

In addition, the organic farming demands timely operations for which they cannot wait till they get the materials from others. Hence, it is quite essential to own and use the farm implements for quality production. Material possession It was found that majority (98.33 per cent) of the respondents were possessed bicycle, followed by Television (95.00 per cent), radio (92.50 per cent), Gobar gas plant (32.50 per cent) and motor cycle (18.33 per cent). There were no respondents noticed possessing Car. The raise in family income by contract farming

increases the possession of assets since man has no end to his needs and wants. If one need is fulfilled at the same time another need arises. In the present study the basic requirements are available with farmers but after adopting contract farming their requirements increased based on the family income (*Babu,2005 and Hiremath,2007*).

Family size

The results indicated that majority (95.00 per cent) of the farmers had nuclear family of less than five members. And only 5.00 percent of the respondents had big family of more than five members. The information on size of the family showed that majority of the farmers had nuclear family. Only few of them had large family size. This shows that the concept of Joint family approach is slowly eroding in the villages; instead people started become independent due to fragmentation. This trend is not supportive to Agriculture development. This might also be due to their increased social awareness on family planning efforts made by the governments to check the population growth. Further, the education levels of the respondents might have also made them to incline towards the small family. It is also true that the families in the villages are in the verge of disintegration because of urban influence and fragmentation. Further, the families with very few earning members may not able to get the required facilities(*Dorairaj, 2006*).

CONCLUSION:

Organic farming farmers saving the money which they earlier spent on chemical pesticides and fertilizers and also they are getting yield nearly equal to the previous yield. Further, there is no chemical residue on produce as they were not using chemical pesticides and the farmers recognized in the village due to adoption of organic farming. More educated farmers visualize the problems of scientific Agriculture and the scope of practicing organic farming.

Conflict of Interest: There is no conflict of interest.

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