



Original Research Article

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Profile Characteristics of Farmers in Adoption of BT Cotton

P. Pavan Kumar*, R.K. Dhorey and S.N. Singh

Department of Agricultural Extension, Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology Faizabad - 224229 (U.P), India

*Corresponding author

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The present investigation was carried out in Warangal district of Telangana. The study was conducted in Warangal block of Warangal district (Telangana) selected purposively. A total number of 100 respondents were selected through random sampling from 5 sample villages on the basis of majority of Bt. Cotton growers. The structured schedule was developed keeping in view the objectives & variables under study. The respondents were contacted personally for data collection. Salient findings of the study are, most of the respondents (63%) were found in middle aged (63%), had high school education (29%), other backward caste (65%), Hindu religion (100%), nuclear family (73%), medium family size (50%), small farmers (45%), (67%) annual income (150000-300000), respondents Participation in one organization (70%), medium overall material possession (62%), medium extension contact (50.00%), medium economic motivation (57%), medium scientific orientation (50%), medium risk orientation (68%).

Introduction

Cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum L.*) referred to as the White Gold is one of the most important fiber and commercial crop playing a key role in economic, political and social affairs in our country as well as world. Cotton occupies a predominant place among cash crops touching the country's economy at several points by generating direct and indirect employment in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Following a long history of cultivation of traditional varieties, hybrid cotton was introduced in India for the first time in 1970. This was in the state of Gujarat and by virtue of its high yield potential it became

very popular. A large number of hybrids were released. However it was soon realized that the hybrids were highly susceptible to pest attack and damage. This became a severe problem especially from 1993-94 onwards, leading to frequent crop failures as well as fluctuating declining yields. Over 150 different insect pests species are reported to attack cotton at various stages of its growth causing sever reduction in yields, and reduction in massive pesticide use by farmers and high cost of cultivation. It is estimated that over 55 % of the pesticides sold in the Country are used on cotton. The farmers have been highly dissatisfied and have been looking for cotton varieties that have pest resistant. It was at this juncture that the

transgenic varieties with Bt. arrived on the world and then in the country.

Bt. cotton, the first genetically modified (GM) crop in India, was initially approved in India on March 26th 2002 for commercial cultivation in six states belonging to southern and central cotton cultivation zones of the country. The commercial cultivation of Bt. cotton in the world first began in 1996. The reason for the introduction of Bt. cotton was to counter attack the three types of bollworms, viz. American bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera*), pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) and spotted bollworms (*Earias vitella*) which used to cause substantial damage to the crop, resulting in low productivity. Therefore, Mahyco (Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company), in collaboration with Monsanto, introduced Bt. cotton technology into India. Bt. cotton carries the Cry1Ac gene derived from the common soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. kurstaki, which results in the expression of the Cry1Ac protein that confers resistance to the bollworm complex (Barwal *et. al.* 2004). Bt. cotton hybrids have exhibited excellent control of American Bollworm and reduced the use of insecticides. This has led to create ecofriendly environment without compromising on profitable yield (Manikin *et. al.* 2008). In addition to reducing production cost and increasing profit, Bt. cotton has lowered farming risk and improved farmer's perspective in cultivating cotton crop.

Materials and Methods

Warangal district of Telangana will be purposively selected for higher production of Bt. cotton, Warangal is the second largest Bt. Cotton producer in Telangana state with the area of more than 2 lakh hectares of land, and locale for present investigation because the researcher is well acquainted with the locality

and culture. District Warangal comprised of 9 Community development blocks. Out of these 9 blocks, the Warangal block will be selected purposively for the study because of the Warangal block is second largest producer of Bt. Cotton in district and its easy accessibility and familiarity of researcher with the local language, socio economic and cultural conditions.

An exhaustive list of village of Warangal block will be prepared and 5 villages will be selected randomly. Moreover, list of farm families from each of the selected village will be prepared and 20 respondents from each of the selected village will be identified through random sampling technique. Thus a total of 100 rural farmers constitutes the sample size for the purpose of further investigation. A knowledge test was developed. Data was collected using interview schedule developed for the study. Based on obtained scores the respondents were grouped into low, medium and high knowledge categories according to equal interval method. The collected data was analysed using appropriate statistical tools like frequency and percentage, class interval, arithmetic mean (X), standard deviation and co-efficient of correlation.

Results and Discussion

Age

From table 1 found that, most of (63%) the respondents were belonged to middle age followed by old (19%) and young (18%) age categories.

The probable reason might be that young farmers have been engaged in activities others than agriculture and old farmers may be due to their traditional outlook and also being less energetic are reluctant to practice new technologies. Hence majority of Bt. Cotton farmers found to be middle aged farmers.

Education

From table 1 found that most of the farmers were educated up to high school level (29%) followed by intermediate (25%), graduate (14%), primary school (12%), and 20 per cent of farmers were found to be illiterate.

The probable reason for this might be that, even today there is no access for villagers to college education at village level. They have to go to Mandal headquarters if they want pursue college education. Hence majority of the farmers got educated only up to high school education.

Caste

From table 1 found that most of the farmers were (65%) other backward caste followed by scheduled cast (23%) and general caste (12%) respectively.

Type of family

From table 1 found that most (73%) of the farmers were nuclear/single family and (27%) of the farmers were joint family.

Size of family

From table 1 found that most (50%) of the farmers were medium size family followed by small (41%) and large (9%).

Farm Size

From table 1 found that, most (45%) of the farmers were small farmers followed by medium (37%), and marginal (18%) farmers.

The reason for this kind of result might be the fragmentation of land holdings from generation to generation led to most of big farmers turning to small, medium and marginal farmers.

The majority of farmers are, small, medium, marginal, the extension agencies have to take care while introducing technologies, for sustainable production in available land.

Annual income

From table 1 it was found that, most (67%) of the farmers were medium income level followed by low (19%) and high (14%) income level.

The reason for this kind of result was most of the farmers getting low yields, more attack of pest and disease and low market price.

Social participation

From table 1 found that, most (67%) of the farmers were participate in one organization followed by (27%) participate in two organization, (2%) of the farmers not participating in any organization and (1%) of respondents participated in more than two organizations.

The reason for this kind of result was most of the farmers were low education qualifications and less aware about social relationships.

Material possession

From table 1 found that majority (62%) of the respondents had medium over all material possession status followed by low (24.00%) and high (14.00%) over material possession status

It could be furnished that majority of the respondents had medium over all material possession status. This trend indicates that respondents have greater scope to farm mechanization. And every farmers cannot afford to have all adequate farm machinery at his disposal and it is not economical in terms of its maintenance and use. This might be the

probable reason for medium over all material possession status.

Extension contact

From table 1 found that majority (50.00%) of the respondents were found to possess medium extension contacts, followed by low (46%) and high (3%) extension contacts.

Majority of the respondents had medium to low extension contacts with the government, non-government and private extension agencies. This might be due to the fact that as majority of respondents were small and medium farmers with low farming experience and primary school education. They may not be having frequent contact with officials due to fear and inhibition. Inadequate staff may be another reason for this result.

Hence recruitment of adequate staff and providing quality extension services will improve the situation. Further, instead of expecting farmers to visit the extension workers/ research worker office, these extension and research functionaries should go to villages very frequently and organize

extension activities in the villages itself, which serves a dual purpose of increasing knowledge among the farmers and getting feedback from farmers.

Economic motivation

From table 1 found that majority (57%) of the respondents were found medium economic motivation, followed by low (23%) and high (20%) economic motivation.

Majority of the respondents in the present study had medium economic motivation.

Scientific orientation

From table 1 found that majority (50%) of the respondents were found medium scientific orientation, followed by low (28%) and high (22%) scientific orientation.

Majority of the respondents in the present study had medium scientific orientation. Scientific orientation involves an element of risk; most of the small farmers cannot afford taking risk by practicing innovations.

Table.1 Distribution of respondents according to their profile characters. N =100

			N =100
S. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age			
1	Young age (up to 36)	18	18.00
2	Middle age (37-47)	63	63.00
3	Old age (48 and above years)	19	19.00
Education			
1	Illiterate	20	20.00
2	Literate	80	80.00
	Total	100	100
2	Primary School	12	12.00
3	High school	29	29.00
4	Intermediate	25	25.00
5	Under graduate	14	14.00
Caste			

1	General caste	12	12.00
2	Other backward caste	65	65.00
3	Scheduled caste	23	23.00
Type of family			
1	Nuclear/Single family	73	73.00
2	Joint family	27	27.00
Size of family			
1	Small (up to 4)	41	41.00
2	Medium (5-7)	50	50.00
3	Large (8 and above)	9	9.00
Farm size			
1	Marginal (<1 ha)	18	18.00
2	Small (1-2 ha)	45	45.00
3	medium (2-4 ha)	37	37.00
Annual income			
1	Low) up to 135000)	19	19.00
2	Medium (135000-300000)	67	67.00
3	High (300000 and above)	14	14.00
Social participation			
1	No participation	2	2.00
2	Participation in one organization	70	70.00
3	Participation in two organization	27	27.00
4	Participation in more than two organization	1	1.00
Material possession			
1	Low	24	24.00
2	Medium	62	62.00
3	High	14	14.00
Extension contact			
1	Low	46	46.00
2	Medium	50	50.00
3	High	3	3.00
Economic motivation			
1	Low	23	23.00
2	Medium	57	57.00
3	High	20	20.00
Scientific orientation			
1	Low	28	28.00
2	Medium	50	50.00
3	High	22	22.00
Risk orientation			
1	Low	17	17.00
2	Medium	68	68.00
3	High	15	15.00

Risk orientation

From table 1 found that majority (68.00%) of the respondents had medium risk orientation followed by low (17%) and high (15%) risk orientation.

The possible reason for this result might be that majority of respondents had education up to high school and belonged to functionally literate category with medium to low extension contact. Another important reason might be the mindset, and lack of awareness of the respondents.

Extension workers should maintain closer rapport with farmers to make them understand the Bt. Cotton cultivation practices. They should also help them to overcome the problems in adoption and suggest alternatives and induce confidence. As a result, unnecessary fears and confusion prevailing in the farmers can be eliminated and they can be made to easily adopt the technology.

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