

A Study on Relationship Between Socio-economic Status and Level of Awareness of the Farmers about Land Use Pattern in Western U. P.

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Meerut and Bulandshashar districts of Western Uttar Pradesh. From each district two blocks, from each block four villages and from each village 10 respondents were selected randomly. Thus the total sample size was of 160 respondents. The data were collected by personal interview through structured schedule and analyzed using statistical techniques like percentage, standard deviation and correlation of coefficient.

Results revealed that the majority (53.10%) of the respondents belonged to Upper middle age group ranged between 45 to 60 years, maximum (42.10%) were high school passed, highest number of the farmers (33.10%) were found in the small land holding category (1-2 ha), maximum (43.10%) respondents using private tube well for the irrigation, maximum 32.50% respondents' annual income was above 2 lakhs, majority of the farmers (75.00%) were having scooter/motorcycle for transportation and most of the respondents (95.60%) getting information through progressive farmer/neighbors. The socio-economic variables viz. education, social participation, material possession and information sources had highly significant and positive correlation with extent of awareness and adoption of land use practices, whereas marital status, type of family and size of family were negatively correlated with general knowledge of land use pattern.

Keywords : Socio-economic status, farmers, land use pattern.

Introduction

Land management refers to the way in which humans use the land, along with the plants and animals living on it, as a resource to fulfill the needs of the society^[1]. Land use pattern indicates the problems and prospects of technology available and adopted by the farmers of a particular area. Farmers' yield and income depends on what type of crops they choose, crop rotation followed and land use efficiency i.e. cropping intensity of the farm. Farmers adopt or leave any crop due to level of compatibility of that particular crop. Socio-economic profile may have direct or indirect effect on awareness and adoption level of the farmers^[2,3]. So, it

becomes the duty of extension researchers to explore all the positive and negative factors associated with the land use pattern.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in Meerut and Bulandshashar districts of Western Uttar Pradesh. From each district two blocks, from each block four villages and from each village 10 respondents were selected randomly. Thus the total sample size was of 160 respondents. The data were collected by personal interview through structured schedule and analyzed using statistical techniques like percentage,

standard deviation and correlation of coefficient.

Results and Discussion

1. Socio-economic profile of the farmers:

Table 1 Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic aspects

| S. No. | | Frequency | Percentage |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. | Age group (N=160) | | |
| | Young age group (Below 30 years) | 09 | 5.60 |
| | Lower Middle age group (30-45years) | 54 | 33.80 |
| | Upper Middle age group (45-60 years) | 85 | 53.10 |
| | Old age group (60 above) | 12 | 7.50 |
| 2. | Education (N=160) | | |
| | Illiterate | 4 | 2.50 |
| | Read and write only | 13 | 8.10 |
| | Primary | 12 | 7.50 |
| | Junior high school | 37 | 23.10 |
| | High school | 69 | 42.10 |
| | Intermediate | 16 | 10.00 |
| | Graduation | 5 | 3.20 |
| | Post graduate & above | 4 | 2.50 |
| 3. | Household material (N=160) | | |
| | Low (Up to 5) | 67 | 41.90 |
| | Medium (6-10) | 38 | 23.80 |
| | High (Above 10) | 55 | 34.40 |
| 4. | Information sources (N=160) | | |
| | Progressive farmers/Neighbors | 153 | 95.60 |
| | Extension worker/K.V.K. experts/SAUs | 32 | 20.00 |
| | Cooperative societies | 65 | 40.63 |
| | Farmer school/Kisan call center | 46 | 28.75 |
| | D.A.O/V.D.O./D.H.O. | 40 | 25.00 |
| | Input dealers/Government sale center | 86 | 53.75 |
| | Farmers fair/Exhibition/Demonstration | 28 | 17.5 |
| 5. | House (N = 160) | | |

| | | | |
|-----------|---|-----|-------|
| | Hut | - | - |
| | Kachcha | 2 | 1.30 |
| | Mixed (Kachcha + Pucca) | 20 | 12.50 |
| | Pucca | 138 | 86.30 |
| 6. | Land holding (in ha) (N = 160) | | |
| | Marginal farmer (Less than 01 ha) | 37 | 23.10 |
| | Small farmer (01- 02 ha) | 53 | 33.10 |
| | Semi-Medium farmer (02-04 ha) | 34 | 21.30 |
| | Medium farmer (04- 10 ha) | 22 | 13.80 |
| | Large farmer (More than 10 ha) | 14 | 8.80 |
| 7. | Income (in rupees) (N = 160) | | |
| | Below 1 Lakh | 39 | 24.40 |
| | Rs. 1 - 1.5 Lakh | 33 | 20.60 |
| | Rs. 1.5 – 2 Lakh | 36 | 22.50 |
| | Above Rs. 2 Lakh | 52 | 32.50 |
| 8. | Social Participation (N = 160) | | |
| | Not any social participation | 57 | 35.60 |
| | Formal institutional membership (Punchayat, Co-operative, Political parties etc.) | 30 | 18.80 |
| | Informal institutional membership (Religious etc.) | 73 | 45.60 |

The data presented in the Table 1 revealed that the maximum respondents (53.10%) were belonging to Upper middle age group (45 to 60 years) followed by 33.8 percent respondents belonging to lower middle age group (30 to 45 years). These results indicate that in spite of several efforts made by government the farming is still not a popular occupation among youngsters.

Table 1 depicts that the maximum number of respondents i.e. 42.10 percent were having educational status up to high school followed by 23.10 percent having

education up to junior high school, 10.00 percent up to intermediate level and 7.50 percent respondents having primary education whereas only 3.20 percent respondents graduated followed by mere 2.50 percent of Post graduate & above.

Table 1 shows that 41.9 percent of the respondents were having low category of household material followed by high category of household material owned by 34.40 percent respondents; whereas, only 23.80 percent respondents observed under medium category of household material possession.

Table 1 depicts that the most of the respondents 95.60 percent were getting information through progressive farmers, neighbors and their relatives which ranked first followed by IInd ranked Input dealers/Government sale centers with 53.75 percent and 40.63 percent respondents were getting information through cooperative societies. 20.00 percent respondents were getting information from extension worker/KVK experts/SAUs/ICAR scientists and only 17.5 percent respondents were receiving information through farmers fair, exhibition, training, meeting and demonstration.

Table 1 regarding type of houses showed that the most of the respondents 86.3 percent possessed pucca house of bricks, concrete and cement. Only 12.50 percent respondents were having mixed (Kachcha + Pucca) housing pattern and remaining 1.30 percent only possessed kachacha houses. Not any respondent was found which live in hut in the study area.

The Table 1 indicates that the highest number of farmers (33.10%) fall under small farmers category followed by marginal farmers (Less than 01 ha) 23.10 percent whereas only 08.8 percent respondents were having large farms (More than 10 hectare).

Table 1 makes it clear that highest number of respondents (32.50%) were

having above 2 lakh annual income followed by 24.40 percent respondents belonging to below 1 lakh level of annual income.

Social participation was taken as a social factor affecting the land use pattern. The Table 1 denotes that the maximum 45.60 percent respondents were the member of informal religious institution like Panth/Guru/Math etc. followed by 35.60 percent respondents having not any social participation and 18.80 percent respondents having the membership of at least one formal institution like Panchayat, Co-operative society, political party etc. The overall picture showed good social participation of the respondents in the study area. Degree of social contact influences the thinking and ultimately behavior of the people resulting adoption level of smart agricultural technologies.

The Table 2 reveals that out of 13 variables studied four variables viz. education, social participation, material possession and information sources had highly significant and positive correlation with extent of knowledge of land use pattern. The variables having non-significant positive relationship were age, housing pattern, land holding annual income and occupation; whereas marital status, type of family and size of family were negatively correlated with general knowledge of land use pattern.

Table 2 Correlation between different independent variables and awareness

| S. No. | Independent Variable | Correlation Coefficient |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Age | 0.054386 |
| 2 | education | 0.21713** |
| 3 | caste | 0.027088 |
| 4 | marital status | -0.00372 |
| 5 | type of family | -0.00372 |

| | | |
|----|----------------------|------------|
| 6 | size of family | -0.01132 |
| 7 | housing pattern | 0.06464 |
| 8 | land holding | 0.039786 |
| 9 | occupation | 0.116867 |
| 10 | annual income | 0.103163 |
| 11 | social participation | 0.320917** |
| 12 | material possession | 0.369126** |
| 13 | Information sources | 0.327653** |

*Significant at 0.05% probability level 0.156

** Significant at 0.01% probability level 0.204

It is obvious from the Table 2 that out of 13 variables studied four variables namely, education, social participation, material possession and information sources, had highly significant and positive correlation and annual income had significantly positive correlation with

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