



A Socio-Economic Study of Cotton Growing Farmers in Maharashtra State

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Abstract

Socio-economic status of farmers plays a key role in agriculture. It is observed that eventually with time there has been a significant change in the overall life style of the farmers. Further the farmers are trying to increase their income level by investing more in agriculture activities. This research paper focuses on systematic assessment of socioeconomic status of the cotton growing farmers of Maharashtra, India. Stratified random sampling method was employed for the collection of socio-economic data. This study may be useful to formulate the policies to improve upon the socio-economic status of the farmers in Maharashtra.

Keywords: Socio- economic status, agriculture activities

Introduction:

Indian agriculture must continuously evolve to remain ever responsive to manage the change and to meet the growing and diversified needs of different stakeholders in the entire production to consumption chain. In the development of agriculture, seed has been important since crops were first domesticated. Amongst all the crops, cotton is the most important commercial crop of India, often referred as the 'White Gold'. It plays a pivotal role in economic and trade activities in both rural and urban sector within country contributing up to 75 per cent of total raw material needs of textile industry. Bt cotton is the first GM technology approved in India. First three hybrids of Bt cotton were approved in 2002. More than 80 per cent of the country's cotton growing area is under Bt cotton. Approximately 600 Bt cotton hybrids are now available for the farmer's to choose from. India ranks second in cotton production after China. India accounts for approximately 25 per cent of world's total cotton area and 18 per cent of global cotton production. In the year 2012-13, India is having 119.78 lakh hectares area under cotton cultivation with production of 365.00 lakh bales and average yield of 518 kgs per hectare (National Cotton Scenario, Current Cotton Scenario, CCI, 2012-13). The current yield is significantly lower as compared to the world average of 740 kilo / hectare (FICCI Report, 2012). The important cotton producing states in India are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Maharashtra is the largest cotton growing state in the country. Cotton is cultivated in 27 districts in Maharashtra except Konkan and eastern parts of the state. Around 3 million farmers and farm labour in the Maharashtra depends upon the cotton

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Review of Literature

Ramasundaram P., et.al. suggested that the monopoly cotton procurementscheme of cotton is in operation in Maharastra since 1972. The cotton producers officially have only one option of selling their produce to the state. But, these three decades of experience has shown that vast interstate movement of cotton istaking place clandestinely.

Statement of the Problem:

Socio-economic status is the field of study that examines social and economic factors to better understand how the combination of both influences something. The socio-economic characteristics pertaining to demography, means of production and investment of income and expenditure pattern of people living in a particular location strongly influence their responses to technological changes and participation in development schemes.

Objectives of the Study:

The present study has been conducted on the following concrete objectives.

1. To study the present socio-economic status Cotton Growing Farmers in Maharashtra state
2. To analyzed the socio-economic factors and its impact on income and expenditure pattern of farmers
3. To know the cotton cultivation status of cotton growing farmers in Maharashtra state.

Research Methodology

The present study is based on the field survey conducted with the help of a well-structured questionnaire and interviews with cotton growing farmers. The study is confined to Four districts in Maharashtra state and the primary data was collected from deribate sampling method 400 respondents had been selected from four district of Maharashtra state. Secondary data- The data collected from various book and research journal and government agencies

Stratified random sampling is a method of sampling that involves the division of a population into smaller sub-groups known as strata. Out 36 districts in Maharashtra researcher had selected 10%, which was 3.6 (approx 4 districts) four districts, each district had selected from North Maharashtra, Marathwada, Vidarbha and Western Maharashtra The districts had selected for the study were Dhule, Jalna, Ahmednagar and Yavatmal etc.

Socio-Economic Status of cotton growing farmers of Maharashtra state

Socio-economic status is the field of study that examines social and economic factors to better understand how the combination of both influences something. The socio-economic characteristics pertaining to demography, means of production and investment of income and expenditure pattern of people living in a particular location strongly influence their responses to technological changes and participation in development schemes. The goal of socio-economic study is to bring about socio-economic development in terms of understanding the present condition of a particular area. Socio-economic study of cotton growing farmers is mainly for understanding the present condition of farmers regarding the lifestyle, education status, and health status and overall development of rural areas. Study focuses on socio-economic status and of respondents. It becomes necessary for extension workers to recognize the respondents with attitude and the respondents who are lagging behind the course of development. Socio-economic status gives a picture of an individual and his family in respect of social and economic position in a community. Chapin has described socio-economic status as "The position of an individual or a family". The study focuses on social class structure in selected districts.



Table 1 - Socio-Economic Profile of Respondents

Sr. No.	Socio-Economic Aspects (Sample size 400)		
1.	Age	No. of Responents	Percentage
	20 - 30	35	8.75
	30 - 40	59	14.75
	40 – 50	166	41.50
	50 – 60	99	24.75
	Above 60	41	10.25
2.	Marital status	No. of Responents	Percentage
	Married	383	95.75
	Unmarried	17	4.25
3.	Literacy level	No. of Responents	Percentage
	Illiterate	46	11.50
	Primary and Secondary	129	32.25
	SSC	107	26.75
	HSC	60	15.00
	Diploma	27	6.75
	Graduation	19	4.75
	Post Graduation	12	3.00
4.	Occupation	No. of Responents	Percentage
	Full Time Farmer	275	68.75
	Service + Farmer	30	7.50
	Farmer + Business	95	23.75
5.	Category	No. of Responents	Percentage
	SC	44	11.00
	ST	06	1.50
	OBC	93	23.25
	NT	56	14.00
	General	170	42.50
	Other	31	7.75
5.	Condition of house	No. of Responents	Percentage
	Pacca	116	29.00
	Semi Pacca	242	60.50
	Kaccha	42	10.50
6.	Annual income from Agriculture	No. of Responents	Percentage
	below Rs. 50,000	39	9.75
	Rs. 50,000 to 1 Lakhs	50	12.5

	Rs.1 to 2 Lakhs	94	23.5
	Rs.2 to 3 lakhs	107	26.75
	Rs. 3 to 5 lakhs	88	22.00
	above Rs. 5 Lakhs	27	6.75
7.	Annual expenditure of family	No. of Respondents	Percentage
	Below Rs. 1,00,000	121	30.25
	Rs. 1,00,000 – Rs. 2,00,000	156	39.00
	Rs. 2,00,000 – Rs. 3,00,000	78	19.50
	Rs. 3,00,000 – Rs. 4,00,000	32	8.00
	Rs. 4,00,000 – Rs. 5,00,000	9	2.25
	Above Rs. 5,00,000	4	1.00

Source: Field Survey – 2016-17

Results and Discussion:

It was observed from table 1 Age wise distribution of the respondents indicated that majority of the respondents i.e. 41.50 per cent were in the age group 40-50 years. Working and dynamic group age of the respondents.

As regards to marital status of the respondents, it was found that 95.75 per cent of the respondents were married and 4.25 per cent respondents were unmarried. It was noteworthy that majority of married respondents contribution in the study.

With regard to literacy level, the study disclosed that majority of the respondents i.e. 88.5 per cent were literate whereas 11.50 per cent respondents were illiterate. However, just 3.00 per cent respondents were post graduates and 4.75 per cent had completed graduation. The respondents educated up to primary and secondary SSC, HSC and diploma level accounted 32.25 per cent, 26.75 per cent, 15.00 and 6.75 per cent respectively.

It was observed that majority of the respondents i.e. 68.75 per cent were full time farmers, 7.50 per cent respondents were Service man and Farmer and 23.75 per cent respondents were run their business with farming. It was noticed that the earnings of these respondents were uncertain and irregular, 7.50 per cent respondents were engaged in services and 23.75 per cent respondents were engaged in business occupations.

It is highlighted that the category wise distribution of the respondents. Out of 400 respondents, majority of respondents 170 (42.50%) belong from general category; followed by OBC category belong 93 (23.25%) of respondents; 56 (14.00%) of respondents belong from NT category; 44 (11.00%) of respondents belong from SC category; 31 (7.75%) of respondents belong from other category and 6 (1.50%) of respondents belong from ST category.

Houses in rural areas of Maharashtra state are simply constructed mud walls or brick walls and covered with roofing tiles. It was pointed from table 1.2 that majority of 60.50 per cent of the respondents had semi pakka houses, 29.00 per cent of the respondents had pakka houses and only 10.50 per cent had kaccha houses.

The annual income of respondents is represented in the living standard of peoples. It directly or indirectly impacts life style of peoples. The data given in table 1 indicated that annual income from agriculture out of 400 respondents, 26.75 per cent of respondents the annual family income had between Rs. 2 to 3 lakh; 23.50 percent of respondents earned annual income Rs. 1- 2 lakh; 22.00 percent of the respondents have earned between Rs. 3 to 5 lakh; 12.50 per cent of respondents have earned annual income between the Rs. 50,000 to 1 lakh, 5.50 per cent of the respondents who had annual income more than Rs. 5 lakhs and

there were 9.75 per cent of respondents have annual earnings below Rs.50,000; It is observed that very less number of banjara people belongs to high income category as compared to respondents falling in other categories of income.

The annual expenditure of respondents is also represented in the living standard of peoples. It directly or indirectly indicated the life style of peoples. The data given in table 1 indicated that out of 400 respondents, 39.00 per cent of respondents the annual family expenditure had between Rs. 1 to 2 lakhs; 30.25 per cent of respondents annual family expenditure had below Rs. 1 lakhs; 19.50 per cent of the respondents annual family expenditure had between Rs. 2 lakh to 3 lakhs; 8.00 per cent of respondents annual family expenditure had between the Rs. 3lakhs to 4 lakhs, 2.25 per cent of respondents annual family expenditure had between Rs.4 to 5 lakh and only 1.00 per cent of the respondents annual family expenditure had more than Rs. 5 lakhs. It is observed that less number of cotton growing farmers to high expenditure category as compared to respondents falling in other categories of expenditure

Land Cultivated Under Cotton

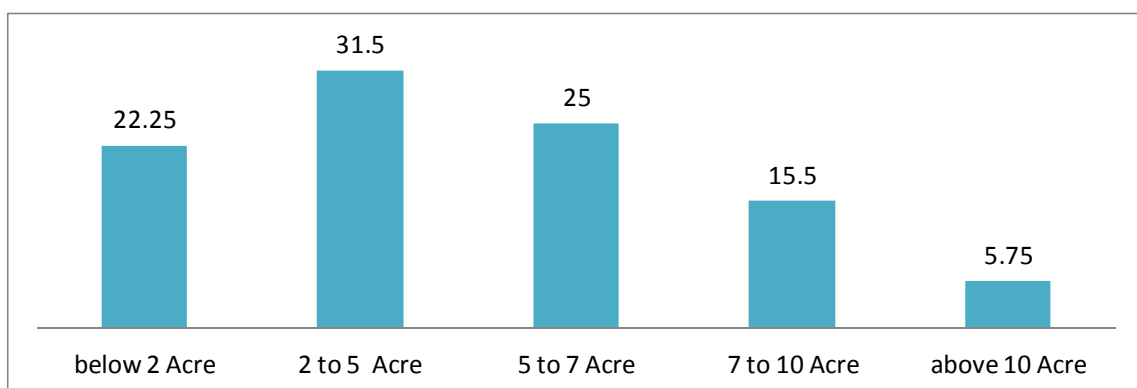
Table 2 - Land Cultivated Under Cotton

Land Cultivated Under Cotton	District wise Number of Respondents				Total
	Dhule	Jalna	Ahmednagar	Yavatmal	
below 2 Acre	22 (22.00)	15 (13.00)	23 (16.00)	29 (29.00)	89 (22.25)
2 to 5 Acre	32 (32.00)	35 (35.00)	26 (26.00)	33 (33.00)	126 (31.50)
5 to 7 Acre	21 (21.00)	26 (26.00)	32 (32.00)	21 (21.00)	100 (25.00)
7 to 10 Acre	16 (14.00)	18 (18.00)	16 (16.00)	12 (12.00)	62 (15.50)
above 10 Acre	09 (9.00)	6 (6.00)	3 (3.00)	5 (6.00)	23 (5.75)
Total	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

(Source: Field Survey - 2018-19)

Note: 1.The figures in parentheses indicate percentage to column total

Figure 1 Total Land Cultivated Under Cotton



It reveals in the table 2 It was noticed that the (126) 31.50 per cent of respondents had land cultivated under cotton between 2 acre to 5 acre; (100) 25.00 per cent of respondents had land cultivated under cotton between 5 acre to 7 acre; (89) 22.25 per cent of respondents had land cultivated under cotton less than 2 acre; (52) 15.50 per cent of respondents had land cultivated under cotton between 7 acre to 10 acre and (23) 5.75 per cent of respondents had land cultivated under cotton more than 10 acre.

Table 3 - Annual Income from Cotton Cultivation

Annual Income	District wise Number of Respondents				Total
	Dhule	Jalna	Ahmednagar	Yavatmal	
below Rs. 50,000	8 (8.00)	2 (2.00)	9 (9.00)	6 (6.00)	25 (6.25)
Rs. 50,000 – 1 Lakhs	13 (13.00)	17 (17.00)	11 (11.00)	15 (15.00)	56 (14.00)
Rs.1 – 2 Lakhs	26 (26.00)	24 (24.00)	25 (25.00)	18 (18.00)	93 (23.25)
Rs.2 – 3 lakhs	16 (16.00)	18 (18.00)	17 (17.00)	19 (19.00)	70 (17.50)
Rs. 3 – 4 lakhs	23 (23.00)	19 (19.00)	22 (22.00)	25 (25.00)	89 (22.25)
Rs. 4 – 5 lakhs	8 (8.00)	17 (17.00)	10 (10.00)	9 (9.00)	44 (11.00)
above Rs. 5 Lakhs	6 (6.00)	3 (03.00)	6 (06.00)	8 (08.00)	23 (5.75)
Total	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	100 (100.00)	400 (100.00)

(Source: Field Survey - 2016)

Note: The figures in parentheses indicate percentage to column total

It reveals in the table 3 annual incomes from cotton cultivation of respondents. it was noticed that the 23.25 per cent of cotton growing farmers annual income from cotton cultivation was Rs. 1 lakh to 2 lakh; 22.25 per cent of cotton growing farmers annual income from cotton cultivation was Rs. 3 lakh to 4 lakh; 17.50 per cent of cotton growing farmers annual income from cotton cultivation was Rs. 2 lakh to 3 lakh; 14.00 per cent of cotton growing farmers annual income from cotton cultivation was Rs. 50000 to 1 lakh; 11.00 per cent of cotton growing farmers annual income from cotton cultivation was Rs. 4 lakh to 5 lakh; 6.25 per cent of cotton growing farmers annual income from cotton cultivation was below Rs. 50000 and 5.75 per cent of cotton growing farmers annual income from cotton cultivation was more than Rs. 5 lakh. It was conclude that the majority of respondent's annual income from cotton cultivation was between Rs. 1 lakh to 2 lakh in the study area.

Conclusion

It was conclude that the majority of respondent's annual income from cotton cultivation was between Rs. 1 lakh to 2 lakh in the study area. The primary income sources of cotton growing farmers are agriculture and services business are their secondary occupation.. Some of them work as agricultural labourers, partly service and partly business. It was observed that less number of farmers belongs to high expenditure category as compared to



respondents falling in other categories of expenditure while very less number of cotton growing farmers belongs to high income category as compared to respondents falling in other categories of income. The total costs, yield and returns were the highest per hect. for large numbers farmers. Most of the farmers (88.75%) spent around 1 lakh to 3 lakh for their family which is excess of income

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