

Original Research Article

Comparative Analysis of Socio Economic Characteristics of Exported Onion Growers and Non Exported Onion Growers in Nasik District

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ABSTRACT

The study examined socio-economic characteristics of exported onion growers and non-exported onion growers in Nasik District of Maharashtra. It found that the average age of Non - Exported Onion farmers was seen to be 40.86 years and that of Exported Onion farmers was 42.65 years. The middle aged farmer (35 – 45 years) mostly preferred domestic marketing of their onion produce. Whereas the young age group of farmers were seen to export the onion. The farmers more than 45 years of age were seen to be moving towards Export farming. The educational status of Exported and Non- exported Onion growers shows that even if the literacy rate was 100 per cent in both the cases, the Exported onion growers were more educated than the Non- Exported Onion growers. According to the quantum score analysis, the Non- Exported Onion growers had 3.53 score, and the Exported Onion growers had 3.93 score out of 5. The average family size in Non-Exported Onion growers was seen to be 4.90 and that in Exported was seen 4.63. The occupational status of the farmers has been categorized into three groups Agriculture, Agriculture-cum-Business and Agriculture-cum-Service. The occupational level of Non-Exported farm was 1.96 and that of Exported farm was 1.80 score at 3 quantum score. It shows that, as Export farming seen to be profitable, most of the Exported onion farmers rely solely on agriculture and do not need any supplementary income source

Keywords

Socio
economics,
Onion
growers, Nasik

Introduction

Onion is extremely important commercial vegetable crop not only for internal consumption, but also for highest foreign exchange. Globally 847 lakh tonnes of onions are produced. At least 175 countries grow onions. India is world's second largest producer of onions, having 11.78 lakh hectare under crop in 2015-16 producing 203.33 lakh tonnes of onion with the productivity 17.6 tonnes per hectare, after China. Maharashtra contributes nearly 30 per cent of the total production of onion in India with area under onion cultivation

around 4.57 lakh hectare giving the production of 56.54 lakh tonnes, with productivity 12.37 tonnes per hectare.

Onion grown in Maharashtra state has unique features of their quality, taste and shelf life. Nasik district is famous in onion growing and its marketing and has maximum production within Maharashtra state. It had 1.42 lakh hectare area under onion cultivation with 17.68 lakh metric tonnes of onion production in the year 2015-16.

Objective

To study the socio-economic characteristics of exported onion grower and non- exported onion grower

Materials and Methods

Nasik district was selected purposely since production of exportable onion is maximum. Further, Niphad tehsil was selected because this tehsil is well known for production and export of onion. Five villages were selected on the basis of maximum production of exportable onion namely, Lasalgaon, Ugaon, Sukene, Gondegaon and Chandori. From each selected village, six onion growers who export the onion and six onion growers who do not export onion were selected for the study. The total sample comprises of 60 farmers (30 onion growers who export onion and 30 onion growers who do not export onion). The data pertaining to complete agricultural year 2015-16 were collected by the personal interviews by the survey method with the help of a specially designed schedule. The data thus collected were analyzed by tabular method using frequency and percentage methods.

Results and Discussion

The socio-economic characteristics of the sample farmers considered in this study were composition of family size, level of education, occupational status, land ownership and land distribution pattern.

Age Distribution of the Onion growers

Age of Exported and Non Exported Onion grower family members was calculated till the time of interview. Farm family members were grouped into three categories according to their ages (Table 1.). In case of the Non- exported Onion farmers it can be

seen in the table that, 13.33 per cent farmers belonged to the age group of 25 – 35 years, 66.67 per cent between 36 – 45 years, which is the major group of non-exporters and 20 per cent of the farmers were above 45 years of age. Whereas, in case of Exported Onion growers 40 per cent of farmers were 25 – 35 years is the major group, 30 per cent between 36 – 45 years and 30 per cent of the farmers were above 45 years of age. Table 2 reveals that, the average age of Non - Exported Onion farmers was seen to be 40.86 years and that of Exported Onion farmers was 42.65 years. It shows that the middle aged farmer (35 – 45 years) mostly preferred domestic marketing of their onion produce. Whereas the young age group of farmers were seen to export the onion. The farmers more than 45 years of age were seen to be moving towards Export farming.

Educational status of the Onion growers

The educational status of Exported and Non-exported Onion growers is given in Table 1. which shows that even if the literacy rate was 100 per cent in both the cases, the Exported onion growers were more educated than the Non- Exported Onion growers.

In case of Non- Exported Onion farmers, it can be seen that, 6.67 per cent of the farmers studied upto school level or matriculation, 33.33 per cent of the farmers had higher secondary education, while 60 per cent of them were graduated. None of them had a Post graduate degree. In case of Exported Onion growers, 0.3 per cent of the sample farmers had studied upto matriculation, 13.33 per cent had higher secondary education, 70 per cent were graduate and 13.33 per cent were Post graduate. According to the quantum score analysis, the Non- Exported Onion growers had 3.53 score, and the Exported Onion growers had 3.93 score out of 5 (as in Table 2.).

Family size of the Onion growers

This study measured family size in terms of actual members in a farmer's family during the period of study. The sample farmers were categorized into three groups according to their family size as in Table 1.

In case of Non-Exported Onion growers, it was seen that, 3.33 per cent families had 1 to 3 members, 90 per cent families had 4 to 6 members, and 6.67 per cent of families had more than 6 family members. In case of Exported Onion growers, 16.67 per cent families had 1 to 3 members, 73.33 per cent families had 4 to 6 members, and 10 per cent of families had more than 6 family members. And the average family size in Non-Exported Onion growers was seen to be 4.90 and that in Exported was seen 4.63 (as given in Table 2).

Occupational Status of the Sample farmers

Although Agriculture was seen to be the main source of employment for the people in study area, the selected farmers were also engaged in other occupations. Besides Agriculture, some farmers were engaged in dairy business, some were engaged in government and non-government activities, school activities and other non-agricultural services.

The occupational status of the farmers has been categorized into three groups as shown in Table 1. viz., Agriculture, Agriculture-cum-Business and Agriculture-cum-Service. It is evident from the table that in case of Non- Exported Onion growers, 36.67 per cent of the farmers' sole occupation was Agriculture. While 30 per cent farmers were involved in both Agriculture and Business, and 33.33 per cent were involved in Agriculture cum Service. In case on

Exported Onion growers, 46.66 per cent of the farmers' occupation was agriculture only. While 26.67 per cent farmers were involved in both Agriculture and Business, and 26.67 per cent were involved in Agriculture cum Service. The occupational level of Non-Exported farm was 1.96 and that of Exported farm was 1.80 score at 3 quantum score. It shows that, as Export farming seen to be profitable, most of the Exported onion farmers rely solely on agriculture and do not need any supplementary income source (Table 2).

Land Holding of Sample farmers

It appears from Table 1 that, in case of Non Exported Onion growers, 40 per cent of the sample farmers had less than 2 hectares of land holding and 60 per cent of the farmers had 2 to 5 hectares of land while none of them had more than 5 hectare of land holding. Whereas, in case of Exported Onion growers, 6.66 per cent of sample farmers were seen to have less than 2 hectares of land holding, 66.67 per cent of farmers had 2 to 5 hectares of land holding and 26.67 per cent of sample farmers had more than 5 hectares of land holding.

The total land holding under Non-Exported and Exported Onion growers were calculated to be 67.3 hectares and 128.1 hectares while the total Area under *rabi* Onion was calculated to be 24.6 hectares and 31.95 hectares respectively (Table 4.2.).

Livestock availability with onion growers

It was seen that all the Non-Exported onion growers had livestock within their farm. About 3.33 per cent of them had one milch animal, 56.67 per cent of the sample farmers had 2 to 3 milch animals, 40 per cent of them had more than 3 milch animals and 40 per cent had bullock pair.

Table.1 Frequency distribution of socio-economic characteristics of Exported and Non Exported Onion growers

Sr. No.	Particulars	Non- Exported Onion growers		Exported Onion growers	
		Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
1	Age of farmer (years)				
	a. 25-35	4	13.33	12	40
	b. 36-45	20	66.67	9	30
	c. More than 45	6	20	9	30
2	Education level				
	Illiterate	0	0	0	0
	School level	2	6.67	1	0.3
	Higher Secondary	10	33.33	4	13.33
	Graduate	18	60	21	70
	Post Graduate	0	0	4	13.33
	Literacy rate	30	100	30	100
3	Family Size (person)				
	Upto 3	1	3.33	5	16.67
	4 to 6	27	90	22	73.33
	More than 6	2	6.67	3	10
4	Occupational level				
	Agriculture	11	36.67	14	46.66
	Agriculture – cum-Business	9	30	8	26.67
	Agriculture – cum-Service	10	33.33	8	26.67
5	Land Holding (ha)				
	Less than 2	12	40	2	6.66
	2 to 5	18	60	20	66.67
	More than 5	0	0	8	26.67
6	Livestock (Nos.)				
	i. Milch Animals				
	0	0	0	2	6.67
	1	1	3.33	1	3.33
	2 to 3	17	56.67	14	46.67
	More than 3	12	40	13	43.33
	ii. Bullock pair	12	40	17	56.67

(Figures in parenthesis are the percentage to sample size)

Table.2 Socio economic status of Exported and Non Exported Onion growers

Sr. No.	Particulars	Standards	
		Non Exported onion growers	Exported onion growers
1.	Age of farmer	40.86	42.65
2.	Education level in 5 quantum score (Illiterate/school/higher secondary /graduate/post graduate)	3.53	3.93
3.	Family size (person)	4.90	4.63
4.	Occupational level in 3 quantum score (Agriculture/Business/Service)	1.96	1.80
5.	Total land holding (ha)	67.3	128.1
6.	Area under onion (ha)	24.6	31.95
7.	Bullock pair (No.)	12.00	17.00
8.	Milch animal (No.)	100.00	95.00

Table.3 Cropping pattern of Exported and Non Exported Onion growers

Sr. No.	Particular	Non Exported Onion growers		Exported Onion growers	
		Area	Per cent	Area	Per cent
(ha/farm)					
KHARIF					
1.	Onion	0.11	1.85	0.48	4.18
2.	Grapes	0.30	4.86	1.10	9.65
3.	Sugarcane	0.47	7.60	1.13	9.89
4.	Soybean	0.57	9.29	0.54	5.15
5.	Maize	0.20	3.26	0.54	4.75
6.	Groundnut	0.26	4.18	0.14	1.26
7.	Bajra	0.13	2.06	0.03	0.23
8.	Vegetables	0.10	1.68	0.02	0.18
	Total	2.14	34.78	4.02	35.29
RABI					
9.	Onion	0.82	13.36	1.07	9.34
10.	Grapes	0.30	4.86	1.10	9.65
11.	Sugarcane	0.47	7.60	1.13	9.89
12.	Wheat	0.44	7.28	0.63	5.53
13.	Gram	0.05	0.87	0.07	0.61
14.	Vegetables	0.07	1.25	0.01	0.12
	Total	2.14	34.78	4.02	35.29
SUMMER					
15.	Onion	0.46	7.44	0.64	5.59
16.	Grapes	0.30	4.86	1.10	9.65
17.	Sugarcane	0.47	7.60	1.13	9.89
18.	Maize	0.52	8.47	0.44	3.89
19.	Vegetables	0.13	2.06	0.09	0.82
	Total	1.87	30.44	3.36	29.48
20.	Gross cropped area	6.14	100	11.40	100
21.	Net sown area	2.14	34.78	4.02	35.29
22.	Double cropped area	4.00	65.22	7.38	64.71
23.	Cropping intensity%	--	289.20	--	282.98

Whereas in case of Exported Onion growers, 6.66 per cent of farmers had no livestock. 3.33 per cent of farmers had one milch animal, 46.67 per cent had 2 to 3 milch animals and 43.33 per cent had more than 3 milch animals. Also 56.67 per cent of them had bullock pairs in their farm.

Cropping pattern of Exported and Non-Exported Onion Growers

Cropping pattern of Exported and Non-Exported Onion growers was estimated as presented in Table 3. The result revealed

that, gross cropped area was 6.14 hectares in Non-Exported Onion farm and 11.40 hectares in Exported Onion farm. It was observed that, Grapes and Sugarcane were the annual crops being cultivated in the study area 4.86 percent and 7.60 percent of the area proportionate to Onion in Non-Exported Onion farm and 9.65 per cent, 9.89 per cent in Exported Onion farm respectively.

Soybean was another major crop seen in *kharif* season with 9.29 per cent and 5.15 per cent in Non-Exported and Exported Onion

farms respectively, of the total cropped area of *kharif* season. While in *rabi* season, wheat was identified the second major crop with 7.28 per cent of the gross cropped area of Non-Exported farm and 5.53 per cent in Exported Onion farm.

Onion crop had a proportionate area of 13.36 per cent in Non Exported farm and 9.34 per cent in Exported farm. Vegetable crops were given less importance in the cropping pattern.

In regards to cropping intensity, it was observed that, the Non-Exported Onion farms had higher cropping intensity (289.20 per cent) than the Exported Onion farms (282.98 per cent).

Double cropped area was 65.33 per cent and 64.71 per cent in Non-exported and Exported Onion farms respectively.

The following conclusions are drawn from the present study:

The average age of Non - Exported Onion farmers were seen to be 40.86 years and that of Exported Onion farmers was 42.65 years.

The educational status of Exported and Non-exported Onion growers shows that even if the literacy rate was 100 percent in both the cases, the Exported onion growers were more educated than the Non- Exported.

The average family size in Non-Exported Onion growers was seen to be 4.90 and that in Exported was seen 4.63.

The total land holding under Non-Exported and Exported Onion growers were calculated to be 67.3 hectares and 128.1 hectares, respectively.

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