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Socio-Economic Profile of Sugarcane Growers in District Lakhimpur Kheri, India

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

A Multistage stratified random sampling technique was adopted for the study of 150 farmers selected through proportionate randomly sampling. Through descriptive statistical methodology data was analysed and it was found that maximum 84.06 per cent of marginal farmers were belonging to nuclear family system and 62.32 per cent of them were backward in caste. 21.74 per cent marginal farmers were having education up to high school and 81.16 per cent of marginal farmers were of agriculture practising category. Maximum 37.68 per cent marginal farmers belonged to higher income group followed by 33.33 and 28.99 per cent marginal farmers belonging to lower and higher income groups, respectively. It is suggested that sugarcane is a profitable practice and should be continued for further growth.

Keywords: Sugarcane growers; working efficiency; marginal farmers; socio-economic behaviour.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sugarcane is one of the important commercials led industrial crop in India. It has contributed significantly to the growth of Indian Agriculture and National Gross Domestic Products (GDP). The rural economy in traditional sugarcane growing area is primarily linked with sugarcane crop and sugar or allied industries [1-3]. Sugarcane plays an important role for the general socio-economic development of farming community. With the shrinking land holding size of the farmers in India, it is of utmost important to improve the working efficiency in order to gain maximum returns and ultimately the satisfaction [2-6]. To achieve it is important to use each and every piece of land efficiently and in an appropriate manner. All these require a managerial skill which further depends upon the social know-how of the farmer. Therefore, the factors like the education, age, family size etc., of the farmers become deciding factors in the farm to its success and failure. In rural areas the success of the farm solely depends upon the social endowment of the farmer about the farm and its operation [7-9]. The farm success or failure depends upon the criterion of the practice that how the decisions are being made on the farm, and also how the management decisions of the farm is being taken. Therefore, in this context a study is being made in the Lakhimpur Kheri district regarding the socio-economic behaviour of the Sugarcane growers.

2. ADOPTED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A Multistage stratified purposive cum random sampling technique was used for the study. 150 farmers were selected randomly through proportionate allocation to the population of 02 blocks namely Mohammadi and Kumbhi of district Lakhimpur Kheri. District Lakhimpur Kheri of U.P. was selected purposively because of well acquaintance with the investigator and one of the major sugarcanes growing district of U.P. The primary data was collected from the respondent by using pretested interview schedule by personal contact. Simple averages and mathematical operations were used in analysing the collected data.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Land Holdings

The details of land holding, area under different size group of sample farms is given in Table 1. The average size of land holding on marginal, small and large farms were found 0.78, 1.35, and 2.56 hectares, respectively. The total cultivated area at all categories of sample farms were found in irrigated condition. On an average, size of land holding was estimated at 1.31 hectare and irrigated areas were found 100.00 per cent, respectively.

Hence it can be concluded that area possessed by sample farms were irrigated.

Distribution of cultivated land owned by different size group of sample farms revealed that 27.97 per cent of cultivated land was owned by 46.00 per cent of marginal size of farms. Whereas 36.20 and 35.83 per cent of this area were owned by 35.33 and 18.67 per cent of small and large size group of farms. It shows that land and human labour combination on sample farm are not appropriate.

3.2 Family Type of Sugarcane Growers

It is evident from Table 2, that maximum 84.06 per cent marginal farmers belonged to nuclear family system and 15.94 per cent belonged to joint family system. Similarly, 81.13 per cent small farmers belonged to nuclear family and 18.87 per cent small farmers belonged to joint family. The 89.29 per cent large farmers belonged to nuclear family, 13.64 per cent belonged to joint family. Thus, it is clear from Table-6, that most of the sugarcane growers belonged to nuclear family system.

Table 1. Average size of holding under different size group of sample farms (ha)

Size of sample farms	No. of respondents(N)	Total area(ha)	Percentage (%)	Average size(ha)
Marginal	69	53.89	27.97	0.78
Small	53	71.79	36.20	1.35
Large	28	71.93	35.83	2.57
Total	120	156.93	100	1.31*

Indicate overall average

(Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of total)

3.3 Caste Composition

It is evident from Table 2, that the maximum 62.32 per cent marginal farmers belonged to backward caste followed by 21.74 per cent and 15.94 per cent belonged to scheduled caste and general caste, respectively. In case of small farmers maximum 73.58 per cent belonged to backward caste and 20.75 per cent belonged to scheduled caste and 5.66 per general caste cent belonged to. In case of medium farmers maximum 75.00 per cent belonged to backward caste followed by 14.29 and 10.71 per cent belonged to general caste and scheduled caste, respectively.

Table 2 makes it evident that the majority of sugarcane farmers belonged to a backward caste. It indicates that backward people used sugarcane as a cash crop, which will assist improve the socioeconomic standing of sugarcane growers [10].

3.4 Age of Sugarcane Grower

It is evident from Table 2, that majority 47.83 per cent marginal farmers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group remaining 30.43, 11.59 and 10.14 per cent marginal farmers belonged to lower medium (31-45 years), higher medium (45-60 years) and old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively.

In case of small farmers maximum 45.28 per cent small farmers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group remaining 26.42, 24.53 and 3.77 per cent small farmers belonged to higher medium (46-60 years), lower medium (31-45 years), and old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively. The 42.86 per cent large farmers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group remaining 25.00, 17.86 and 14.29 per cent large farmers belonged to lower medium (31-45 years), higher medium (45-60 years) and old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively.

Thus, it is clear from Table 2 that the overall most of the sugarcane growers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group that is 46.00 per cent, 27.33 per cent belonged to lower medium (31-45 years), 18.00 per cent higher medium (46-60 years) and 8.67 per cent old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively. One could say that young farmers are really eager to grow sugarcane.

3.5 Education Level

Is can be seen from the Table 2, that in marginal group of respondents 21.74 per cent of the sugarcane growers had High school education. Whereas, in small and large group of respondents Intermediate was found in majority i.e., 30.19 and 22.73 per cent.

3.6 Occupation of the Sugarcane Growers

It is evident from Table 2, that majority of the marginal 81.16 per cent, small 81.13 per cent and large farmers 75.00 per cent adopted agriculture as a main occupation whereas 11.59 per cent marginal, 11.32 per cent small and 14.29 per cent large farmers adopted agriculture + business. Also, it was found that the 7.25 per cent marginal, 7.55 per cent small and 10.71 per cent large farmers were doing agriculture + Business + service. Thus, it is clear from Table 2 that the majority (80.00 per cent) of the farmers

Table 2. Socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers

Characteristics	Marginal	Small	Large
Number of respondents(N)	69	53	28
Average land holding size (ha)	0.78	1.35	2.57
Type of Family (in percentage)			
Nuclear	84.06	81.13	89.29
Joint	15.94	18.87	13.64
Caste Category (in percentage)			
General	15.94	5.66	14.29
Backward	62.32	73.58	75.00
Schedule	21.74	20.75	10.71
Mean Age (in percentage)			
24 years	47.83	45.28	42.86
38 years	30.43	24.53	25.00
53 years	11.59	26.42	17.86
Above 60 years	10.14	3.77	14.29

Characteristics	Marginal	Small	Large
Educational status (in percentage)			
Illiterate	13.04	15.09	10.71
Primary	15.94	11.32	13.64
Junior high school	14.49	13.21	18.18
High School	**21.74**	7.55	18.18
Intermediate	13.04	**30.19**	**22.73**
Graduate	17.39	15.09	9.09
Post Graduate and above	4.35	7.55	9.09
Occupation (in percentage)			
Agriculture	81.16	81.13	75.00
Agriculture + Business	11.59	11.32	14.29
Agriculture + Business + Service	7.25	7.55	10.71
Annual Income (in percentage)			
Lower income (Rs. 15000)	33.33	20.75	25.00
Medium Income (Rs. 15001 - 50000)	28.99	**43.40**	**53.57**
Higher (Rs. Above 50000)	**37.68**	35.85	21.43
Cropping Intensity (in percentage)	248.72	245.19	244.92
Net Income for Sugarcane cultivation (Rs.)	**91801.41**	**94094.41**	**109761.49**

were involved in agriculture, only 12.00 per cent farmers adopted Agriculture + Business and only 8.00 per cent farmers adopted Agriculture + Business + Service.

3.7 Annual Income

It is evident from Table 2, that maximum 37.68 per cent marginal farmers belonged to higher income group followed by 33.33 and 28.99 per cent marginal farmers belonged to lower and higher income groups, respectively. In case of small farmers majority 43.40 per cent belonged to medium income group followed by 35.85 per cent and 20.75 per cent belonging to higher and lower income groups, respectively. In case of large farmers majority 53.57 per cent belonged to medium income group followed by 25.00 and 21.43 per cent belonged to lower and higher income groups, respectively.

4. CONCLUSION

- Overall average land holding size was found 1.31 ha and nuclear family ib majority in all size groups.
- Majority in mean age group was 24 years and literacy were found with almost all the respondents (>85 per cent).
- Agriculture was found major occupational practice and majority of farmers were found under medium income group.
- Net returns from sugarcane cultivation were maximum for the large category group of respondents.

5. RECOMMENDATION

From the study of sugarcane growers, it was seen that educated farmers are availing maximum net returns, and also the agriculture was the major occupation in the study area. So, if proper scientific and technological methodology will be adopted which can be better adopted and understood by the literate farmers, the growth in the net sugarcane income can be improved and hence, socio-economic profile can be enhanced.

CONSENT

As per international standard or university standard, respondents' written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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