

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Sugarcane Growers in Hamirpur District of Uttar Pradesh

Dheerendra Kumar*, A. S. Maurya, Jagatpal, Sanjay Kumar¹ and Gaurav Kumar

Department of Agricultural Extension & Communication, SVPUA&T Modipuram, Meerut, U.P. 250110

¹Department of Agronomy, SVPUA&T Modipuram, Meerut, U.P. 250110

*Corresponding Author E-mail: dheerendrakumar0692@gmail.com

Received: 21.09.2017 | Revised: 19.10.2017 | Accepted: 23.10.2017

ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out during the year 2014-15 in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh to know the socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers. A total of 120 sugarcane growers constituted the sample size for the study and data were collected randomly by means of personal interview with the help of pre structured schedule. The result depicted that the majority of the sugarcane growers (70.83 per cent) were old age group, can read and write (33.33 per cent), belonged to other backward castes (73.33 per cent), (66.66 per cent) belonging to joint family system and 50.00 per cent were having 5 to 13 members in family, 41.66 per cent having participation in only one organizational or social activities, 58.33 per cent belonged to less than 1.0 hectare land holding size and 41.66 per cent were having obtained 150 to 200 per cent cropping intensity, 50.00 per cent were use as big dairy consisting more than 14 milch animals, 66.66 per cent were having medium material possession with 62.50 per cent modern farm power & implements. Respondents were found such who had the earning annual income of range between 50,000 to 1,00,000/-. It was found that maximum respondents (45.83 per cent) high mass media exposure consisting more than 10 sources of information.

Key words: Socio-economic, Sugarcane, Growers.

INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane (*Saccharum spp.*) is one of the most important crops in the world because of its strategic position and immense uses in the daily life of any nation as well as for industrial uses aimed at nutritional and economic sustenance³. Sugarcane is being considered as not merely a sugar-containing crop since it is increasingly assuming the status of energy crop. In India, about more than 50 million farmers, their dependents and a large number

of agricultural labourers are involved in sugarcane cultivation, harvesting and ancillary activities constituting 7.5 per cent of the rural population and many workers are employed indirectly in processing. Moreover, the fact that sugarcane prices are better than that of many other crops will also attract farmers to this tropical crop. Sugar cane gives almost double the returns compared to most other crops⁷.

Cite this article: Kumar, D., Maurya, A.S., Jagatpal, Kumar, S. and Kumar, G., Socio-Economic Characteristics of Sugarcane Growers in Hamirpur District of Uttar Pradesh, *Int. J. Pure App. Biosci.* 5(6): 571-573 (2017). doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18782/2320-7051.5747>

Today, sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry stands as supporting pillars of Indian economy. Besides, the sugar industry also supports the alcohol and paper industries with it are by products and the cattle feed is assuming importance for the development of animal husbandry in India⁹. Being cash crop sugarcane is of great importance for the farmer due to its income and employment generating nature. It is an important crop of agriculture sector which share 7 per cent of the total value of the agricultural output and occupies only 2.5 per cent of the country's gross cropped area⁵. Uttar Pradesh alone accounts for 42.47 per cent of the total area and 41.31 per cent of the total production of sugarcane in the country. Sugarcane is cultivated throughout the state except some parts of the dry west, and south-west. The maximum concentration is found in the Upper Ganga-Yamuna Doab, Ruhelkhand and the trans-Saryu plain which together account for 70 per cent of the State's production. Amongst the 100 leading sugarcane producing districts of the country 33 belong to Uttar Pradesh. In Rath block of Hamirpur district, sugarcane has status of main crop and productivity of sugarcane in the district is 530 q/hectare which is very low in comparison to national average. Farmers are growing sugarcane as a sole crop over a large area and due to mono cropping productivity and income per unit are very low.

MATERIALS & METHODS

This study was conducted in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh during the year 2014-15. Hamirpur district comprise of 7 blocks in which one blocks namely Rath were purposively selected. Three villages from Rath blocks were purposively selected and 120 sugarcane growers were selected from all villages. Thus the total sample size was of 120 respondents. The data were collected through personal interview with the help of pre structured schedule. The data were analysed and find out the tabulation, percentage and rank order.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers were studied and data have been given in table:-

Table-1: Distribution of the sugarcane growers according to their socio-economic characteristics: N=120

Socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers	Particular	
	Frequency	Percentage
Age categories (years)		
Young age (15- 35)	19	15.83
Middle age (36 to 50)	16	13.33
Old age (above 50)	85	70.83
Caste		
General caste	30	25.60
Other backward caste	88	73.33
Scheduled caste/Sch. Tribe.	02	01.66
Education		
Illiterate	05	04.16
Read only	20	16.66
Can read and write	40	33.33
Primary school	10	08.33
Middle school	25	20.83
High school	10	08.33
Graduate and above	10	08.33
Marital status		
Early age (Up to 20)	35	29.16
Optimum age (From 21 to 25)	60	50.00
Late age (More than 25 years)	25	20.83
family type		
Nuclear Family	40	33.33
Joint Family	80	66.66
Size of family		
Small (1- 4 members)	40	33.33
Medium (5-13 members)	60	50.00
Large (more than 13 members)	20	16.66
Social participation		
No participation	10	08.33
Participation in one organization	50	41.66
Participation in two organization	15	12.50
Participation in more than two organization	45	37.50
Cropping intensity (%)		
Up to 100	40	33.33
From 101 to 150	15	12.50
From 151 to 200	50	41.66
More than 200	15	12.50
Land holding size		
Marginal (below 1 ha)	70	58.33
Small (1-2 ha)	25	20.83
Medium (2-4 ha)	15	12.50
Large (above 4 ha)	10	08.33
livestock possession		
Small dairy (1-4 milch animal)	20	16.66
Medium dairy (5-14 milch animal)	40	33.33
Big dairy (more than 14 milch animal)	60	50.00
Material possession		
Low (<10)	25	20.83
Medium (11 to 20)	80	66.66
High (>20)	15	12.50
Farm power & implements		
Modern	75	62.50
Traditional	45	37.50
Annual farm income		
Low (Below Rs. 50,000/-)	20	16.66
Medium (Rs. 50,001-1,00,000/-)	55	45.83
High (Above 1,00,000/-)	45	37.50
Mass media exposure		
Low (up to 5 sources)	30	25.00
Medium (6 to 10 sources)	35	29.16
High (more than 10 sources)	55	45.83

The data of socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers are presented in Table.1 the result revealed that the majority of the sugarcane growers (70.83 per cent) were

belonged to age group of above 50 years. The education status revealed that 33.33 per cent respondents can read and write, belonged to other backward castes 73.33 per cent. The majority of sugarcane growers (66.66 per cent) belonging to joint family system and the majority of respondents (50.00 per cent) were having 5 to 13 members in family. The data also shows that maximum number of sugarcane growers (41.66 per cent) having participation in only one organizational or social activities, the land holding size revealed that maximum sugarcane growers (58.33 per cent) belonged to less than 1.0 hectare land holding size and the majority of sugarcane growers (41.66 per cent) were having obtained 150 to 200 per cent cropping intensity. It was also observed that the maximum sugarcane growers (50.00 per cent) were use as big dairy consisting more than 14 milch animals. The maximum sugarcane growers (66.66 per cent) were having medium material possession with 62.50 per cent modern farm power & implements. Respondents were found such who had the earning annual income of range between 50,000 to 1,00,000/-. It was found that maximum respondents (45.83 per cent) high mass media exposure consisting more than 10 sources of information.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that majority of the respondents' belonged to old age group, other backward caste, married in optimum age and read and write. These respondents had joint & medium family size, maximum number of respondents had participating in one social organization, having less than 1.0 hac. of land holding with 150 to 200 per cent cropping intensity.

Most of the respondents having big dairy, modern farm power and implements, medium material possession, using mass media as a source of information with annual income range between Rs, 50,000 to 1,50,000/-.

REFERENCES

1. Awais, M. and Ahmad, R., Socio-economic conditions of tribal farmers in two Districts of UP and Uttarakhand. In: Rais Ahmad (ed.) Agriculture and Rural Marketing: New Delhi: Regal Publications, p.181 (2013).
2. Balaji, K., Socio-economic background and seasonal migration of sugarcane harvesting workers, *International Journal of Humanity and Social Sciences*, **1(2)**: 15-21 (2011).
3. Girei, A. A. and Giroh, D.Y., Analysis of the factor affecting sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) production under the out growers scheme in Numan Local Government Area Adamawa State, Nigeria. *Advances in Agriculture, Sciences and Engineering Research*, **2 (5)**: 158 – 164 (2012).
4. Jodhaka, S. S., Caste and untouchability in rural Punjab, *Economic and Political Weekly*, **37(19)**: 1813- 1823 (2002).
5. Kumar, V., Singh, G. P. and Singh, A.K., Marketing of sugarcane in Bijnor District of U.P. *The Journal of Rural and Agricultural Research*, **12(1)**: 6-8 (2012).
6. Raja, K., 2013. Complete information on the area and production of sugarcane in India. Available at: <http://www.preservearticles.com/2012020422702/compl-ete-information-on-the-area-and-productionofsugarcane-in-india.html>
7. Ramanathan, 2013. India may see fifth year of excess sugarcane output due to heavy rainfall, *The Economic Time*, Jayashree Bhosale, August9, Available at: http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-08-09/news/41240729_1_sugarcane-bb-thombre-statesugar-commissionerate
8. Roy, M. L., Chandra, N., Kharbika, r H.L., Joshi, P. and. Jethi, R., Socio-economic status of hill farmers: an exploration from Almora District in Uttarakhand, *International Journal of Agriculture and Food Science Technology*, **4(4)**: 353-358 (2013).
9. Shivanand. P., Chandargi, D. M. and Hirevenkangoudar, L. V., Participation of sugarcane growers in human resource development activities, *Karnataka Journal Agriculture Science*, **24 (4)**: 480-482 (2011).