

Original Research Article

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Socio Economic Characteristic of Dryland Farmers in Tiruppur District, India-A Gender Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Keywords

Gender, Dryland Farming system, Socio-economic characteristic

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A study was taken up among the farmers in the Tiruppur district to assess the determinants of gender in farming in dryland farming system. Totally three blocks were selected Purposively for the study in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu, The block such as Palladam, Pongallur, Kundadam have been selected. A sample of 30 land holding dryland farm women and 30 farm men from each block was purposefully selected. Thus the total sample size is 180. The study reveals that gender activities in dryland farming shows significant changes but not in level they possessed except in few like Educational status where 38.89 per cent of male farmers are educated up to secondary level and nearly more than half of the female respondent (53.33%) are illiterate.

Introduction

In India Drylands are typically characterized by low annual rainfall (300-750 mm per annum) and higher potential evapotranspiration (PET). In India, 68% of the total net sown area comes under dry land cultivation, spread over 177 districts. Most dry land areas in India have more than 7 months rainless period with essentially no or very little precipitation. In certain areas the total annual rainfall does not exceed 500 mm (Guhathakurta and Rajeevan, 2008).

In this criteria it is difficult for the farmers to maintain desired socio economic status, so this

study aims to discover the socio economic characteristic possess by dryland farmers especially dryland farmer based on their gender whom facing difficulties to sustain their livelihood status is seen.

Materials and Methods

Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu was purposively selected for study because it is one of the districts where the percentage of rainfall is minimum for past ten years. Pongalur, Palladam, Kundadam blocks were selected based on the highest unirrigated area. Based on this thirty farm women and thirty farm men holding land from each block was

selected and comprises total sample size of 180. Data collection was done with the use of a semi -structured and pre-tested interview schedule. The data were collected by personally interviewing the respondents. Necessary effort was made to check and cross check the data collected from the respondents. The statistical tool used in this study was simple percentage analysis. Percentage analysis was used in descriptive analysis for making simple comparisons.

Results and Discussion

The socio economic characteristics of dryland farm women and farm men practicing farming in dryland farming system are given in Table 1.

Age

Age is operationalized as year of life activity spend by farm women and farm men in Dryland farming system. The overall analysis reveals that 66.7 per cent of farmers belong to old age where 73.34 per cent male farmers and 60.00 per cent female farmers belong to old age. The reason behind this is the sampled farmers are land owned farmers and doing dry farming over a long period.

Educational status

Education status is operationalized as the degree of knowledge possessed by the respondents through education system, from the result it is clear that 42.80 per cent of respondent are illiterate in total, regarding comparison 38.89 per cent of male farmers are educated up to secondary level i.e. Completed schooling education and nearly more than half of the female respondent (53.33%) are illiterate. The reason is that the women farmers are highly custom bounded and given with high family responsibilities and not allowed to go school.

Occupation

Occupation is operationalized as work performed by the respondent to earn income. From the result it is clear that majority (93.9%) of the farmer doing farming alone. In comparison 5.55 per cent women farmer concentrate only on farming because the women farmers are land owned and occupied with farming in their own land.

Farm size

Farm size is operationalized as the farm holding possess by the respondents, The result reveals that 51.7 per cent of farmers possessed more than five acres of land and in comparison female gender shows 3.33 per cent higher possession because in farm homes land is registered in female name for safety purpose and also female respondents of old aged possessing land in their names which comes after death of their husbands.

Farming experience

Farming experience is operationalized as number of years respondent continuing farming.

Result reveals 57.8 per cent of farmers have high experience and in comparison 2.22 farm women show increase in experience because it correlate with farming size and occupation possessed with gender and also because farmers are high in old age category.

Annual income

Income earned by respondent in the year is conceptualized as annual income. Table shows farmers possess low (47.8%) income.

The farmers in dryland suffer from drought for past three years this is the reason for low income of the farmers.

Table.1 Socio economic characteristics of dryland farm women and farm men

SI. No.	Profile of the respondent	categories	Male farmers(n=90)		Female farmers(n=90)		Total(n=180)	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Age	Young	2	2.22	2	2.22	4	2.2
		Middle	22	24.44	34	37.78	56	31.1
		Old	66	73.34	54	60.0	120	66.7
2	Educational status	Illiterate	29	32.22	48	53.33	77	42.8
		Functionally literate	4	4.44	1	1.11	5	2.8
		Primary education	8	8.89	2	2.22	10	5.6
		Middle education	5	5.55	4	4.44	9	5.0
		Secondary education	35	38.89	30	33.33	65	36.0
		Diplamo	2	2.22	0	0	2	1.1
		Under graduate	4	4.44	5	5.55	9	5.0
		Post graduate	3	3.33	0	0	3	1.7
		3	Occupation	Wage earner	2	2.22	0	0
Farming alone	82			91.11	87	96.66	169	93.9
Farming with wage earner	4			4.44	3	3.33	7	3.9
Private job	2			2.22	0	0	2	1.1
4	Farm size	Small farmer	45	50	42	46.67	87	48.3
		Big farmer	45	50	48	53.33	93	51.7
5	Farming experience	Low	6	6.67	12	13.33	18	10.0
		Medium	33	36.67	25	27.78	58	32.2
		High	51	56.67	53	58.89	104	57.8
6	Annual income	Low	36	40	50	55.55	86	47.7
		Medium	22	24.44	26	28.89	48	26.7
		High	32	35.55	14	15.55	46	25.6
7	Material possession	possessed	70	77.78	51	56.67	113	62.78
		Not possessed	20	22.22	39	43.33	67	37.22
8	Social participation	Low	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Medium	83	92.22	83	92.22	166	92.2
		High	7	7.78	7	7.78	14	7.7
9	Leadership behavior	Low	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Medium	12	13.33	14	15.56	26	14.4
		high	78	86.67	76	84.45	154	85.6
10	Credit orientation	Low	17	18.89	19	21.11	36	20.0

		Medium	73	81.11	71	78.89	144	80.0
		high	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	Scientific orientation	Low	8	8.89	8	8.89	16	8.8
		Medium	17	18.89	20	22.22	37	20.6
		high	65	72.22	62	68.89	127	70.6
12	Economic motivation	Low	14	15.55	5	5.55	19	10.5
		Medium	6	6.67	3	3.33	9	5.0
		high	70	77.78	82	91.12	152	84.5
13	Innovativeness	Low	6	6.67	1	1.11	7	3.9
		Medium	26	28.89	35	38.89	61	33.9
		high	58	64.44	54	60	112	62.2
14	Contact with extension agency	Never	29	32.22	15	16.67	44	24.5
		Occasionally	55	61.11	73	81.11	128	71.1
		Regularly	6	6.67	2	2.22	8	4.4
15		Risk orientation	Low	40	44.45	40	44.45	80
	Medium		48	53.33	47	52.22	95	52.8
	high		2	2.22	3	3.33	5	2.8
16	Exposure	Never	58	64.45	56	62.22	114	63.3
		Occasionally	32	35.55	33	36.67	65	36.1
		Regularly	0	0	1	1.11	1	0.6
17	Attitude	Low	26	28.89	16	17.78	42	23.3
		Medium	8	8.89	11	12.22	19	10.6
		high	56	62.22	63	70.00	119	66.1
18	Marketing behavior	Low	24	26.67	29	32.22	53	49.0
		Medium	54	60.0	45	50.0	99	55.0
		high	12	13.33	16	17.78	28	26.0

Possession

Possession is termed as holding held by the respondent it operationalized as household materials and farming implements possessed by the respondents. The table reveals that 62.78 respondent had possession in comparison 77.78 per cent of male farmers had possession and 52.22 per cent of female farmers lack possession. This is because the freebies given by the government has an important role in household possession and freebies given in family head names where men are the head of the farm families.

Social participation

Social participation is operationalized as involvement in societal activity where 92.2 per cent of the farmer shows medium level of participation because of old age and high experience in dryland farming system.

Leadership behavior

Leadership refers to ability of a person to influence people to co-operate in achieving a goal. With respect to gender, majority (85.60 %) of the farmers possessed high leadership abilities. In comparison 2.22 per cent of farm

men shows higher leadership because of high out world awareness compare to female farmers in dryland farming system.

Credit and risk orientation

Credit and risk orientation decides the degree of orientation to avail credit from credit institutions and degree of risk taken by the farmers to withstand in farming. The overall analysis reveals that 80.00 per cent and 52.8 per cent of the farmers have medium level credit and risk orientation respectively.

In comparison women possess 78.89 per cent and 52.22 per cent which is less than farm men (81.11%, 53.33%) respectively. The reason behind this is that the women feel that credit makes them fall easy victim to local money lenders and leads them to be dependent on them also farm women leave their risk under husband view.

Scientific orientation, Economic motivation, innovativeness and attitude

Scientific orientation, Economic motivation, attitude and innovativeness contribute more hand-in-hand to the status and livelihood of the dryland farmers. From the table reveals the relation between the four factors where dryland farmers have high (70.6%, 84.5%, 66.1%, 62.2%) orientations (Scientific orientation, Economic motivation, attitude and innovativeness) respectively. In comparison there is no differences in the level they possessed. This level of orientation might be the reason farmers continuing dryland farming still after recurrent drought occurs.

Exposure to external sources

63.33 per cent of the dryland farmers practicing dryland farming system show less exposure from external sources. In comparison both gender show less (64.44% male and 62.22% female) exposure. The reason is that respondents are old aged and possessed more experience where they practiced from trial and error so they believed that knowledge possessed by them and peer farmers is sufficient for their development.

Marketing behavior

More than half (55.00%) of the farmers possessed medium marketing behaviour.in comparison farm men possessed 10.00% higher marketing then female because of marketing done by male farmers. Even though the farmers are experienced the modern marketing technology shows constraints.

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