

Original Research Article

Relationship between Personal, Socio-Economic Characteristics and Cropping Pattern of the Awardee Farmers

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ABSTRACT

Present research work was aimed at throwing light on the successful farmers who got the recognition from government for their achievement in farming. Study was conducted in Ratnagiri, Raigad, Sindhudurg, Thane and Palghar districts of Konkan region. The sample was constituted 60 'State agricultural award' received farmers drawn from different villages of Konkan region. The ex-post-facto research design was used for the present study. The analysis of data revealed that, majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents was 'middle' age, 40.00 per cent had 'higher secondary' education, 'medium' (73.33 per cent) farming experience, 'medium' (40.00 per cent) size of land holding, 'medium' (46.67 per cent) annual income and undergone 'medium duration'(56.66 per cent) training. All the respondents received awards from 'state level' and majority of them received from 'private organizations, NGOs'. Majority (70.00 per cent) of the respondents had 'medium' information seeking behavior, 'high' (61.67 per cent) management orientation and had 'medium' (85.00 per cent) productivity level. The relationship of the characteristics of the awardee farmers namely age, farming experience, land holding, award received, annual income, training received, information seeking behavior, management orientation and productivity level with cropping pattern was found to be positive. It was, however, observed that the relationship between education of the respondents and the cropping pattern was non-significant.

Keywords

Awardee farmers, Relationship between profile and cropping pattern

Introduction

In order to encourage effective transfer of proven technology to the farming community in the jurisdiction of the Government and also to create a healthy competition among farmers/ farm women in obtaining higher productivity in agriculture and allied fields different competitions are organized and awards are being given to the farmer. In agriculture the farmers who have made significant strides in different crops are usually designated by the fellow farmers

of those crops for example 'Amba-samrat', 'Draksha-samrat' etc. This is the recognition given by the public for an individual's contribution in particular crop. Government of Maharashtra has introduced the awards viz. 'Shetinishtha Award', 'Vasantrao Naik Krushibhushan Award', 'Jijamata Krushibhushan Award', 'Udyan Pandit Award' and 'Shetimitra Award' etc. for motivate and encouraging the progressive farmers from different categories in the

state. Further, the 'Awardee farmers' are the progressive farmers who not only practice the recommended technology on their farm but also implement some innovative ideas of their own. It is presumed that besides developing their own agriculture, the 'Awardee farmers' take active part in development of village in general and development of the agriculture in particular. For this also, a planned probe was necessary.

Therefore, 'Awardee farmers' need to be effectively and skillfully involved in the extension system of the state. For deciding the strategies for their involvement, it was thought appropriate to understand and analyze the role they are playing at present as communication of modern farm technology. These successful farmers are somewhat different from the other farmers in terms of approaches in input utilization, production, cropping pattern, post-harvest technology and marketing strategies.

There for the present study entitled, "Relationship between personal, socio-economic characteristics and cropping pattern of the awardee farmers" was undertaken by following specific objectives.

To study personal, socio-economic characteristics of awardee farmers.

To study relationship between personal, socio-economic characteristics and cropping pattern of the awardee farmers.

Materials and Methods

For the sake of convenience of the study and due to limited number of respondents, all the 'State agricultural awardee farmers' from the Konkan region of Maharashtra were considered for the study. The list of awardee farmers from 2000 to 2014 was obtained

from the Regional Directorate of Agriculture, Thane (Maharashtra State). Konkan region has five districts viz. Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigad, Thane and Palghar. During 2000 to 2014 total 90 farmers from the five districts of Konkan region were honored with the title of "Krushibhushan", "Shetinishtha", "JijamataKrishibhushan", "Udyanpandit", "Shetimitra" by the Government of Maharashtra. All these awardee farmers were purposively selected for the study. However, only 60 farmers could be interviewed during the study. Other 30 awardee farmers could not be interviewed because of various reasons such as (i) death, (ii) refusal to give information, (iii) inability to recollect the information due to old age and (iv) long absence from the village. Thus the total sample size was 60 awardee farmers.

Results and Discussion

To study personal, socio-economic characteristics of awardee farmers

It was observed from the Table 1 that, majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents were in 'middle' age group, while 10.00 per cent of the respondents were in the 'old' age group and 16.67 per cent of them were in 'young' age group.

Regarding education, Maximum number (40.00 per cent) of the respondents had 'higher secondary' education followed by 'secondary' (31.67 per cent), graduate (23.33 per cent) and primary (5.00 per cent) with an average educational level of 11th standard.

In case of farming experience, majority (73.33 per cent) of the respondents had 'medium' experience in farm cultivation, while remaining 16.67 per cent of the

respondents had 'low' and 10.00 per cent of respondent had 'high' farming experience. The average experience of respondents was 28.6 years.

Regarding land holding, 40.00 per cent of the awardee farmers belonged to 'medium' category of the land holding, 31.67 per cent belonged to 'large' category and 26.67 per cent belonged to 'semi-medium' category, while 1.66 per cent respondents belonged to 'small' category.

In case of award received, all the respondents received 'State level awards', whereas 68.33 per cent of them received 'Other awards' from private organization, NGO's etc., followed by 'Tahsil level awards' (60.00 per cent), 'District level awards' (33.33 per cent), and 'National level awards' (6.66 per cent).

Regarding annual income, nearly half (46.67 per cent) of the respondents belonged to 'medium' income category, whereas 15.00 per cent respondents belonged to 'high' and 38.33 per cent farmers were found in 'low' income category.

The average annual income of the respondents was Rs.20, 39,333/-

In case of training received, equal number (56.66 per cent) of the awardee farmers received 'medium duration' (3 to 4 days) and 'short duration' (1 to 2 days) trainings. More than one-third (36.68 per cent) of the respondents received 'long duration' (more than 5 days) training.

Regarding information seeking behavior, more than two-third (70.00 per cent) of the respondents had 'medium' level of information seeking behaviour while, 20.00 per cent had 'high' and 10.00 per cent had 'low' level of information seeking behavior.

In case of management orientation, more than half (61.67 per cent) of the awardee farmers belonged to 'high' management orientation category followed by 'medium' (28.33 per cent) and 'low' (10.00 per cent).

Regarding productivity level, majority (85.00 per cent) of the awardee farmers were belonged to 'medium' productivity level category, followed by 'high' (10.00 per cent) and 'low' (5.00 per cent).

Relationship between personal, socio-economic characteristics and cropping pattern of the awardee farmers

The relationship between personal characteristics of the farmers, and cropping pattern was tested by computing the correlation coefficient ('r'). The findings in this regard are presented in Table 2.

Age and cropping pattern

It is observed from Table 2 that, relationship between age of the respondents (X_1) and cropping pattern (Y) was positive and statistically significant.

It means that cropping pattern was depending on the age of the awardee farmers. It can be inferred that cropping pattern was increased with increasing age of the awardee farmer. This finding was in conformity with the findings of Karawande (2009) and RadhaJadhav (2015).

Education and cropping pattern

A non-significant relationship was found between education (X_2) and cropping pattern (Y) of the respondents. It means education had negligible impact on the cropping pattern of the awardee farmers. This may be due to little variation in family education among the respondents.

Table.1 Distribution of the respondents according to personal, socio-economic characteristics of the awardee farmers

Sl. No.	Category	Respondents (N=60)	
		Frequency (F)	Per cent (%)
A.	Age		
1.	Young (up to 44)	10	16.67
2.	Middle (45 to 62)	44	73.33
3.	Old (63 and above)	06	10.00
B.	Education		
1.	Primary	03	5.00
2.	Secondary	19	31.67
3.	Higher Secondary	24	40.00
4.	Graduate	14	23.33
C.	Farming experience		
1.	Low	10	16.67
2.	Medium	44	73.33
3.	High	06	10.00
D.	Land holding		
1.	Small	01	1.66
2.	Semi –medium	16	26.67
3.	Medium	24	40.00
4.	Large	19	31.67
E.	Awards received		
1.	National level	04	6.66
2.	State level	60	100.00
3.	District level (ZillaParishad)	20	33.33
4.	Tahsil level (PanchayatSamiti)	36	60.00
5.	Other (Private organization, NGO's)	41	68.33
F.	Annual income		
1.	Low (Up to 10,36,841 /-)	23	38.33
2.	Medium (10,36,842 /- to 30,41,824 /-)	28	46.67
3.	High (30,41,825 /- and above)	09	15.00
G.	Training received		
1.	Short Duration	34	56.66
2.	Medium Duration	34	56.66
3.	Long Duration	22	36.68
H.	Information seeking behavior		
1.	Low	06	10.00
2.	Medium	42	70.00
3.	High	12	20.00
I.	Management orientation		
1.	Low	06	10.00
2.	Medium	17	28.33
3.	High	37	61.67
J.	Productivity level		
1.	Low	03	5.00
2.	Medium	51	85.00
3.	High	06	10.00

Table.2 Correlation coefficient between personal, socio-economic characteristics & cropping pattern of the awardee farmers

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Variable code	Correlation coefficient
1	Age	X ₁	0.2515*
2	Education	X ₂	0.0626 ^{NS}
3	Farming Experience	X ₃	0.3410**
4	Land Holding	X ₄	0.4343**
5	Awards received	X ₅	0.4058**
6	Annual income	X ₆	0.2957*
7	Information seeking behaviour	X ₇	0.3109*
8	Training received	X ₈	0.2561*
9	Management orientation	X ₉	0.3235*
10	Productivity level	X ₁₀	0.2585*
**significant at 1% level of significance		NS- Non Significant	
*significant at 5% level of significance			

This finding was in conformity with the findings of Gandhi (1993).

Farming experience and cropping pattern

It is observed from Table 2 that experience in farming of the respondents (X₃) and their cropping pattern (Y) were highly significant with each other.

The findings show that with increasing farming experience, the cropping pattern of the awardee farmers also improved remarkably. The individuals having larger area and more farming experience look towards agriculture as an economic activity. This might have been help for improving their cropping pattern.

This finding was in conformity with the findings of Gandhi (1993).

Land holding and cropping pattern

The land holding (X₄) and cropping pattern (Y) of the respondents were positively and significantly related with each other at 1.00 per cent probability. It can be inferred from this finding that the total land owned by the

respondents had significantly influenced their cropping pattern. Bigger the land holding, greater was the cropping pattern and *vice-versa*.

This finding was in conformity with the findings of Korde *et al.*, (2003).

Awards received and cropping pattern

The awards received (X₅) and cropping pattern (Y) of the respondents was positively and significantly related with each other at 1.00 per cent probability.

Different awards received for contribution in agriculture was influencing the cropping pattern of the awardee farmers. Farmers motivated towards the different awards competition helps to develop diversified cropping pattern.

Annual income and cropping pattern

It is observed from the Table 2 that, relationship between annual income of the respondents (X₆) and cropping pattern (Y) was positive and significant. This leads to conclude that the annual income of the

farmers play a decisive role in determining the cropping pattern. The farmers with higher economic status usually hold influential positions in the rural areas and are looked upon as respectable personalities in the village. Normally, such awarded persons first try, use and demonstrate the new cropping pattern, farm technologies on their own farms.

This finding was in conformity with the findings of Gandhi (1993), Korde *et al.*, (2003), Karawande (2009) and Radha Jadhav (2015).

Information seeking behaviour and cropping pattern

It is observed from the Table 2 that, relationship between information seeking behaviour of the respondents (X_7) and cropping pattern (Y) was positive and statistically significant.

This means that with increase in information seeking behaviour, the cropping pattern of the respondents had increased. The exposure to information seeking behaviour might have helped them in getting different cropping pattern, higher knowledge about management orientation etc. which is required for better decision and better management of the crops.

This finding is in conformity with the findings of Radha Jadhav (2015).

Training received and cropping pattern

It was observed from Table 2 that, the relationship between training received (X_8) and their cropping pattern was 'significant' at 0.05 level.

Training helps an individual in acquiring more knowledge and skill through

interaction. More number of trainings develops more contact with the sources of information about modern farming practices and increase knowledge and adoption levels of cropping pattern. The trained individual is more conscious to improve his / her standard of living by using the available resources to the fullest extent. Because of this, positive association between training received by the members and cropping pattern made by them might have been observed.

This finding was in conformity with the findings of Radha Jadhav (2015).

Management orientation and cropping pattern

It was observed from the Table 2 that, relationship between management orientation of the respondents (X_9) and cropping pattern (Y) was positive and statistically significant.

This means that increase in best management orientation practices influences cropping pattern of the awardee farmers and develop diversified cropping pattern.

Productivity level and cropping pattern

It was concluded from the Table 2 that, relationship between productivity level of the respondents (X_{10}) and cropping pattern (Y) was positive and statistically significant. This means that increase in the productivity of the crops influences cropping pattern of the awardee farmers. The individual having larger area and high annual income and more productivity level of crop is look towards agriculture as an economic activity. This might have been help for improving their cropping pattern.

The study concluded that some personal and socio-economic correlates had influence on

the cropping pattern. The relationship of the characteristics of the awardee farmers namely age, farming experience, land holding, award received, annual income, training received, information seeking behavior, management orientation and productivity level with cropping pattern was found to be positive and education was found to be non-significant. All this profile characteristics might have been help for improving awardee farmers cropping pattern to achieve higher yield.

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