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Socio-Economic study of Papaya growing farmers in Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

The contribution of the agricultural sector to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has continued to decline over the years. In 1970-71 agriculture contributed about 44 % of GDP which declined to about 13 percent in 2016- 17. Presently total horticultural production is estimated at 305 million tonnes as compared to 273 million tons of food grains, which indicates diversification of agriculture towards high-value horticultural crops. The study was conducted to examine the socio-economic characteristics of farmers growing papaya crops and their constraints in Kaushambi district. A multistage stratified sampling technique was followed to select the respondents. One block from Kaushambi districts was selected purposively viz Manjhanpur. From the selected block, nine villages were selected purposively, and finally, 140 farmers were selected from 9 villages randomly. The study found the average family size in the study area was twelve i.e. four males, three females, and five children. The occupation is categorized into three groups viz. agricultural and allied activities, agriculture with business, and agriculture with other services. This makes the average sample for primary occupation was 37.14 percent for different farms size groups.

The Social Characteristics Agriculture and allied activities whereas only 37.14 and 43.57 percent of farm families are involved in agriculture with business and agriculture with other services, respectively 19.29, respectively. It was found that most of the population (44.87 %) were primarily educated. Maximum farmers (84.50 %) have reported that the fluctuation of prices problem. The infrastructural and technical problem faced by the storage problem (89.28%).

Keywords: Papaya crops, Household, Land Holding, Kaushambi.

Introduction

The experience from South-East Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa corroborate that policymakers and planners are crescents focusing on agricultural diversification to promote agricultural development (Petit and Barghouti, 1992). Papaya has the highest content of carotenoids, potassium, fiber, and ascorbic acid per serving, among all fruits. It is considered to be a nutraceutical plant because of the presence of a wide range of enzymes, vitamins, and minerals in it. It is available round the year and is known as the powerhouse of the nutrients. It is an affluent source of antioxidants, vitamin A and vitamin C, minerals, potassium and magnesium, and fiber. The carotenoids present in the fruit are responsible for the color of its flesh. The red-fleshed papaya contains four beta carotenes: beta-cryptoxanthin, beta carotene, beta carotene - 5-6-epoxide, and lycopene, while the yellow-fleshed fruit contains only three of these, i.e. beta carotene, beta-carotene and beta-cryptoxanthin. The content of beta carotene, however, may vary between maturation stages and varieties (Nwofia *et al.*, 2012).

The cultivation of papaya crops may lead to alleviate poverty and improve the income of smallholders. The present paper aims to study the socio-economic profile and the problems faced by the papaya growing farmers in Kaushambi district.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted for the period 2017- 18 and primary data were used for analysis. Further, a multistage stratified sampling technique was followed to select the respondents. Kaushambi district from eastern Uttar Pradesh has the highest horticultural production was selected purposively. One block namely, Manjhanpur from Kaushambi district with maximum horticultural production were purposive. A list of villages producing papaya crops was prepared and nine villages from Manjhanpur block were selected purposively. A total of 140 farmers were selected from 9 villages. The whole analysis was done with help of various descriptive statistics viz. percentage, mean, etc.

Results and Discussion

The major socio-economic characteristics considered in this study were family size, age distribution, education level, occupation, and size of land holdings of selected households. The study found the average family size in the study area was twelve i.e. four males, three females, and five children. The age-wise distribution of households was analyzed under three groups such as children (<14 years), middle-aged (15-59 years), and old age (above 60 years) and are presented in the table. The average sample %age of males and females for different sizes of farms groups was 70.47% and 29.67% respectively. It could also be seen from the table that the age composition of different sizes of farms group. The highest average sample %age of different sizes of farms belongs to the age composition of below 15-59 years (75.71 percent) followed by below 14 years (20.45 percent) and above 60 years and above (3.97per cent) respectively.

Social Characteristics The results of occupation were illustrated in table 2. The occupation is categorized into three groups viz. agricultural and allied activities, agriculture with business, and agriculture with other services. The table shows that 37.14 percent of the household in the study area depends upon

Table 1: Age Wise Distribution of Sample Household

Sl. No.	Particulars	(%)
1.	Below 14 years	20.51
2.	15-59 years	75.31
3.	60 years and above	3.18

Table 2: Occupational Status of Sample Households

Sl. No.	Occupation	Number	Percentage
1	Agriculture and allied activities	52	37.14
2	Agriculture with business	61	43.57
3	Agriculture with other services	27	19.29

Agriculture and allied activities whereas only 37.14 and 43.57 percent of farm families are involved in agriculture with business and agriculture with other services, respectively 19.29.

The literacy level of the farm families was classified into five groups as an illiterate, primary (up to 5th class), secondary (up to 10th class), higher secondary, graduation and above, and results are presented in Table 3. The table reveals that average numbers of illiterates most of the population (44.87 %) were primarily educated.

The details landholding size of the sampled farmers is presented in table 4. The average size of landholding was 1.5 ha with a range of maximum land holding of 12.20 ha to a minimum of 0.4 ha. In the case of landholding, marginal farmers were maximum having 50 percent followed by small, semi medium, medium, and large size group having 20 percent, 14.29 percent, 10.71 percent, and 5.00percent, respectively.

Further, the respondents were asked about the problems faced by them during the cultivation of papaya crops. The results are presented in Table 5. Maximum farmers (84.28 %) have reported that the fluctuation in is the main obstacle in cultivating papaya crops they are very sensitive to climatic aberrations. Low price and high fluctuation were reported as the major constrain in the production of these crops. 93.50 percent of farmers report the price fluctuation is another problem which they face and results in income variation. The other problems faced by farmers in adopting high-value crops are lack of technical

Table 3: Educational Status of Sample Households

Sl. No.	Educational Level	Total
1	Illiterate	8.49
2	Primary (up to 5 th)	44.87
3	Secondary (up to 10 th)	26.87
4	Higher secondary	16.50
5	Graduation and above	3.37

Table 4: Details of land holding of sampled farmers

Sl. No.	Category	Number	Percentage
1.	Marginal farmers (upto 1 hectare)	70	50.00
2.	Small farmers (1-2 hectare)	28	20.00
3.	Semi-medium farmers (2-4 hectare)	20	14.29
4.	Medium farmers (4-10 hectare)	15	10.71
5.	Large farmers (more than 10 hectare)	7	5.00
Total		140	100

Table 5: Problems faced by farmers in growing Papaya

Sl.No.	Problem	Number	Percentage
1.	Fluctuation of prices	118	84.28
2.	Climatic fluctuations	110	78.57
3.	Labor scarcity	90	64.28
4.	Marketing	81	57.85
5.	Procurement facilities at the market and farm	73	52.14
6.	Non availability of recommended pesticides	62	44.28
7.	Procurement facilities at the market and farm	60	42.85

Table 6: Infrastructural and technical problem faced by the farmers

Sl. No.	Problems	Number	Percentage
1.	Storage	125	89.28
2.	New technology (seed)	108	77.14
3.	Management	105	75
4.	Transportation	88	62.85

Economic characteristics Further the farmers were asked about the Institutional and technical problems faced by the farmers after harvesting of high-value crops. The results are presented in Table 6. Maximum farmers (89.28 %) have reported that storage is the main obstacle after harvesting high-value crops. 75% percent of farmers realized that management is another problem which they face and results in income variation. The other problems faced by farmers in adopting papaya crops are the lack of new technology (seed) at the market and transportation.

Conclusion

The shift towards the cultivation of papaya crop in Kaushambi district may change the scenario of the agriculture in the state. The sample contains the majority of marginal farmers which shows the papaya crops are adopted by small and marginal farmers. The major problem in cultivating high papaya crops is fluctuation in market prices, climatic fluctuation, lack of inadequate storage space, and technical know-how. The efforts are required to provide procurement facilities, remunerative prices to the farmers, and encourage processing industries to take produce from small and marginal farmers. It is suggested that storage facility should be created on a custom hiring basis and Govt should make efforts to check extreme fluctuation in prices.

Policy Implications

Develop policies that encourage farmers to diversify their income sources, particularly for marginal and small farmers. Policies should focus on the development of papaya crop that motivates farmer to undertake high-value crop on a

commercial level. Delivery of formal and informal education and extension should be strengthened. There is a need to develop institutions of financial services and marketing infrastructure for better accessibility for farmers. Access to soft finance will facilitate the farmers to invest in non-farm business activities leading to an increase in family income and food security. The government should ensure organized input supply to the farm sector.

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