

Original Research Article

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## Socio-Economic, Characteristics of the Potato Growers in Western Uttar Pradesh, India

Nitish Kumar Saini<sup>1\*</sup>, D.K. Singh<sup>1</sup>, Prakash Singh<sup>3</sup>, S.K Lodhi<sup>2</sup>,  
Manoj Kumar<sup>2</sup> and Ravi Kumar Pandey<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deaprtment of Agricultural Extension, S.V.P.U.A. and T, Modipuram  
Meerut 250110 (U.P.), India

<sup>2</sup>Directorate of Extension, S.V.P.U.A. & T. Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)-250110, India

<sup>3</sup>Deaprtment of l Extension Education, N.D.U.A. & T, Kumarganj,  
Faizabad-224229 (U.P.), India

\*Corresponding author

### ABSTRACT

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Social research involving rural people or farmers as the unit of study direct communication between the researcher and the respondent is must to achieve good rapport and to insure free and frank expression of respondents, keeping this point in view the investigator selected his own state i.e. Uttar Pradesh for this study. The study is confined to C.D block Thana Bhawan, district Shamli and the sampling process in this study consists of two stages viz. selection of villages and selection of respondents. Revealed that majority of (51.25%) respondents were belonging to the middle age group and majority (27.5%) of respondent posses high school. The majority of the respondents 67.50 belonging to the OBC group. The majority of 46.25 percent respondent were having medium land holding (2-4 ha.)

### Introduction

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum L.*) popularly known as 'The king of vegetables', has emerged as fourth most important food crop in India after rice, wheat and maize. Indian vegetable basket is incomplete without potato because, the dry matter, edible energy and edible protein content of potato makes it nutritionally superior vegetable as well as staple food not only in our country but also throughout the world. Now it has becomes as an essential part of breakfast, lunch and dinner worldwide. Being a short duration crop, it produces more quantity of dry matter, edible energy and edible protein in lesser duration of time than cereals like rice and wheat. Hence, potato may prove to be a useful

tool to achieve the nutritional security of the nation (Anonymous, 2013). It has been revealed that, according to FAO, potato is consumed by more than one billion people the over world. It is a high quality vegetable cum food crop and used in preparing more than 100 types of receipies in India. The popular Indian receipies like Samosas and Alu Paranthas are prepared from potato. The protein of potato has high biological value than proteins of cereals and even better than that of milk. The biological value of mixture of egg and potato is higher than the egg alone. Hence, potato can be supplement of meat and milk products for improving their taste,

lowering energy intake and reducing food cost. From nutritional point of view, potato is a wholesome food and deserves to be promoted as a potential high quality vegetable cum food crop in the country.

### **Materials and Methods**

It is difficult to conduct such a study in the entire state (U.P.) in a short period and with limited resources. Therefore, one district of the state i.e. Shamli was selected because the area under potato cultivation is more in this district in comparison to other district of the region. After selection of district, next step is to locate the block under the study. There are five C.D. blocks in district Shamli out of which one blocks namely C.D. block Thana Bhawan block was selected purposively. The reason for selecting of this block is good communication of investigator with people, language and Socio cultural contact with the people of the block under study. The present study is confined to C.D block Thana Bhawan, district Shamli and the sampling process in this study consists of two stages viz. selection of villages and selection of respondents.

Village wise list of potato growers was obtained from the Thana Bhawan C. D. Block, Shamli district. The revenue villages was arrange in descending order based on the number of potato growers , top five villages were randomly selected from the block. For this investigation list of villages under the area of jurisdiction of block is given in

<b>Name of block</b>	<b>Name of village</b>	<b>Distance from block quarter</b>	<b>from head</b>
<b>Thana Bhawan</b>	Harad		
	Fathepur	05km	
	Babary	15km	
	Jalalabadh	08km	
	Rashidhghadh	09km	
	Titarshi	12km	

Respondents were selected by the random sampling method of the sampling techniques. For the collection of data the list of all the farming families were taken from the V.D.O and Lekhpal and noted down the name of household and land they possessed.

All 80 respondents were selected (16 respondents from each selected village) by the random sampling method of the sampling techniques. Independent variables are the condition or characteristics that the experimenter manipulates in his or her attempt to ascertain their relationship to observed phenomena.

### **Result and Discussion**

#### **Age of respondent**

The following table present the age distribution of the head of the farm families as obtained from the sample under study.

The Table 1 revealed that 51.25 percent respondents were belonging to the middle age group followed by 32.50 percent of young age group and 22.50 percent respondents of old age group.

#### **Education**

The following table presents the educational status of the respondents.

The data presented in Table 2 revealed that the majority (27.5%) of respondent posses high school followed by 22.5 percent of junior high school, 16.75 percent primary school, 13.75 percent intermediate, 10 percent respondent were illiterate, 6.25 percent respondent were Graduate whereas remaining 3.75 percent P G & above respectively. It is surprising that illiteracy still exists in rural areas and affects their level of thinking and adopting the new technology.

## **Caste**

Caste is another important factor which pervades all fields of social action in the rural societies. One's position in the caste hierarchy in a large measure, determines his behavior in society.

The data presented in Table 3 indicated that the majority of the respondents 67.50 belonging to the OBC group followed by 22.50 percent General group and Scheduled caste/ Scheduled tribe caste (10%) respectively.

## **Land holding**

Land is a major factor which helps in fixing the socio-economic status of an individual. Findings are given in the Table below. It is clear from the Table 4 that is the majority of 46.25 percent respondent were having medium land holding (2-4 ha.), followed by 33.75 percent respondents were having small land holding (below 1 ha.), and the remaining 20.00 percent respondent had holding (more than 4 ha.).

## **Occupation**

Occupation is the determining factor for the socio-economic status of the farmer. The occupational background of farmers have been categorized in two groups i.e. main and secondary occupation given in the Table 5

The data presented in Table 5. it is clear that all the farmers (100%) have agriculture as their main occupation. Only 13.75 percent were having business followed by 7.5 percent service as their secondary occupation.

## **Household's materials**

The respondents are grouped on the basis of material they possess. The distribution of the respondents are presented in the Table 6

The data presented in Table 6. indicates that the majority (67.5%) of the respondent have Chairs followed by 60 percent respondent were having Gas stove, 53.75 percent Double bed, 46.25 percent Pressure cooker, 27.50 percent Electric press, 22.50 percent Watch, , 43.75 percent Heater and 35 percent Fan/Cooler, 21.25 percent Sewing machine 32.50 percent Dressing table, 18.75 percent Dining table, 16.25 percent Smokeless Stove posses respectively.

## **Family size**

The following Table shows the Family size of the farming families as obtained from the sample under study viz. Up to 4 members (Small family size), 5 to 6 members (Medium family size) and Above 6 members (Large family size).

The data presented in Table 7 reflects that 27.50 percent respondents belonged to large family size, 48.75 percent respondents belonged to medium family size and remaining 23.75 percent respondents belonged to Small family size.

## **Family type**

The following Table shows the structure of the farming families as obtained from the sample i.e. Nuclear and Joint under study.

It is clear from table 8. That a majority of the respondents 60.00 percent belonged to nuclear family and the rest 40.00 percent belonged to joint family category.

## **House types**

House types are categorized into three groups viz. kachcha, mixed and pukka. Observations are given in the Table 9

It is clear from the Table 4.9 the majority 53.75 percent respondent were having Pacca

house followed by 31.25 percent having mixed house and remaining 15.00 percent posses kachcha house.

**Live stock distribution**

The data presented in Table 10. in milch animal case of 60 percent respondents belonged to below 4 animals category, while 23.75 percent belong 4-6 animals followed by 16.25 percent above 6 animals category respectively. In case of draft animals majority (43.75%) respondents belonged to below 4 animals, 30 percent 4-6 animals and remaining 26.25 percent.

**The irrigation facility**

The data presented in Table 11. Indicates that the majority (77.5%) of the respondent having diesel tube well followed by 66.25 percent electric tube well, 57.5 percent canal, while only 35 percent potato growers uses Govt.

Tube well facility.

**The farm machinery and equipment**

The data presented in Table 12. indicates that the majority of 82.50 percent respondent were having bullock cart, 57.50 percent have tractor, 36.25 percent cultivator, 41.25 percent harrow, 37.50 percent land leveler, 48.75 percent thresher, 52.50 percent winnower, 81.25 percent chaff cutter, and 77.50 percent respondent had sprayer.

**The social participation**

Table. 13 revealed that majority (35%) of the respondents had no participation in any organization, while 33.75 percent respondents had participation in one organization, where 12.50 percent respondents had participation in more than two organization and remaining 8.75 percent respondents were office bearer.

**Table.1** Age wise distribution of the respondents

S. No.	Age group	No of respondents	Percentage
1.	Young age group	26	32.50
2.	Middle age group	41	51.25
3.	Old age group	18	22.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.2** Education wise distribution of the respondents

S. No.	Category	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	8	10.00
2	Primary school	13	16.25
3	J. H. school	18	22.5
4	High School	22	27.50
5	Intermediate	11	13.75
6	Graduate	5	6.25
7	P G & Above	3	3.75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.3** Caste wise distribution of the respondents

S. No.	Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	General	18	22.50
2.	OBC	54	67.50
3.	SC/ST	8	10.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.4** Land holding wise distribution of the respondents:

S. No.	Land Holding categories	Score range	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Marginal &	Below 1 Ha.	27	33.75
2	Small	2 to 4 Ha.	37	46.25
3	Medium Large	4Ha. Above	16	20.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.5** Occupation wise distribution of the respondent

S. No.	Occupation categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Main - Agriculture	80	100.00
2	Secondary - Business	11	13.75
3	• Service	06	07.5

**Table.6** Household's materials

S. No.	Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Gas	48	60.00
2.	Double bed	43	53.75
3.	Pressure cooker	37	46.25
4.	Electric press	22	27.50
5.	Watch	18	22.50
6.	Chairs	54	67.50
7.	Heater/Induction	35	43.75
8.	Fan/Cooler	28	35.00
9.	Sewing machine	17	21.25
10.	Cots	45	56.25
11.	Dressing table	26	32.50
12.	Dining table	15	18.75
13.	Smokeless	13	16.25

**Table.7** Family size wise distribution of the respondents

S. No.	Categories	No. of respondent	Percentage
1.	Up to 4 members (Small family size)	19	23.75
2	5 to 6 members (Medium family size)	39	48.75
3	Above 6 members (Large family size)	22	27.50
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.8** Family wise distribution of the respondents

S. No.	Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Nuclear	48	60.00
2	Joint	32	40.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.9** House wise distribution of the respondent

S. No.	Categories	No. of respondents	Percentage
1.	Kachcha	12	15.00
2.	Mixed	25	31.25
3.	Pucca	43	53.75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.10** The Live stock distribution

S. No.	Type of Animals	Categories	No. Of respondent	Percentage
<b>A.</b>	<b>Milch</b>			
1.		Below 4 animals	48	60.00
2.		4-6 animals	19	23.75
3.		Above 6 animals	13	16.25
		<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Draft animals</b>			
		Below 4 animals	35	43.75
		4-6 animals	24	30.00
		Above 6 animals	21	26.25
		<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.11** The irrigation facility

S. No.	Particulars	No. Of respondent	Percentage
1.	Govt. Tube well	28	35.00
2.	Canal	46	57.50
3.	Electric tube well	53	66.25
4.	Diesel tube well	62	77.50

**Table.12** Showing the farm machinery and equipment

S. No.	Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Bullock cart	66	82.50
2.	Tractor	46	57.50
3.	Cultivator	29	36.25
4.	Harrow	33	41.25
5.	Land leveller	30	37.50
6.	Thresher	39	48.75
7.	Winnower	42	52.50
8.	Chaff cutter	65	81.25
9.	Sprayer	62	77.50

**Table.13** Social participation

S. No.	Participation	No. of respondent	Percent age
1.	No participation	28	35.00
2.	Member of one organization	27	33.75
3.	Member of more than one organization	10	12.50
4.	Officer bearer	07	8.75
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Table.14** Annual income

S.No.	Annual income group	Respondents	Percentage
1.	Up to Rs. 1,00,000	23	28.75
2.	Rs.1,00,000- 1,50,000	37	46.25
3.	Above 1,50,000	20	25.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**Annual income**

Income of the respondents are categorized in to three groups i.e. up to 1,00,000, 1,00,000-

1,50,000 and above 1,50,000. It is clear from the Table 14. that the majority of 46.25 percent respondents were belong to the income group of Rs. 1,00,000- 1,50,000 per

annum followed by 28.75 percent of income group of Up to Rs. 1,00,000 and the remaining 25 percents respondents were belonging to income group of Above 1,50,000.

It was concluded by majority of respondents are middle age group. Surprising that illiteracy still exists in rural areas and affects their level of thinking and adopting the new technology and majority of respondents belong to the OBC.

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