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Study on socio-economic profile of maize growers in Nabarangpur district of Odisha

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Abstract

The Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) have been bestowed with the responsibility of teaching, research and extension education. Agricultural extension involves the whole gamut of complex interaction between farmers, extension workers and researchers in transfer of technology, eventually resulting in enhancing productivity and profitability to the farmers. In this study, out of 12 blocks, Umerkote and Raigarh block of Nabarangpur district of Odisha were selected purposively. The sample size covered 120 maize growers. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the maize growers were middle-aged (46.7%) and (44.2%) percent had primary school education. The majority (50.8%) of respondents were having small land holding size. (57.5%) respondents were involved in only maize cultivation; a majority (46.7%) has a medium level of farming experience. (54.2%) percent of the respondents had no membership in any organization. (40.0%) of the respondents had low risk bearing ability while (75.85%) of respondents having medium level of innovativeness. Hence, above variables should be taken into consideration for selection of master trainers and innovative farmers so that these farmers can effectively communicate to fellow farmers resulting in effective service utilisation.

Keywords: Maize growers, socio-economic profile

Introduction

Maize is emerging as an important cereal crop in the world after wheat and rice which has immense potential and is called as "Queen of the cereals". In present agricultural scenario, role of maize is going to be very important, as it is not only a principle food crop, but also become crop of industrial utilization. The maize production and productivity has occupied third place after rice and wheat, while in area it remains to be fifth one. In India, current consumption pattern of maize is poultry, pig, fish feed 52%, human consumption 24%, cattle feed and starch 11% and seed and brewery industry 1% respectively. The urgent need is to exploit the potential of maize for the promotion of the health of our population especially the vulnerable segment of the society. It is possible only when maize will be utilized in a more diversified ways by converting them into a variety of products such as infant food, health foods/beverages, emergency ration etc. Besides being utilized in normal and therapeutic nutrition, maize has many industrial applications, which will definitely make the maize a profitable crop of the future Indian economy. Odisha is an agrarian State. Agriculture is the lifeline of the state's economy as it provides employment to about 62% of total workforce of the state. The state has total geographical area of 155.71 lakh hectares of which total cultivated land is about 61.80 lakh hectares which constitutes about 39.69% of the total geographical area of the state. Small and marginal farmers constitute more than 90% of the farming community. It is a corn surplus state. Seven districts contribute to around 74% of the total production and almost 92% of the total maize is produced in kharif season. The natural resources endowment of the state is eminently suitable for a wide variety of food grains, cash crops and horticultural crops and offers immense scope for agricultural growth.

Materials and Method

The study was conducted in Umerkote and Raigarh block of Nabarangpur district of Odisha. 10 villages from Umerkote block viz. sankarada, silati, sanakumari, birisadi and saraguda and from Raigarh block, kacharapara, demermunda, nuapada, marigam and jamdara were selected purposively for the study and 120 respondents were selected randomly from the villages. The ex-post facto research design was followed using structured interview schedule. The primary data were collected through personal interview method with the help of pre-tested, interview schedule, which was prepared on the basis of objectives of investigation and variables. The statistical tests and procedures were used for analyzing the data with the help of statistical

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tools like-frequency, mean, S.D., and percentage were used for analysis of data.

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic profile is a tool that provides a 'birds-eye view' of a group of communities. It gives a complete picture of their existing situation and their basic socio-economic characteristics at a glance. The major variables used for presenting the profile were: age, education, family type, land holding size, occupation, experience in maize cultivation, annual family income, cosmopolitanness, extension participation, risk orientation, innovativeness. The findings were presented in the following tables.

Age

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to age group (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Young age (Up to 30 years)	45	37.5%
2	Middle age (31 to 50 years)	56	46.7%
3	Old age (Above 51 years)	19	15.8%
	Total	120	100

The above table 1 reveals that majority (46.7%) of the maize growers belonged to the category of the middle-aged group, followed by young age group.

Education

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to education (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	31	25.8%
2	Can read & write	18	15.0%
3	Primary school	53	44.2%
4	Middle school	6	5.0%
5	High school	5	4.2%
6	College & above	7	5.8%
	Total	120	100.0

It was observed from the above table that, majority (44.2%) belonged to primary school category followed by illiterate (25.8%).

Family type

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their Family type (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Joint	43	35.8%
2	Nuclear	77	64.2%
	Total	120	100.0

Table 3 reveals that the majority of the maize growers (64.2%) belonged to nuclear family.

Land holding size

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to land holding size (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Marginal	21	17.5%
2	Small	61	50.8%
3	Medium	30	25.0%
4	Large	8	6.7%
	Total	120	100.0

Table 4 reveals that majority (50.8%) of the farmer belongs to small land holding category, followed by were medium land holding category.

Occupation

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to their occupation pattern (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Only maize cultivation	69	57.5%
2	Maize and other crops	49	40.8%
3	Maize cultivation and other occupation	2	1.7%
	Total	120	100.0

It is evident from the above table that majority (57.5%) respondents were involved in only maize cultivation followed by (40.8%) involved in maize and other crops and the remaining (1.7%) were involved in maize cultivation and other occupations. This might be due to the lack of scope in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors; most of their respondents were involved only in maize cultivation.

Annual family income

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to their average annual family income (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low	65	54.2%
2	Medium	45	37.5%
3	High	10	8.3%
	Total	120	100.0

It is clear from the table 6 that out of the total respondents majority (54.2%) of respondents belonged to low annual income category.

Experience in maize cultivation

Table 7: Distribution of maize growers based on experience (n=120)

SL. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	< 10 years	31	25.8%
2	10-20 years	56	46.7%
3	>20years	33	27.5%
	Total	120	100.0

It could be seen from the table 7 that the majority of farmers (46.7%) had a medium level of farming experience i.e. 10-20 years the maize cultivation. This might be due to the involvement of the more respondents in the maize cultivation for increasing the efficiency of production and marketing of maize.

Cosmopolitanness

Table 8: Distribution of respondents based on cosmopolitanness (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	No membership	65	54.2%
2	Panchayat member	11	9.2%
3	Co-operative society	23	19.2%
4	Youth club	7	5.8%
5	Religious organizations	37	30.8%
6	Socio-cultural organizations	47	39.2%

Table 8 reflects that the majority (54.2%) of respondents had no membership in any organization followed by membership in socio-cultural organization (39.2%), religious organizations

(30.8%), co-operative society (19.2%), panchayat member (9.2%) and youth club (5.8%) respectively.

Extension participation

Table 9: Distribution of respondents according to extension participation

Sl. no.	Extension activities	Extension contact						Mean score	Rank
		Regular		Occasional		Never			
		F	%	F	%	F	%		
1	Farmers fair	19	15.8%	55	45.8%	46	38.3%	1.775	V
2	Demonstration	77	64.2%	35	29.2%	8	6.7%	2.575	I
3	Training	64	53.3%	44	36.7%	12	10.0%	2.433	III
4	Field visit	30	25.0%	62	51.7%	28	23.3%	2.016	IV
5	Discussion/meetings	67	55.8%	43	35.8%	10	8.3%	2.475	II
6	Exhibition	14	11.7%	49	40.8%	57	47.5%	1.641	VI
7	Field days	8	6.7%	20	16.7%	92	76.7%	1.300	VII

From the above table, it is evident that there was higher extent of participation of the respondents with "demonstration" which ranked 1st with mean score 2.575.

Risk orientation

Table 10: Distribution of respondents according to their risk orientation (n=120)

SL. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Mean -1/2 S.D)	48	40.0%
2	Medium (Mean \pm 1/2 S.D)	39	32.5%
3	High (Mean +1/2 S.D)	33	27.5%
	Total	120	100.0

A large number of the respondents belonged to the low- risk bearing ability group (40.00%) this might be due to the adoption of new varieties and technologies of maize cultivation which involves high risk.

Innovativeness

Table 11: Distribution of respondents according to their innovativeness (n=120)

Sl. no.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Mean - S.D)	13	10.8%
2	Medium (Mean \pm S.D)	91	75.8%
3	High (Mean + S.D)	16	13.3%
	Total	120	100.0

A large number of the respondents belonged to the medium level of innovativeness category (75.85%), this might be due to the ability of an individual to think and analyze logically.

Reasons for maize cultivation

Table 12: Distribution of respondents based on the reasons for maize cultivation (n=120)

Sl. no.	Statement	Frequency	Percentage
1	Good market demand of the produce	87	72.5%
2	Suitable climatic conditions	98	81.7%
3	Easy availability of inputs	111	92.5%
4	More profitable than other crops	102	85%
5	Credit assistance by local dealers/ distributors	109	90.8%
6	Easy marketing facilities	73	60.8%
7	Govt. encouragement	31	21.8%

The above table revealed that majority (92.5%) were cultivating maize because of easy availability of inputs.

Conclusion

The findings of the study revealed that majority of the maize growers were middle-aged (46.7%) and (44.2%) percent had primary school education. In order to attract youth into the farming, success stories had to be created at the village level. The majority (50.8%) of respondents were having small land holding size. As 57.5% respondents were involved in only maize cultivation; a majority (46.7%) has a medium level of farming experience and innovativeness (75.85%). Hence, there is a need to improve these characteristics from medium high level by intensifying the efforts through various ways of technology transfer like diagnostic visits, demonstrations and group meetings. (54.2%) percent of the respondents had no membership in any organization and (40.0%) of the respondents had low risk bearing ability. So, extension agencies should encourage the farmers social participation by strengthening community organization programmes to form youth clubs, welfare associations, farmers discussion groups etc. by which they will be more exposed and effectively utilise the services.

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