

Original Research Article

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Socio-Economic Status of Farmers in Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh: A Case Study

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ABSTRACT

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The present study describes the Socio-economic Status of Farmers in Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh, India. The study area was Badi Blocks of the Raisen district. The information was collected on the source of a personal interview to each of the farmers through a questionnaire. A total sample of 800 farmers was selected randomly from 15 different villages of Badi block during 2017. The study revealed that they are very prosperous and progressive farmers with moderate literacy 75% and knowledge about agricultural methods, including Integrated Pest management 12% and they adopt rice cropping system which includes Wheat, Gram and Tomato with awareness about their improved management practices. By introducing facilities of modern technology, their socioeconomic standard can be further increased.

Introduction

Many low-income countries in south Asia, have suffered major natural disasters and political upheavals through since 1990s. These events remind observers about what is hidden in official poverty statistics: that the condition of poverty is linked closely to vulnerability. Raisen is the administrative headquarter of Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, India which is located in the west part adjacent to Sehore district, Vidisha district in the north, Sagar district in the east and south-east, Narsimhapur district in the south-east. The district has a humid subtropical climate with summer, winter and monsoon forming the

seasonal cycle. The major crops grown in the district are Rice, Wheat, Gram and Tomato. In accordance with census 2014, the district has a total population of 1,331,699. It covers an area of 8,395 square kilometers (3,241 sq mi). The Literacy rate of the district is 74.26 percent (Ann., 2014). <https://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/madhyapradesh/districts/raisen.htm>

The farmers are socio-economically well off as compared to the non-farmers, community. As for education, nearly by two-thirds in the northern region were literate. Across farm size, large-scale farm household heads are better educated than small-scale household

heads. The literacy ratio was higher in male-headed households compared to female-headed households in Badi regions (Sharma *et al.*, 2003). They differ widely among themselves in respect of the regions they live in, languages they speak, physical features they display, the geographical terrain they inhabit, modes in which they make their living, levels of development at which they are placed and size of community they represent.

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for the overwhelming majority of the population in the district. Majority of the population are engaged in agricultural and livestock rearing activities.

Data pertaining to the contribution of various economic activities among the farmers is mandatory for any economic development programs for the farmers. Though various studies on socio-economic conditions of farmers were carried out in India, studies are limited with reference to the Badi farmers, Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. Their lands are irrigated, alienated and have canal and tube well for irrigation facilities. They are utilizing chemical fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides etc. in their lands. Area of Badi is therefore somewhat different from other areas mainly on account of the difference in natural topography surrounded by hills and forest. And also the typical topography of undulating and hilly areas has made area agriculture profitable.

The present study reveals the socio-economic status of the Badi farmers of the district with the following objectives:

To appraise the socio-economic condition of Badi farmers in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, India.

To study the existing cropping and resource use patterns to locate the specific socio-

economic weaknesses in their production organization.

To find the social constraints that inhibit the adoption of new technology.

Materials and Methods

The study was conducted with a sample of 800 farmers of 15 different villages of Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh. A multistage purposive cum random sampling design was followed for selection of the respondents. The investigation was carried out with various problems faced by the farmers in the Badi block in Raisen district.

The people in this area are mainly agrarian, engaged in farming. Most of the inhabitants are involved in Agriculture. Some of the food crops grown around the area are rice, wheat, gram, and vegetables, most of which come from the major agricultural areas in the area. Livestock production is also practiced but mainly on extensive system of production.

Data collection: Data from this study were obtained from only primary source. The primary data include the use of questionnaire and oral interview, which were duly administered to the rural farmers. These questionnaires were administered in person due to the little or no formal education of the farmers. The questionnaire schedule provided information on socio-economic characteristics of rural farmers. Data were also collected on the various sources of Madhya Pradesh planning commission to agricultural, social and economic risks.

Data analysis: To describe the socioeconomic characteristics of rural farmers and identify various problems associated with measures in this area, analytical tools that were used are mainly descriptive statistics such as mean, frequency, pie charts, percentages, tables and

other applicable tools as indicated by responses to the respective survey questions.

The data were collected by personal interview method using both structural schedule and semi-structured interview during 2017 by supplying the questionnaire mentioning the following salient points.

Population of the village
Family Structure
Educational Status of Family Members
Housing Conditions
Electricity Facility
Source of Water
Mode of Transportation
Occupational Pattern
Land Holdings
Source of Irrigation
Farm Mechanization
Livestock
Difficulties in Agriculture Improvement
Priorities for Future Investment
Source of Agricultural Information
Sources of Credit Supply
Cropping Pattern
Plant Protection
Dynamics of Crop Production
Marketing System of Agricultural Produce
Marketed Surplus of Farm Produce
Returns from Agricultural Produces
Literacy rate (%)
Cropping Pattern
Soil type
Av. Pesticide used (/ha)
Knowledge about IPM

After completion of the survey, a total of 800 filled in the questionnaire were received and were analyzed to find out the socio-economic condition of the farmers in the blocks.

Results and Discussion

Age distribution of the farmers: The higher the age of the respondents the higher their

experience in farming (all things being equal) and this translates to more encounter with risks among older farmers than in younger farmers. The age distribution of the rural farmers interviewed in the course of this research work is stated below (See Table 1).

In the present study, it was observed that the farmers are socio-economically progressive in the area. Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for the overwhelming majority of the farmers. So as to eradicate the problems of farmers, it is necessary for the policymakers to identify and quantify the socio-economic factors which are inhibiting their growth and development. The farmers owing to their lifestyle and community habits and habitats have not been able to keep pace with the modern society. Farmers are not as innovative as the people of rest of India. The baseline information gathered as part of study is included in Table 2.

They may choose to diversify their crops, store grain, engage in livestock and poultry, favour traditional techniques over modern technology and enter into share-cropping arrangements. From the investigation, it was observed that the average populations of Badi blocks are 790 and 890, respectively. The majority of the farm families were nuclear in the blocks. As per the education status of the villagers, the illiterate percentage was observed 68% in the block. The major occupation of the farmers was agriculture and livestock rearing. Majority of the land holdings are landless 9.21%, Marginal 21.09% and Small 67.10% in the block. The cropping pattern of the studied area includes Rabi and Kharif crops are respectively Wheat/Tomato and Rice in the block. More than 85 percent households are electrified in the block. The sources of irrigation available in the blocks were canal and tube wells etc. Likewise, the livestock population in the blocks is cow, goat and poultry on the block.

Table.1 Age distribution of the respondents

AGE DISTRIBUTION	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
LESS THAN 30	180	22.50
30-40	245	30.62
40-50	210	26.25
ABOVE 50	165	20.62
TOTAL	800	100

Source: Field survey, 2017

Table.2 Baseline information at Badi block of Raisen District of Madhya Pradesh

Sr.no.	Component	Results
1.	Average Population of the village	767
2.	Electricity Facility	Electrified 85.05 % Unelectrified 14.95%
3.	Source of Water	Tube Well 18.05% Hand pump 61.11 % Pond 4.16% River 16.68%
4.	Mode of Transportation	Two-wheeler, Four Wheeler and Public transport
5.	Major Land Holdings	Landless 9.21% Marginal 23.69% Small 67.10%
6.	Source of Irrigation	Canal 78.27% Tubewell 17.67% Other 4.06%
7.	Farm Mechanization	Tractor 29% Pump set 8% Sprayer 56% Others 7%
8.	Livestock	Cow, Goat and Poultry
9.	Difficulties in Agriculture Improvement	Irrigation 10% Credit 30% Transport 7% Agriculture Knowledge 25% Labour 28%
10.	Source of Agricultural Information	Extension staff by Daawat (LT Foods), Mass Media and KVKs
11.	Variety of crop A. Rice B. Wheat C. Gram	Pusa Basmati (PB)-1, PB-21 GW-273, GW 322,GW-366 PU30, IPU94, JG 130
12.	Marketing System of Agricultural Produce	Daawat (LT Foods) Local traders
13.	Sources of Credit Supply	Banks
14.	Soil type	Black soil
15.	Average Pesticide used (/ha)	Very often
16.	Knowledge about IPM	12%

Source: Field survey, 2017

The major source of agricultural information in the studied area was Daawat (LT Foods), mass media and relatives. The banks were a major source of credit supply in the area. Use of plant protection measures to save the crops from pests and diseases was observed higher in the blocks.

Suggestions

Policy suggestions based on the findings from field study of farmers are presented for consideration:

Educational facilities should be provided for the people.

Positive steps should be taken to check the exploitation of the farmer.

Good, reliable transport and communication facilities should be provided.

Multiple cropping and intercropping should be actively encouraged. The government must make major moves to create permanent assets with farmers and provide infrastructural support for meeting input, credit and marketing needs.

Extension agencies must visit the villages and interact with farmers.

Training should be provided to the farmer in different income generating activities.

Suitable steps should be taken by the Government so as to educate the farmers

about the importance of crop loan and crop insurance facility.

The role of middle man should be minimized for more benefit to the farmers.

Hence concluded that if all suggestions mentioned above are implemented in the Badi villages, the development of those backward areas can be seen in near future. By introducing facilities of modern technology, their socioeconomic standard can be increased. Thus this weaker part of the society can be turned into the huge mass of human resource. However, further studies are required to know more about them.

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