

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY OF THE FARMERS IN DISTRICT BIJNOR

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Mankind is dependent on the soil either directly or indirectly for food; clothing and shelter. Whatever technological advances may occur in the future, the soil must continue to produce the food necessary for feeding the ever-increasing population of the world. We should maintain general farmers to determine how well new procedures and improved varieties fit together to make a successful farm enterprise. The present study is oriented in such a frame work to find out the resource use pattern and various economic aspects of farmers. The main objectives are:

1. To identify the actual land use pattern adopted by farmers in agriculture.
2. To find out the social and economic status of the farmers.

METHODOLOGY

Two villages viz Peepalsana and Awadhipur were selected under study during 1997-98 by G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Research Station, Nagina, Bijnor. Although no village can be the exact representative of mid-western plain zone but selected villages have many aspects in common with it. The holding of selected villages were pooled and a list of all the house holds was prepared. Their holdings were arranged in ascending order to work out cumulative frequency. Finally, according to their land holding, the house holds were categorized into three groups as marginal and small (up to 2 ha) semi-medium (2-4 ha) and medium (4-10 ha). Twenty five percent of the farmers of each category were selected at random under study.

Data on general information, family structure and size of holding, major farm assets cropping pattern and production, crop wise land utilization, critical resources used on major crops and constraints faced in raising productivity were collected in a schedule designed for the study through personal interview. Their analysis was based on the simple budgeting technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the study undertaken, it was observed that average number of family members was 7.6, with in a range of 7 to 8 (Table-1). The overall average land holding size of sample farmers came to 3.15 ha, varying from 0.79 hectares on the marginal and small to 6.13 hectares on the medium one. The overall cropping intensity was 140.55 in a range of 121.40 to 162.19. Average number of animals per family varied from 4.4 to 8.7. Percent irrigated area was higher with semi-medium and medium as compared to marginal and small farms. Lower availability of source of irrigation observed with marginal and small farms as compared to semi medium farms. Availability of house hold equipments was found higher percentage with semi-medium and medium as compared to marginal and small farmers.

The overall efficiency of cultivation is largely influenced by the quantum and combination of various yield enhancing factors and labour inputs. The levels of fertilizers,

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It is apparent from Table-3 that on an average cropped area varied from 0.45 to 1.15 hectare under rice, 0.58 to 1.57 hectare in wheat and 0.90 to 4.05 hectare in sugarcane. The overall average production of rice, wheat and sugarcane was 43.29, 31.52 and 540.89 q/ha respectively. The overall efficiency of cultivation is largely influenced by the quantum and combination of various crops.

Table-3 : Land use pattern and production

Particulars	Marginal and small (upto 2 ha) n=39	Semi-medium (2-4 ha) n=11	Medium (4-10 ha) n=5	Overall Average n=55
Average cropped area (ha)				
Rice	0.45	0.98	1.15	0.86
Wheat	0.58	1.14	1.57	1.09
Sugarcane	0.90	1.26	4.05	2.07
Average production (q/ha)				
Rice	41.39	42.42	46.08	43.29
Wheat	28.07	31.19	35.32	31.52
Sugarcane	513.88	509.19	599.61	540.89

The prevailing market price of produces along with cost of input factors during the year of conduct of survey were taken into account for each measuring units. It is apparent from the Table-4 that overall average value of gross output per hectare in rice, wheat and sugarcane worked out to Rs. 27, 228, Rs. 18,269 and Rs. 38, 943 respectively. The overall average cost of production per hectare in rice, wheat and sugarcane worked out to be Rs. 11,397, Rs. 10,927 and Rs. 21,649 respectively, which showed a rising trend with increase in land holding size.

Table-4 : Value of gross output, cost of production and Net benefit per hectare

Particulars	Marginal and small (upto 2 ha) n=39	Semi-medium (2-4 ha) n=11	Medium (4-10 ha) n=5	Overall Average n=55
Average value of gross output (Rs)				
Rice	24834 (1250)	25452 (1250)	27648 (1250)	25978 (1250)
Wheat	14035 (2240)	15595 (2280)	17660 (2800)	15763 (2506)
Sugarcane	36999	36661	43171	38943
Average cost of production (Rs)				
Rice	9939	11459	12795	11397
Wheat	9891	11419	11471	10927
Sugarcane	20542	21382	23024	21649
Net benefit (Rs)				
Rice	14895	15243	16103	15413
Wheat	6384	6656	8989	7343
Sugarcane	16457	15279	20147	17294

Rice - Rs. 600 /q, Rice straw - Rs. 1250 /ha, Wheat - Rs. 500 /q, Wheat straw - Rs. 80/q
Sugarcane - Rs. 72 /q

Figures in parentheses refer to value of straw

This increasing trend on total input cost with an increase in farm size was associated with greater investment by the farmers on most of the input factors. It is due to the facts that the farmers of semi-medium and medium groups were financially capable to invest on tractor, power and plant protection measures, where as marginal and small farmers were handicapped in investing on these items due to their meagre financial resources. The net benefit value from rice, wheat and sugarcane was received Rs. 15,413, Rs. 7,343 and Rs. 17,294 respectively towards the cost of cultivation without rental value of land.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the farm resources were best utilized in medium category of farmers as compared to semi-medium and small ones in rice, wheat and sugarcane crops.
