

Original Research Article

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A Study of Socio-Economic Status of Guava Orchardists in Saharanpur District (Uttar Pradesh), India

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ABSTRACT

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Guava production was vital for the overall growth of Horticulture as it contributed to nearly 4 per cent of the total fruit production. Each part of the Guava tree possessed much of economic value. Being rich in folic acid, dietary fiber, potassium and in dietary minerals, Guavas had often been included among the various super fruits. Even though India had been the leading producer of Guava in the world, the productivity of Guava in India had been the lowest among the Guava producing countries. The present study was carried out during the year 2015-16 in Saharanpur district of west Uttar Pradesh. To know various socio-economic profile characters like, age, middle age category group of 46-60 years 45.00 percent, other backward cast 50.00 percent, literate 97.50, families size of medium category 5-8 members, 51.25 percent, the medium orchardists with a land holding 4-10 hectare 27.50 percent respectively. About 30.00 percent respondents were found earning annual income of above Rs. 75001/-. The maximum number of orchardists 85.00 percent was not participating in any institutional organization.

Introduction

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) is the most important and commercially cultivated fruit crop belonging to the family *Myrtaceae*. It is originated in tropical America, stretching from Mexico to Peru, and gradually became a crop of commercial significance in several countries like Brazil, Mexico, China, Malaysia, Hawaiian_Islands, Cuba and India. The crop has gained considerable prominence in our country in general and the state of Karnataka in particular on account of its high nutritive value, pleasant aroma, good flavour and availability at moderate price. Besides, it is one of the hardiest among the fruits in productivity, adaptability with nutritional quality and hence aptly known as ‘Poor man’s

apple’ and ‘Apple of tropics’. Guava is a very popular fruit. It is the available throughout the year except during the summer season. Being very hardly, it gives an assured crop even with very little care. Its cost of production is also low because its requirement for fertilizer, irrigation and plant protection are not much further its nutritive value very high. Therefore, it is an ideal fruit for the nutritional security. Guava is also known as black yard fruit to a great extent. Best quality guavas are produced in Uttar Pradesh, particular in Allahabad region.

Guava (*Psidium guajava* L.) “Apple of Tropics” is an important fruit crop of country,

not because of large area and production but due to its wider climatic adaptability, hardy to various biotic and abiotic stresses, precocious and prolific bearing habit, quality fruit with high nutritive value, medicinal attributes, used both as fresh fruit and after processing in different value added products and considered as multipurpose tree due to its utility as fruit, fuel, fodder and timber plant and highly remunerative crop.

Guava is called as apple of the tropics. The fruit are good source of ascorbic acid and pectin. Citric and malic are the predominant acids. The physico-chemical characteristic of guava varies with varieties, stage of maturity, management practices, agro climatic situations, season of crop etc. The nutritional value of guava, ripe fruits contain approximately 79.50 per cent moisture, 15.25 per cent dry matter content, 3.20 per cent crude fiber and little amount of ash, crude protein and crude fat.

The fruits are also a good source of vitamin A, Calcium, phosphorus and iron. Several volatile compounds including hydrocarbons, alcohols and carbonyls have been reported to be responsible for the characteristic flavour of guava. The decrease in astringency with the advancement of maturity is ascribed to polymerization of leucoanthocyanins.

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted in Meerut district during the year 2015-16. Meerut district comprise of 11 blocks in which one block namely Sodhaulikadeem were purposively selected. Four villages from Sodhaulikadeem blocks were purposively selected and 80 Guava orchardists were selected from all villages. Thus the total sample size was of 80

respondents. The data were collected through personal interview with the help of pre structured schedule. The data were analyzed and find out the percentage and rank order.

Results and Discussion

The data of Socio-economic Status of the Guava orchardists is presented in table 1; the result revealed that the majority of the Guava orchardists (45.00 percent) belong to the age group of 46 to 60 years.

The education status revealed that 97.00 percent is Literate Guava orchardists and 35.00 percent of High school and they belong to backwards castes of 50.00 percent. The majority 86.25.00 percent Guava orchardists were belonging to Pucca. The majority 27.50 percent of Guava orchardists were having 4-10 hectare Size of land holding and the majorities 51.25 per cent Guava orchardists were having 5-8 members in a family.

It is evidence from the table 2, that the majority 74.00 per cent Guava orchardists were having Toilet Facilities as Family Recourse.

The maximum 61.00 per cent Guava orchardists having Motorcycle/scooter and 50.00 per cent crop growers had Cycle at home, of 30.00 percent orchardists were utilizing electric tube well, 26.25 percent guava growers using private diesel engine tube well sources for irrigation, the majority 50.20 percent orchardists were belonging to the annual income group of above Rs. 75,000/- followed by 41.25 percent orchardists were belonging to the income group of Rs.50, 000-75,000 respectively.

Table.1 Socio economic status of the guava orchardists

S. No.	Profile content of Guava orchardists	Orchardists	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Young (15- 30)	10	12.5
2.	Lower Middle (31 to 45)	25	31.25
3.	Middle (46-60)	36	45.00
4.	Old age (above 60)	9	11.25
	Caste		
1.	General caste	28	35.00
2.	Other backward caste	40	50.00
3.	Scheduled caste/Sch. Tride.	08	10.00
4.	Other (Muslim, Panjabi etc.)	04	5.00
	Education		
1.	Illiterate	02	2.50
2.	Literate	78	97.50
3.	Can read and write	04	6.25
4.	Primary school	06	7.50
5.	Middle school	16	20.00
6.	High school	28	35.00
7.	Intermediate	13	16.25
8.	Graduate	08	10.00
9.	Post graduate and above	03	3.75
	Family size		
1.	Small (1- 4 members)	18	22.50
2.	Medium (5-8 members)	41	51.25
3.	Large(morethan 8 members)	21	26.25
	Size of land holding		
1.	Marginal (below 1 ha)	12	15.00
2.	Small (1-2 ha)	20	25.00
3.	Semi Medium (2-4 ha)	10	12.50
4.	Medium (4-10 ha)	22	27.50
5.	Large (above 10 ha)	16	20.00
	Housing pattern		
1.	Kuccha	00	00.00
2.	Mixed (Pucca + kaccha)	11	13.75
3.	Pucca	69	86.25

Table.2 Socio economic status of the guava orchardists

S. No	Family Recourse	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Toilet Facilities	74	92.5
2.	Biogas plant/Cooking gas	65	81.25
3.	Modern chulha	4	5.00
4.	Hand pump/water pump/supply pump	67	83.75
5.	Modern furniture	5	6.25
	Transport facilities		
1.	Cycle	50	62.5
2.	Motorcycle/scooter	61	76.25
3.	Car	6	7.50
4.	Tractor trolley	6	7.50
5.	Bullock cart / jhota-buggy	38	47.50
	Source of irrigation		
1.	Cannal	15	18.75
2.	Govnt. Tube-well	20	25.00
3.	Private tube well diesel	21	26.25
4.	Electric tube well	24	30.00
	Annual income		
1.	Below Rs. 25,000/-	1	1.25
2.	Rs. 25000-50,000/-	6	7.50
3.	Rs. 50,000-75,000/-	33	41.25
4.	Above 75,000/-	40	50.00

It is concluded from above study that most of the guava orchardists were found in various socio-economic profile characters like, age, middle age category group of 46-60 years 45.00 percent, other backward cast 50.00 percent, literate 97.50, families size of medium category 5-8 members, 51.25 percent, the medium orchardists with a land holding 4-10 hectare 27.50 percent respectively. About 30.00 percent respondents were found earning annual income of above Rs. 75001/. The maximum number of orchardists 85.00 percent was not participating in any institutional organization.

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