Original Research Article

Socio-Economic Status of Wheat Growers in Dehradun District of Uttarakhand

Kokab Askari[1*], Amit Kumar Masih[1] and Vikas Singh[2]

[1]*Department of Agricultural Economics, SHUATS, Prayagraj, India*
[2]*KIT Prayagraj, India*

*Corresponding author

A B S T R A C T

In order to determine their socioeconomic features, a survey was undertaken on 185 wheat producers from small, medium, and large farm groups in the Vikasnagar and Sahaspur blocks of Dehradun district. The study's findings showed that the majority of respondents had average agricultural land holdings per hectare for small-scale operations of 1.57 hectare, 2.60 hectare for medium-scale operations, and 12.46 hectare for large-scale operations, which together made up an average sample of 4.29 hectare. Farm families' average sizes in the categories of small, medium, and large farms were 4.89, 5.15, and 5.66, respectively. For groups of farms of various sizes, the average sample proportion of males and females was 46.89% and 44.79%, respectively. The age composition of farms of various sizes with the highest average sample percentage is comprised of individuals under the age of 29 (52.12%), followed by those between the ages of 30 and 59 (30.95%), and those who are 60 years and over (7.79%). The percentage of literate farmers was highest in small-scale farms (25.97%), followed by medium-scale farms (23.50%), and lowest in large-scale farms (22.44%). For various size farm groups, the average sample was 24.30%.

Introduction

The Indian economy heavily depends on the agricultural sector. Rural families are more dependent on agriculture than (70%) urban households. It contributes over 17 percent of the country's GDP and employs more than (60%) of the workforce, making it a significant sector of the Indian economy (Minakshi Meshram, *et al.,* 2020). Despite being an essential commodity for guaranteeing global food security, wheat production confronts various challenges, including pressure from diseases and pests, soil degradation, climate change, and the need to meet growing food demand (Dhirendra Kumar, *et al*., 2019; Anjali Pandey and Anuj Tiwari, 2020). One of the first cereal crops to be cultivated, wheat has been a staple of the diet in the European Union, western Asia, and North Africa for more than 8000 years. That is most likely brought about by wheat's adaptability in agriculture. Protein, minerals (especially B vitamins), nutritious fibre, and phytochemicals are just a few of the

essential components found in wheat, which is also a large source of calories and carbs (Arun Pandit, *et al*., 2010; Deepa Vinay, *et al*., 2016).

Materials and Methods

The study's subjects were chosen specifically from Uttarakhand and conducted in the Dehradun district. Six blocks make up the Dehradun district: Vikasnagar, Kalsi, Raipur, Doiwala, Sahaspur, and Chakrata. Sahaspur and Vikasnagar blocks were specifically chosen from among these. From each block of Vikasnagar and Sahaspur, 6% of the villages were randomly chosen; these were 4 villages from Vikasnagar block (4.2 approximated to be 4) and 6 villages from Sahaspur block (6.72 approximated to 6). In order to investigate the socioeconomic profile of wheat farmers in the Dehradun district, a total of 185 small, medium, and big farmers are taken into consideration. In order to get the necessary information, the chosen wheat grower practising farmers were personally interviewed using a well-structured and previously tested interview schedule.

Results and Discussion

Age

According to Table 1, the highest average sample percentage of different-sized farms is made up of people who are under the age of 29 (52.12%), followed by people who are between the ages of 30-59 (30.95%), and people who are 60 years and beyond (7.79%).

Education

The results from table 2 reveal that literacy percentage was highest in large-size farms at 77.56 percent followed by medium-size farms 76.50 percent and small-size farms 74.03 percent respectively. This makes the average sample for different size of farms group was 75.85 percent. Among small, medium and large size farms group went to below primary school were 9.20 percent, 9.71per cent and 9.89 percent of farms group,

average sample of 13.83 percent of farms then studied the primary school followed by 12.35 percent farms studied middle school. Only 9.91 percent of farms had studied in intermediate and 16.12 per cent were studied in above intermediate. It could be seen that the illiteracy percentage was highest in small size farms 25.97 percent followed by medium size farms 23.50 per cent and was lowest in large size farms 22.44 percent respectively. Average sample was 24.30 percent for different size of farms groups.

Family Size

The data presented in table3 average size of the farm families in small, medium and large size of farms groups were 4.89, 5.15 and 5.66 respectively. The Average sample percentage of male and female for different size of farms groups was 46.89 per cent and 44.79 per cent respectively.

Occupation

Table 4 revealed that, in terms of the occupation status of different size of farms groups. Primary occupation for small, medium and large size of farms group was 42.50 per cent, 36.92 per cent and 65.00 per cent respectively. This makes the average sample for primary occupation was 45.40 per cent for different farms size groups.

Secondary occupation for small, medium and large size of farms group was 35.00 per cent, 38.46 per cent and 20.00 per cent respectively and the average sample for secondary occupation was 21.60 per cent among different size of farms group.

Tertiary occupation was highest in medium size farms 24.62 per cent followed by small size farms 22.50 per cent and lowest in large size farms 15.00 per cent respectively. This makes the average sample for tertiary occupation was 21.60 per cent in different size of farms groups. 45.40 percent of farmers are having agriculture as their primary or main occupation, while 33.00 percent are having agriculture as a secondary and 21.60 percent as a tertiary occupation.

Table.1 Distribution of the respondents according to their age

Sr. No.	Age	Small farmers	Medium farmers	Large farmers	Sample Average
1	Average size of farm families	4.89 (100)	5.15 (100)	5.66 (100)	5.15 (100)
i.	Below 29 years	2.80 (57.26)	2.95 (57.28)	3.25 (57.42)	2.95 (52.12)
ii.	30-59 years	1.68 (34.36)	1.75 (33.98)	1.90 (33.57)	1.75 (30.96)
iii.	60 years and above	0.40 (8.18)	0.45 (8.74)	0.51 (9.01)	0.44 (7.80)

Table.2 Distribution of respondents according to their education

SI. No	Particulars	Size of farms group			Sample average
		Small	**Medium**	**Large**	
1	**Average size of farm families**	4.89 (100)	5.15 (100)	5.66 (100)	5.15 (100)
	Educational Status				
2	**Below primary school**	0.45 (9.20)	0.50 (9.71)	0.56 (9.89)	.49 (8.68)
3	**Primary school**	0.65 (13.29)	0.70 (13.59)	0.85 (15.02)	0.71 (13.83)
4	**Middle school**	0.60 (12.27)	0.65 (12.62)	0.68 (12.01)	0.63 (12.35)
5	**High school**	0.54 (11.04)	0.60 (11.65)	0.67 (11.84)	0.59 (11.46)
6	**Intermediate**	0.43 (8.79)	0.52 (10.10)	0.65 (11.48)	0.51 (9.91)
7	**Above intermediate**	0.80 (16.36)	0.82 (15.92)	0.90 (15.90)	0.83 (16.12)
8	**Total literacy**	3.62 (74.03)	3.94 (76.50)	4.39 (77.56)	3.90 (75.85)
9	**Total illiteracy**	1.27 (25.97)	1.21 (23.50)	1.27 (22.44)	1.25 (24.30)

Table.3 Distribution of the respondents according to family size

SI. No	Particular	Farm group size			Sample average
	Size of farm groups (In Numbers.)	Small	Medium	Large	
1	Average size of farm families	4.89 (100)	5.15 (100)	5.66 (100)	5.15 (100)
2	Male	2.54 (51.94)	2.65 (51.45)	2.89 (51.06)	2.65 (46.89)
3	Female	2.35 (48.05)	2.50 (48.54)	2.77 (48.93)	2.49 (44.05)

Table.4 Distribution of the respondents according to occupation

SI. No	Particulars	Size of farms group			Sample average
		Small	Medium	Large	
1.	Size of farm group	80 (100)	65 (100)	40 (100)	185 (100)
2.	One occupation (Primary occupation)	34 (42.5)	24 (36.92)	26 (65.00)	84 (45.40)
3.	Two occupations (Secondary occupation)	28 (35.00)	25 (38.46)	8 (20.00)	61.00 (33.00)
4.	Three occupations (Tertiary occupation)	18 (22.50)	16 (24.61)	6 (15.00)	40 (21.60)

Table.5 Distribution of the respondents according to their landholding

SI. No	Particular	Farm group size			Sample average
1.	Size of farm groups (In Numbers.)	Small	Medium	Large	
		80	65	40	185
2.	Average size of farm holding in ha	1.57	2.60	12.46	4.29
3.	Average non-cultivated area in ha	0.25	0.45	0.96	0.47
4.	Average size of cultivated in ha	1.32	2.15	11.5	3.81

Fig.1
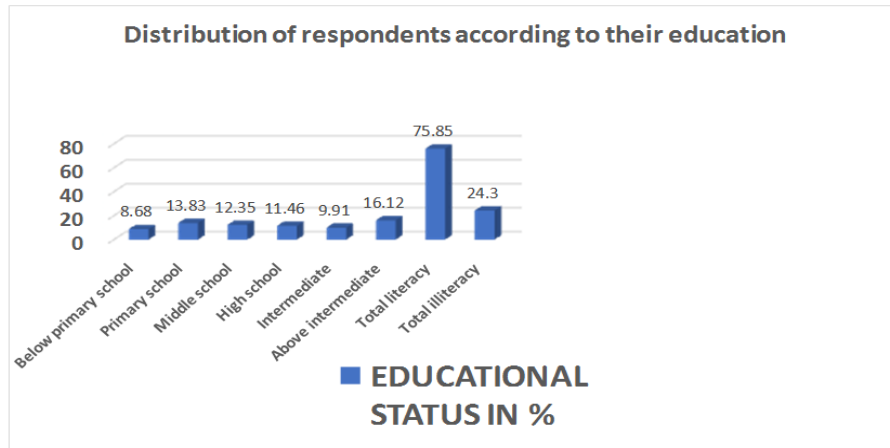
Table.6

1.	Usually cropping pattern according to agriculture calendar				
i.	Kharif				
a.	Rice	0.61	0.88	5.89	1.84
b.	Sugar cane	0.20	0.45	2.50	0.79
c.	Maize	0.15	0.28	1.10	0.40
ii.	Rabi				
a.	Wheat	0.65	1.02	6.40	2.02
b.	Vegetable (pea)	0.15	0.32	0.85	0.79
c.	Sugar cane	0.20	0.45	2.50	0.79
iii.	Zaid (summer)				
g.	Sugar cane	0.20	0.45	2.50	0.79
2.	Total cropped area	2.2	3.9	21.7	7.0
3.	Cropping intensity	163.64	179.07	189.04	174.55

Land Holding

Average size of the farm land holdings per hectare for small size farms was 1.57 hectare followed by 2.60 hectare for medium size farms and 12.46 hectare large size of farms group, which constituted on average sample of 4.29 hectare respectively.

Cropping Pattern

The data presented in table 7 revealed that Average size of cultivated land as 3.26 hectare was small farm group followed by medium farm group 2.15 hectare, large farm 11.5 hectare and sample average of 3.81 hectare respectively. It could also be seen that land utilization pattern in different crops. The crops sown in Kharif season in this area are paddy, sugar cane and maize. In Rabi and Zaid season the crops grown were wheat, chickpea, and sugar cane. Among this wheat occupied major area by average sample of 2.02 hectare in farm households. The season which selected for study was rabi season because wheat occupies maximum area during rabi season.

When considering the total state operational holdings of 23325 thousand, Samarpitha *et al.,* (2016) found that the allocation holdings of land in Uttar Pradesh are very much out of balance.

The cropping intensity is an indicator of the efficient use of land. Cropping intensity was highest in large size farms (189.04 per cent) followed by medium size farms (179.07 per cent) and small size farms (163.64 per cent). This makes the Average sample for cropping intensity was 174.55) percent among different size of farms group.

Wheat farming plays a vital role to sustain production and environmental security and meeting consumer demand. The finding revealed that the majority (52.12 %) of the farmers fall within the age group of below 29 years. 30.96 percent of farmers are within 30-59 years while 7.80 percent farmers are of 60 years and above.

The sample average size of farm families is revealed as 5.15.75.85 percent of respondents are literate while 24.30 percent of respondents are observed as illiterate. The percentage of respondents having education above intermediate is 16.12, while 13.83 percent of respondents have education up to primary school. Size of the farm families in small, medium and large size of farms groups were 4.89, 5.15 and 5.66 respectively.

Land holdings per hectare for small size farms was 1.57 hectare followed by 2.60 hectare for medium

size farms and 12.46 hectare large size of farms group, practicing Wheat, Rice, Vegetable, Sugarcane, Maize cropping pattern.

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