

Socio-economic Characteristics of Wheat Growers Regarding Adoption of Improved Wheat Production Technology in Kanpur Dehat District, Uttar Pradesh (India)

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in six villages of Kanpur dehat district of Uttar Pradesh with the sample size 150 small farmers cultivating wheat crop. The findings of the study revealed that, 43.33% of the wheat grower farmers had middle age (31-45 years) and 89.33% had literate among 28.66% of farmers who primary level. Among the sample about 42.66 per cent of wheat growers were marginal farmers with size of land holding <1 hectare. As far as social participation is concerned about 65.33 per cent of farmers were the member of one organization. The annual income of wheat growers revealed that about 42.66 per cent were found in the high income category ranging from 45,000 to 60,000. The study revealed that 74.66 per cent of wheat growers had medium level of economic motivation followed by scientific orientation and risk orientation had 69.33% and 65.33% respectively. On the basis of the findings it is suggested that socio-economic status of the farmers can be improved by imparting technical knowledge about wheat cultivation practices with increasing their education level and increasing their social participation and information sources.

Keywords

Socio-economic characteristics, Wheat, Production.

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Introduction

Wheat is the world's most widely cultivated food crop. It eaten in various forms by more than one thousand million human beings in India, second important staple food crop, rice being first, so wheat is called as king of cereals in areas where wheat is the staple cereal food. India recorded all time high 94.88

million tonnes of wheat production from an area of 29.90 million hectare during 2011-12. The country needs to produce 100 million tonnes of wheat by 2030 to feed the ever-growing population, which is a major challenge under changing climatic scenario. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed to

intensify the research on enhancing the productivity in terms of per unit area on ecologically and economically sustained basis (ICAR, annual report 2012-13). An important objective of rural development is to increase agricultural productivity with a view to enhancing farmer's income and standard of living. Improved practices provide the main venue for increasing productivity in the country's agriculture (Edna *et al.*, 2009). Rural development can be promoted through stimulating the adoption of improved production practices. Human resource is the most precious resource for any country. It is, however, not the numerical but the qualitative strength of the people which forges a country ahead towards progress and prosperity. It is basically the development of human resources that brings about socio-economic or political-cultural transformation of any society (Dubey and Srivastava, 2007). The present study was designed to know the socio-economic characteristics of wheat growers regarding adoption of improved wheat production technology, with the following specific objective. To study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of wheat growers. And this study was conducted in Kanpur Dehat district of state Uttar Pradesh during the year 2014-15. The district consists of five tehsils namely, Akberpur, Derapur, Rasulabad, Bhognipur and Sikandara. At present, there are ten development blocks in the district. Two blocks i.e. Rasulabad and Derapur were purposely selected for the studies, besides these six villages, three villages from each development block were selected randomly for the study. In all 25 small farmers (respondents) were selected randomly from each village constituting the sample of 150 respondents for the purpose of study. The data were collected with the help of personal interview method during the study period. The data were analyzed, tabulated and the results were drawn with the help of appropriate statistical methods.

Age

The table 1 shows that the maximum 43.33 per cent of respondents belonged to 31 to 45 years age group, followed by 36.66 per cent of respondents belonged to 45-60 years age group, 12.00 per cent above 60 years age group and only 8.00 per cent respondents belong to up to 30 years age group, respectively. Thus, the above result clearly indicates that maximum respondents belonged to 31 to 45 years age group.

Education

Table 1 revealed that 89.33 per cent of wheat growers were literate and 10.66 per cent wheat growers were illiterate.

Further, the educational standard of literate wheat growers in descending order was found as 28.66%, 22.00%, 14.00%, 6.66%, 4.66%, 4.00%, 1.33%, and 1.33% for primary level, middle level, high school, can sign, graduate, intermediate, post-graduate and can read and write is equal respectively.

Land holding

Study depicts that majority (42.66%) of the wheat growers were found in the land holding category of marginal farmers (less than 1.0 ha) followed by 27.33% in the categories of small farmers (1.1-2.0 ha), 15.33% in the category of medium farmers (2.1-3.0 ha) and 14.66% in the category of large farmers (Above 3.0 ha.) respectively. This is due to the fact that in Kanpur, per capita agricultural land is comparatively less.

Type of family

The table 1 shows that majority of wheat growers 83.33 per cent belong to joint family of the total sample and 16.33 per cent wheat growers were found in nuclear type of family.

Table.1 Distribution of wheat growers according to their various socio-economic characteristics

N=100

S. No.	Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (Up to 30 years)	12	8.00
		Middle (31-45 years)	65	43.33
		Old (45-60 years)	55	36.66
		Above 60 years	18	12.00
2.	Education	Illiterate	16	10.66
		Literate	134	89.33
		Can sign	10	6.66
		Can read and write	02	1.33
		Primary Level	43	28.66
		Middle level	33	22.00
		High school	21	14.00
		Intermediate	06	4.00
		Graduate	07	4.66
		Post graduate	02	1.33
3.	Caste	General	64	42.66
		Other Backward Caste (OBC)	46	30.66
		Scheduled Caste (SC)	40	26.66
4.	Land Holding	Marginal farmers (<1 ha.)	64	42.66
		Small farmers (1.1-2.0 ha.)	41	27.33
		Medium farmers (2.1-3.0 ha.)	23	15.33
		Large farmers (Above 3.0 ha.)	22	14.66
5.	Type of family	Nuclear family	25	16.66
		Joint family	125	83.33
6.	Housing Pattern	Kachcha	45	30.00
		Pakka	80	53.33
		Mixed	25	16.66
7.	Occupation	Agriculture labour	00	00
		Cast based occupation	02	1.33
		Service	06	4.00
		Agriculture	139	92.66
		Business	01	0.66
		Agro-based Enterprises	02	1.33
8.	Social Participation	No participation	45	30.00
		Participation one organization	98	65.33
		Participation more than two organization	07	4.66
9.	Annual Income (Rs.)	Low (Rs. 15,000-30,000)	41	27.33
		Medium (Rs. 30,000 to 45,000)	23	15.33
		High (Rs. 45,000 to 60, 000)	64	42.66
		Very high (Rs. 60,000 and above)	22	14.66
10.	Innovativeness	Low (up to 18)	80	53.33
		Medium (19-20)	62	41.33
		High (Above 20)	08	5.33

11.	Economic motivation	Low (up to 21)	21	14.00
		Medium (22-26)	112	74.66
		High (Above 26)	17	11.33
12.	Scientific orientation	Low (up to 22)	42	28.00
		Medium (23-25)	104	69.33
		High (Above 25)	04	2.66
13.	Risk orientation	Low (up to 20)	29	19.33
		Medium (21-24)	98	65.33
		High (Above 24)	23	15.33

Occupation

Table 1 shows that majority of 92.66 per cent of respondents were found to engage in farming as their main occupation followed by 4.00 per cent service, 1.33% agro-based enterprises, 1.33 per cent respondents were in caste based occupation and 0.66 per cent respondents were in business.

Thus, it is clear from the above that maximum respondents were having agriculture as a main occupation.

Social participation

The table 1 indicates that majority of the wheat growers (65.33%) had participation in one organization followed by participation more than two organizations (4.66%) and no any participation (30.00%) respectively. In this way, 70.00% of wheat growers were associated with the organizations like panchayats, cooperatives, religious, youth-club and political organization. It can also be concluded that only 30.00 per cent of wheat growers were holding office in one or more organization.

Annual income

The table 1 reveals that the annual income of 42.66% wheat growers was found in the high category of Rs.45,000 to 60,000 followed by 27.33 per cent (Rs. 15,000 to 30,000), 15.33 per cent (Rs. 30,000, to 45,000) and 14.66 per

cent (Rs. 60,000 and above) respectively. Other studies also presented the similar kind trend of income in their study.

Innovativeness

T table 1 reveals that, 53.33 per cent of respondent wheat growers belonged to low level of innovativeness category, while 41.33 and 5.33 per cent of wheat growers belonged to medium and high level of innovativeness category respectively.

Economic motivation

The table 1 shows that the 74.66 per cent of the wheat growers were belonged to medium level of economic motivation category. Whereas, 14.00 per cent wheat growers belonged to low and 11.33 per cent wheat growers of high level of economic motivation category respectively.

Scientific orientation

The table 1 reveals that 69.33 per cent of wheat growers belonged to medium level of scientific orientation, followed by 28.00 and 2.66 per cent of them had low and high level of scientific orientation respectively.

Risk orientation

The table 1 shows that the 65.33 per cent of wheat growers belonged to medium level of risk bearing ability, whereas 19.33 and 15.33

per cent of them had low and high risk bearing ability respectively.

The socio-economic characteristics of farmers are important for better policy options. The result of the study, indicate that wheat growing farmers of Kanpur dehat district (Uttar Pradesh) are not having proper knowledge and adoption about scientific wheat cultivation practices. On the basis of the findings it is suggested that socio-economic status of the farmers can be improved by imparting technical knowledge about wheat cultivation practices with increasing their education level and increasing their social participation and information sources.

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