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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND FARM STRUCTURE BETWEEN MILLET AND NON-MILLET GROWERS IN BUNDELKHAND REGION OF UTTAR PRADESH INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The current study compares the socioeconomic profile, farm structure, and cropping pattern of millet and non-millet growers in the Bundelkhand region. Primary data were collected from eighteen villages from three districts of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh namely Banda, Chitrakoot and Jalaun districts. A proportionate random sample of 360 respondents were selected for study. It was observed that, small and marginal millet growers and non-millet growers constitute for more than (60%) of the sample and dominated in both the groups. Majority of growers were observed middle-aged, as per the age group composition, whereas educational attainment differed greatly among farm sizes. Scheduled cast category farmers (40.78%) were from to be dominated in millet growing farmers followed by other bearings cast farmers (32.56%) whereas OBC category farmers (45.56%) were dominated over scheduled caste farmers (37.22%) in non-millet grower farmers, according to caste composition. Any size of land holdings is higher for millet growing farmers for all the category over non-millet growing farmers. The overall average land holdings for millet growing farmers were found (3.10 hectare) followed by average land holdings for non-millet growing farmers (2.93 hectare). As per the cropping pattern is concerned all the category of millet growing farmers were having higher gross cropped area i.e. 1.3 ha., 2.77 ha. 4.88 ha. And 10.52 ha. For marginal, small, medium and large category of farmers respectively over the non-millet growing farmer who had gross cropped area as 1.33 ha., 2.54 ha., 4.61 ha. and 9.13 ha. respectively for marginal, small. Medium, and large category of farmers. Looking into the cropping intensity again the millet growing farmers were having higher cropping intensity (160%) over the non-millet growing farmers (151 %).

***Keywords*:** Bundelkhand region, Farm structure, Millets growers, Non-millets growers, Socio-economic profile.

Introduction

Millets have emerged again as crucial crops in sustainable agriculture and pastoral subsistence due to their resiliency to climatic pressing, low input requirements, and high nutritional value. In India, especially in semi-arid regions like Bundelkhand (Uttar Pradesh), millets are gaining re-established attention as a resolution to address food insecurity, degradation of soil, and farmer difficulty (Kumar *et al.,* 2020). Despite government initiatives such as the *National Millet Mission* and inclusion of millets in the *Public Distribution System (PDS)*, the acquisition of millet cultivation remains uneven across regions and socio-economic groups (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, 2023).

Bundelkhand region is characterized by inconsistency rainfall, poor irrigation infrastructure and break up landholdings. It offering an insightful context

for investigate the socio-economic and structural determinants influencing crop choice (Mishra & Tripathi *et al.,* 2019). Studies indicate that millet growers often belong to marginal and smallholder categories, possessing limited access to institutional credit, irrigation, and technology (Patel & Chauhan *et al*., 2022). In contrast, non-millet growers in the same agro-ecological conditions tend to rely on water-intensive crops such as wheat and paddy, often exacerbating resource depletion (Reddy & Swain *et al*., 2021).

A comparative analysis of the socio-economic variables and farm structures of millet and non-millet growers can clarify disparities in resource use, income diversity, and sustainability results. Such a study is vital for work out selected policies that improve the viability of millet-based farming systems while enhancing the liveliness of smallholders in water-scarcity regions (Singh *et al*., 2022). Understanding these disparities can guide agricultural planning toward climate-resilient and inclusive development models in Bundelkhand and similar agro-climatic zones (Singh & Mehta *et al*., 2020).

Farmers' adoption of sustainable agricultural practices in India is importantly influenced by socioeconomic factors like educational status, farm size, income, and access to extension services. According to their research, farmers that are well-informed and have abundant resources are more likely to use environment friendly technologies (Singh & Kumar *et al*., 2019). In addition, through policy initiatives proposed during the International Year of Millets 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (2023) highlighted the national importance of millets (Sharma *et al*., 2021). By encouraging millet broadening throughout India's different agro-ecological areas, these programs seek to advanced sustainable farming, nutritional security, and farmers' livelihoods (Tripathi *et al*., 2020).

Materials and Methods

Geographical Profile

The Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh is located in the southern part of the state and forms a part of the larger Bundelkhand plateau that extends into Madhya Pradesh. It includes districts such as Jhansi, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, and Mahoba. The region is known for its unique geographical setting, marked by rocky terrain, uneven landforms, and granite outcrops, which give it a rugged appearance.

The climate of Bundelkhand is semi-arid, characterized by extremely hot summers, a short monsoon season, and relatively cool winters. Rainfall is low and highly irregular, often leading to drought conditions. This makes agriculture difficult and heavily dependent on the monsoon. The soils are mostly red and black, but they are not very fertile in many parts due to erosion and poor water retention capacity.

Several important rivers flow through Bundelkhand, including the Yamuna, Betwa, Ken, and Dhasan. These rivers play a crucial role in irrigation and support the livelihood of the local population. However, due to inadequate water management and declining groundwater levels, water scarcity remains a serious issue.

Natural vegetation in the region is sparse, consisting mainly of dry deciduous forests with species like neem, babul, and dhak. The region is also rich in minerals such as granite and limestone.

Overall, Bundelkhand's geographical profile reflects a region of contrasts rich in natural and historical heritage but facing persistent environmental challenges like drought, soil degradation, and limited agricultural productivity, which significantly affect the socio-economic conditions of its people.

Methodology

The current study was carried out in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh State, which is known for its rainfed agriculture and high proportion of small and marginal farmers category. Primary data from a sample of 360 farm households-180 millet growers and 180 non-millet growers-formed the basis of the study. A multistage random sampling technique was used to pick out farmers, guaranteeing adequate representation of region.

Based on their operational landholdings, the selected farmers were classified into category marginal, small, medium, and large farms. Primary data was collected through in-personal interviews using a pre structured interview schedule, data on socioeconomic variables such age, education, caste, family composition, annual income, and landholding size were collected. For the agricultural year under investigation, information on cropping patterns and the land distribution under different crops was grown in hectares. For every size group of millet and non-millet growers, the total cropped area and net cultivated area were calculated. Cropping intensity was determined using the conventional formula.

In order to make it easier to compare millet and non-millet growers across different size groups of farms, the collected data was tabulated and analysed using fundamentals statistical tools like averages and

percentages. Tables 1,2 and 3 show the differences in socio-economic profile cropping pattern, and cropping intensity.

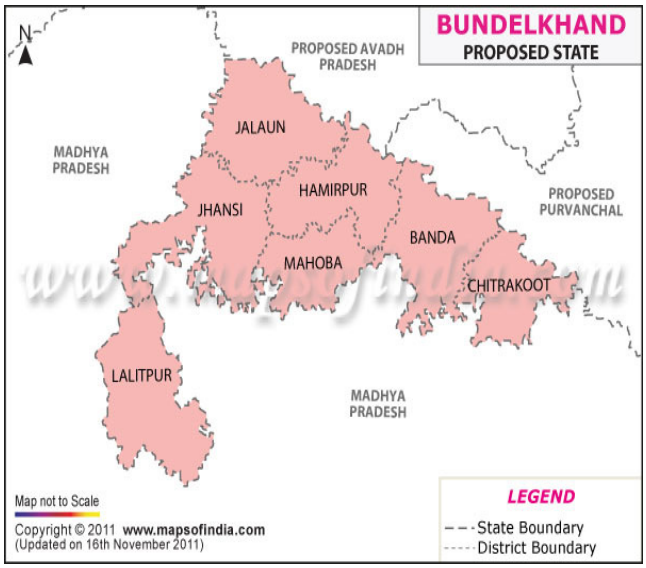

Fig. 1: Map of Study area

Results and Discussion

Socio-economic profile of millet and non-millet growers

Distribution of Total Farmers

Table 1 presented the distribution of millet and non-millet growers across different farm size groups. The data shows that a majority of farmers were in both categories belongs to the marginal and small farm groups. Between millet growers, marginal farmers were made up the largest share with 69 farmers (38.33%), followed by small farmers 47 (26.11%), medium farmers 43 (23.89%), and large farmers 21 (11.67%). Similarly, between non-millet growers, marginal farmers were also dominated with 71 farmers (39.44%), followed by medium farmers 47 (26.11%), small farmers 43 (23.89%), and large farmers 19 (10.56%). Overall, the samples consisted of 360 farmers, including 180 millet growers and 180 non-millet growers were indicating that marginal farmers represented the largest proportion in the study area, while large farmers were form the smallest group.

Age Distribution

Table 2 shows the age distribution of millet and non-millet growers across different farm size groups. The results indicated that the majority of farmers were in both groups fall in the middle age category (41–65 years). Among millet growers, 127 farmers (70.56%) belongs to the middle age group, followed by 32 farmers (17.78%) in the old age group (>65 years) and 21 farmers (11.67%) in the young age group (≤40 years). A similar pattern was observed among non-millet growers, where 134 farmers (74.44%) were in the middle age category, 30 farmers (16.67%) were old, and 16 farmers (8.89%) were young. Across all farm size groups, middle-aged farmers dominated, were indicating that the farming population in the study area was largely composed of experienced and economically active farmers, while the proportion of young farmers was relatively low (Lalita *et al*., 2022).

Educational Status

Table 3 presented the educational status of millet and non-millet growers across different farm size groups. The results was revealed that a considerable proportion of farmers have low levels of formal education. Among millet growers, the largest group was illiterate farmers (63 farmers, 35.00%), followed by those educated up to primary level (49 farmers, 27.22%). Farmers with matriculation and intermediate education each account for 27 farmers (15.00%), while only 14 farmers (7.78%) had graduation and above qualifications. A similar trend was observed among non-millet growers, where the majority had education up to primary level (56 farmers, 31.11%), followed by illiterate farmers (54 farmers, 30.00%). Farmers with matriculation education constitute 31 farmers (17.22%), while 26 farmers (14.44%) had intermediate education and only 13 farmers (7.22%) had graduation and above. Overall, the table was indicated that most farmers in the study area possess basic or limited education, with relatively fewer farmers attaining higher education levels.

Family Composition

Table 4 shows the family composition of millet and non-millet growers according to different farm size groups. The data indicated that male members constitute the largest proportion of family members in both groups. Among millet growers, males account for 42.72%, followed by females 31.63% and children 25.64% of the total family members. A similar pattern was observed among non-millet growers, where male members represented 46.25%, followed by female members (34.56%) and children (19.19%) (Sreeramaiah *et al.* 2013). Overall, the results suggested that male members dominated the family structure of farming households in the study area, while the proportion of children was comparatively lower. The average family size was 32 members for millet growers and 30 members for non-millet growers across all farm size groups.

Caste Composition

Table 5 presented the caste composition of millet and non-millet growers across different farm size

groups. The results shows that Other Backward Classes (OBC) constituted the largest proportion of farmers in both categories. Among millet growers, OBC farmers accounted for 73 farmers (40.56%), followed by SC/ST farmers with 59 farmers (32.78%), while general caste farmers represented 48 farmers (26.67%). It was also observed that SC/ST farmers were more concentrated in the marginal farm category. Similarly, among non-millet growers, OBC farmers form the largest group with 82 farmers (45.56%), followed by SC/ST farmers with 67 farmers (37.22%), while general caste farmers account for 31 farmers (17.22%). Overall, the table indicated that OBC farmers dominated the farming community in the study area, whereas general caste farmersed a comparatively smaller proportion (Maurya *et al*., 2024).

Annual Income

Table 6 shows the annual income distribution of millet and non-millet growers across different farm size groups. The results revealed that income levels increase with the size of landholding. Among millet growers, most marginal farmers fall in the up to Rs. 1,00,000 income group (45 farmers), while the majority of small farmers earn Rs. 1,00,000– Rs. 2,00,000 (40 farmers). Medium farmers were mainly concentrated in the Rs. 2,00,000– Rs. 3,00,000 income category (21 farmers) and Rs. 3,00,000– Rs. 4,00,000 category (12 farmers), whereas most large farmers earn above Rs. 4,00,000 annually (21 farmers). The total annual income of millet growers in the sample was Rs. 36,914,216. In the case of non-millet growers, 47 marginal farmers fall in the up to Rs. 1,00,000 income group, while most small farmers earn Rs. 1,00,000– Rs. 2,00,000 (35 farmers). Medium farmers were mainly distributed in the Rs. 2,00,000– Rs. 3,00,000 income category (29 farmers), whereas all large farmers (19 farmers) fall in the above Rs. 4,00,000 income group. The total annual income of non-millet growers was Rs. 41,074,730. Overall, the table indicated that farm size had a positive relationship with farmers' income, and the figures in parentheses represented the total income (in rupees) of farmers in each category.

Land Holdings

Table 7 presented the average land holdings of millet and non-millet growers across different farm size groups. The results shows clear differences in landholding size among the categories of farmers. Among millet growers, the average landholding was 0.78 ha for marginal farmers, 1.75 ha for small farmers, 3.13 ha for medium farmers, and 6.74 ha for large farmers, with a total average of 12.40 ha. Similarly, among non-millet growers, the average landholding was 0.77 ha for marginal farmers, 1.73 ha for small farmers, 3.04 ha for medium farmers, and 6.21 ha for large farmers, with a total of 11.21 ha. Overall, the combined average landholding of both millet and non-millet growers was 24.15 ha, indicating that landholding size increased progressively from marginal to large farmers in the study area (Chapke *et al*., 2022).

Cropping Pattern and Resource use efficiency under Different Size Groups of Millet and Non-Millet Growers

Table 8 presented the cropping pattern and resource use efficiency of millet and non-millet growers under different farm size groups. The results shows that cereals occupy the largest share of the gross cropped area in both groups. Among millet growers, cereals cover 58.63% of the total cropped area, followed by pulses (32.89%), while oilseeds, vegetables, and fodder crops occupy relatively smaller proportions (3.77%, 2.31%, and 2.39%, respectively) (Sharma *et al*., 2025). The overall gross cropped area for millet growers was 3.61 ha, with an average landholding of 2.26 ha, resulting in a cropping intensity of 157.64%. Similarly, among non-millet growers, cereals also dominated the cropping pattern with 58.29% of the total cropped area, followed by pulses (31.69%), while oilseeds, vegetables, and fodder crops account for 3.96%, 3.58%, and 2.57%, respectively. The gross cropped area for non-millet growers was 3.30 ha, with an average landholding of 2.17 ha, leading to a cropping intensity of 152.53%. Overall, the results indicated that cereals and pulses were the major crops grown in the study area, and millet growers exhibit slightly higher cropping intensity compared to non-millet growers.

Comparative Analysis

The comparative analysis of the socio-economic characteristics of millet and non-millet growers (Tables 1–8) shows that marginal farmers dominated the sample, accounting for 38.33% of millet growers and 39.44% of non-millet growers, while large farmers represent 11.67% and 10.56%, respectively. In terms of age composition, most farmers belonged to the middle age group (41–65 years), comprising 70.56% of millet growers and 74.44% of non-millet growers. The educational status indicated that a large proportion of farmers had low education levels. Among millet growers, 35.00% were illiterate, while among non-millet growers 30.00% were illiterate, and the majority were educated up to the primary level (27.22% and 31.11%, respectively). The family composition shows

that male members constituted the largest share, accounting for 42.72% in millet growers and 46.25% in non-millet growers. The caste composition revealed that OBC farmers dominated, representing 40.56% of millet growers and 45.56% of non-millet growers, followed by SC/ST (32.78% and 37.22%). In terms of income, marginal farmers mostly fall in the up to Rs. 1,00,000 income group, while most large farmers earn above Rs. 4,00,000 annually. The total annual income recorded is Rs. 36,914,216 for millet growers and Rs. 41,074,730 for non-millet growers. The average landholding increased with farm size, ranging from 0.78 ha to 6.74 ha for millet growers and 0.77 ha to 6.21 ha for non-millet growers. Regarding the cropping pattern, cereals occupied the largest share of the cropped area (58.63% for millet growers and 58.29% for non-millet growers), followed by pulses (32.89% and 31.69%, respectively). The cropping intensity was slightly higher for millet growers (157.64%) compared to non-millet growers (152.53%), indicating relatively better land utilization among millet farmers.

Table 1 : Farmer Distribution of Millet and Non-millet growers of different size group of farms.

S.N.	Particulars	Size Group of Farms				
		Marginal	**Small**	**Medium**	**Large**	**Total**
1	**Farmers (Millet Growers)**	69 (38.33)	47 (26.11)	43 (23.89)	21 (11.67)	180 (100.00)
2	**Farmers (Non-Millet Growers)**	71 (39.44)	43 (23.89)	47 (26.11)	19 (10.56)	180 (100.00)
Total		140	90	90	40	360

Table 2 : Age Distribution of Millet and Non-millet growers of different size group of farms.

S.N.	Particulars	Size Groups of farms				
		Marginal	**Small**	**Medium**	**Large**	**Total**
A.	**Age composition (Millet Grower)**					
1	Young (≤ 40 years)	6 (8.70)	9 (19.15)	4 (9.30)	2 (10.53)	21 (11.67)
2	Middle (41–65 years)	52 (75.36)	31 (65.96)	30 (69.77)	14 (73.68)	127 (70.56)
3	Old (> 65 years)	11 (15.94)	7 (14.89)	9 (20.93)	5 (26.32)	32 (17.78)
Total		69	47	43	21	180
B.	**Age composition (Non-Millet Grower)**					
1	Young (≤ 40 years)	7 (9.86)	4 (9.30)	4 (8.51)	1 (5.26)	16 (8.89)
2	Middle (41–65 years)	52 (73.24)	31 (72.09)	37 (78.72)	14 (73.68)	134 (74.44)
3	Old (> 65 years)	12 (16.90)	8 (18.60)	6 (12.77)	4 (21.06)	30 (16.67)
Total		71	43	47	19	180

Table 3 : Educational Status of Millet and Non-millet growers of different size group of farms.

S.N.	Particulars	Size Groups of farms				
		Marginal	**Small**	**Medium**	**Large**	**Total**
A.	**Educational Status (Millet Grower)**					
1	Illiterate	24 (34.78)	13 (27.66)	20 (46.51)	6 (28.57)	63 (35.00)
2	Up to primary	19 (27.54)	13 (27.66)	10 (23.26)	7 (33.33)	49 (27.22)
3	Matriculation	9 (13.04)	10 (21.28)	7 (16.28)	1 (4.76)	27 (15.00)
4	Intermediate	13 (18.84)	6 (12.77)	3 (6.98)	5 (23.81)	27 (15.00)
5	Graduation and above	4 (5.80)	5 (10.64)	3 (6.98)	2 (9.52)	14 (7.78)
Total		69	43	47	21	180

B.	Educational Status (Non-Millet Growers)					
1	Illiterate	21 (29.58)	12 (27.91)	16 (34.04)	5 (26.32)	54 (30.00)
2	Up to primary	19 (26.76)	15 (34.88)	13 (27.66)	9 (47.37)	56 (31.11)
3	Matriculation	10 (14.08)	7 (16.28)	11 (23.40)	3 (15.79)	31 (17.22)
4	Intermediate	15 (21.13)	6 (13.95)	4 (8.51)	1 (5.26)	26 (14.44)
5	Graduation and above	6 (8.45)	3 (6.98)	3 (6.38)	1 (5.26)	13 (7.22)
Total		71	47	43	19	180

Table 4 : Family Composition of Millet and Non-millet growers of different size group of farms.

S.N.	Particulars	Size Groups of farms				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Total
A.	Family size (Millets Growers)					
1	Male	3 (40.79)	4 (42.90)	4 (42.09)	3 (45.29)	14 (42.72)
2	Female	2 (30.14)	3 (31.62)	3 (32.62)	2 (32.08)	10 (31.63)
3	Children	2 (29.06)	2 (25.49)	2 (25.26)	2 (22.65)	8 (25.64)
Total		7	9	9	7	32
B.	Family size (Non-Millet Growers)					
1	Male	3 (43.83)	5 (47.63)	5 (46.23)	5 (47.30)	18 (46.25)
2	Female	3 (32.06)	4 (34.54)	3 (35.27)	4 (36.40)	14 (34.56)
3	Children	2 (24.11)	2 (17.83)	2 (18.50)	2 (16.30)	8 (19.19)
Total		8	11	10	11	30

Table 5 : Caste Composition of Millet and Non-millet growers of different size group of farms.

S.N.	Particulars	Size Groups of farms				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Total
A.	Cast Composition (Millet Growers)					
1	General	10 (14.49)	9 (19.15)	16 (37.21)	13 (61.90)	48 (26.67)
2	OBC	18 (26.09)	22 (46.81)	25 (58.14)	8 (38.10)	73 (40.56)
3	SC/ST	41 (59.42)	16 (34.04)	2 (4.65)	0 (0.00)	59 (32.78)
Total		69	47	43	21	180
B.	Cast Composition (Non-Millet Growers)					
1	General	10 (14.08)	5 (11.63)	10 (21.28)	6 (31.58)	31 (17.22)
2	OBC	24 (33.80)	19 (44.19)	29 (61.70)	10 (52.63)	82 (45.56)
3	SC/ST	37 (52.11)	19 (44.19)	8 (17.02)	3 (15.79)	67 (37.22)
Total		71	43	47	19	180

Table 6 : Annual Income of Millet and Non-millet growers of different size group of farms.

S.N.	Particulars	Size Groups of farms				
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Total
A.	**Annual Income (Millet Growers)**					
1	Up to 100000 (Rs.)	45 (2605277)	1 (79852)	-	-	46 (2613262)
2	100000–200000 (Rs.)	24 (2878772)	40 (6104883)	7 (1625119)	-	71 (10608774)
3	200000–300000 (Rs.)	-	6 (1345764)	21 (5244976)	-	27 (6590740)
4	300000–400000 (Rs.)	-	-	12 (3214767)	-	12 (3214767)
5	Above 400000 (Rs.)	-	-	3 (1279270)	21 (12535535)	24 (13814805)
Total		69 (5484049)	47 (7530499)	43 (11364133)	21 (12535535)	180 (36914216)
B.	**Annual Income (Non-Millet Growers)**					
1	Up to 100000	47 (3255142)	2 (848473)	-	-	49 (4103615)
2	100000–200000	24 (3033930)	35 (4304095)	10 (1895147)	-	65 (9233172)
3	200000–300000	-	6 (463082)	29 (7018908)	-	34 (7481990)
4	300000–400000	-	-	8 (2570846)	-	13 (2570846)
5	Above 400000	-	-	-	19 (10049107)	19 (10049107)
Total		71 (6289072)	43 (13251650)	47 (11484901)	19 (10049107)	180 (41074730)

Note: Figures in parentheses represent the total income (in rupees.) of farmers

Table 7 : Land Holdings of Millet and Non-millet growers of different size group of farms.

Particulars	Size Groups of farms				
	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Land Holdings (Millet Growers)					
Average landholding (ha.)	0.78	1.75	3.13	6.74	12.40
Land Holdings (Millet Growers)					
Average landholding (ha.)	0.77	1.73	3.04	6.21	11.21
Total	1.55	3.48	6.17	12.95	24.15

Table 8 : Cropping Pattern and Resource use efficiency under different size groups of millet and non-millet growers (ha.)

Sl. No.	Crops	Average size of sample farms				Overall average
		Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	
Millet Growers						
1.	Cereals (Millet Growers)	0.80 (61.11)	1.42 (51.46)	3.08 (63.15)	6.05 (57.54)	2.12 (58.63)
2.	Pulses (Millet Growers)	0.37 (28.33)	1.05 (38.16)	1.44 (29.49)	3.67 (34.89)	1.19 (32.89)
3.	Oilseed (Millet Growers)	0.04 (3.06)	0.12 (4.24)	0.15 (2.98)	0.48 (4.53)	0.14 (3.77)
4.	Vegetables (Millet Growers)	0.04 (3.33)	0.08 (2.89)	0.11 (2.27)	0.17 (1.59)	0.08 (2.31)
5.	Fodder crops (Millet Growers)	0.05 (4.17)	0.09 (3.28)	0.10 (2.03)	0.15 (1.47)	0.09 (2.39)
Gross Cropped Area (Millet Growers)		1.30 (100.00)	2.76 (100.00)	4.87 (100.00)	10.51 (100.00)	3.61 (100.00)
Average Land Holdings		0.78	1.75	3.13	6.74	2.26
Cropping Intensity (%)		166.67	157.71	155.59	155.93	157.64

Non-millet Growers						
1.	Cereals (Non-millet Growers)	0.88 (65.92)	1.58 (62.03)	2.83 (61.25)	4.38 (47.99)	1.92 (58.29)
2.	Pulses (Non-millet Growers)	0.33 (24.89)	0.68 (26.78)	1.23 (26.71)	4.08 (44.68)	1.05 (31.69)
3.	Oilseed (Non-millet Growers)	0.03 (2.38)	0.13 (5.26)	0.20 (4.38)	0.32 (3.46)	0.13 (3.96)
4.	Vegetables (Non-millet Growers)	0.05 (3.71)	0.10 (3.89)	0.20 (4.38)	0.21 (2.31)	0.12 (3.58)
5.	Fodder crops (Non-millet Growers)	0.04 (3.18)	0.05 (2.06)	0.15 (3.34)	0.14 (1.59)	0.08 (2.57)
Gross Cropped Area (Non-millet Growers)		1.33 (100.00)	2.54 (100.00)	4.62 (100.00)	9.13 (100.00)	3.30 100.00)
Average Land Holdings		0.77	1.73	3.04	6.21	2.17
Cropping Intensity (%)		172.73	146.60	152.11	147.17	152.53

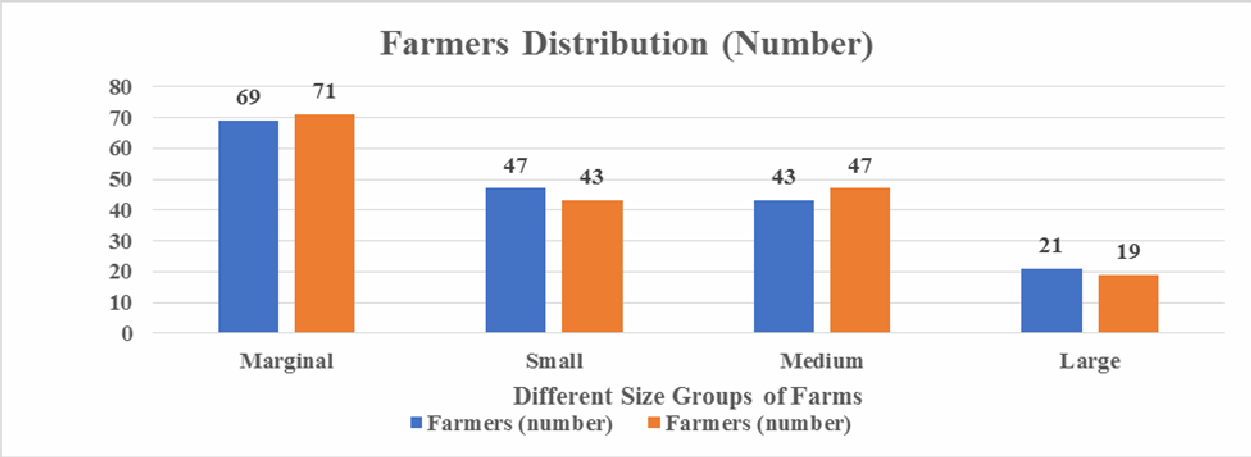

Fig. 2 : Selection of farmers under different size groups of millet and non-millet growers

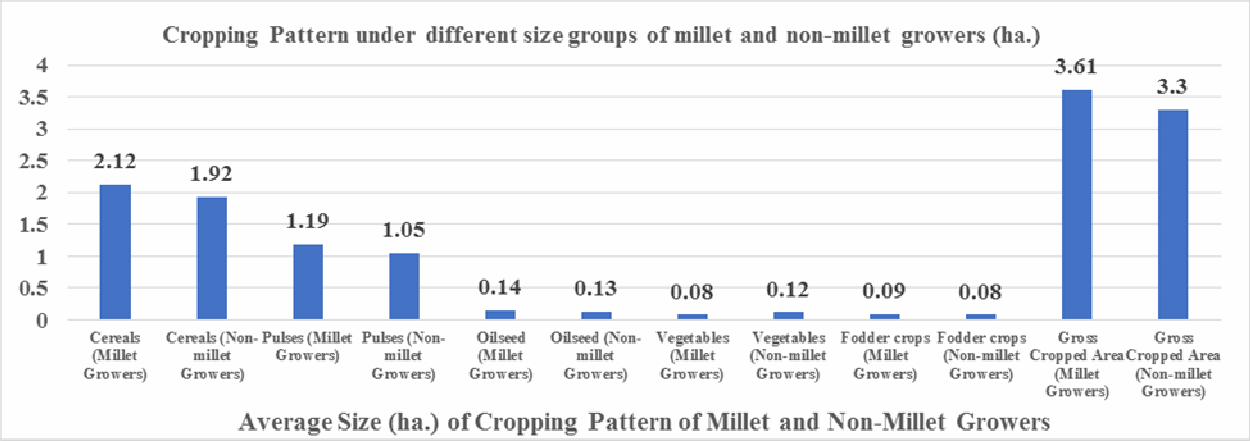

Fig. 3 : Cropping Pattern under different size groups of millet and non-millet growers (ha.)

Conclusion

The findings clearly shows that both millet and non-millet cultivation is mainly carried out by small and marginal farmers, with around 38–39 percent belonging to the marginal category. Most farmers were in the middle age group (about 71% in millet and 74% in non-millet), indicating that farming was largely managed by experienced and active individuals. Educational levels was generally low in both groups, though illiteracy was slightly higher among millet growers (35%) than non-millet growers (30%). OBC farmers form the largest social group in both categories. Millet growers had a slightly higher average landholding (2.29 ha) compared to non-millet

growers (2.17 ha) and also show higher cropping intensity (157.64%). Overall, while the socio-economic conditions of both groups were quite similar, millet growers appear to had marginally better land use efficiency and income representation in higher income categories.

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