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PERSONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE ORGANIC FARMERS

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Ratnagiri district of Konkan region. From Ratnagiri district Dapoli and Khed tahsil were selected purposively and Villages were selected with the help of list obtained from SDAO, Dapoli. Velavi, Dabhil villages of Dapoli Ayani and Vadi-malade villages in khed tahsil selected. In all there were 180 organic farmers in the selected villages. From each village 25 respondents were selected randomly for the study. An interview schedule was specially designed, in line with the objectives, to collect the needed information. The research design ex post facto were used. The analysis of profile of the organic farmers indicates that majority of them belonged to middle age (56.00%), secondary education (8th to10th standard) (38.00%), medium family size (53.00%), small land holding (38.00%), medium annual income (78.00%), medium livestock possession (60.00%), medium organic farming experience (69.00%), medium mass media exposure (54.00%), medium social participation (56.00%), medium innovativeness (50.00%),high knowledge (50%) and medium organic farming practices (72.00%)

Keywords : Organic farming, Attitude, Knowledge and Practices related to organic farming

Introduction

The Indian economy is regarded as being based primarily on agriculture. Its population is made up of about 80% rural residents and agricultural workers. Organic agriculture has grown significantly in importance in recent years. Organic farming is becoming more and more popular, and it is currently carried out in the majority of nations.

“Indian agricultural sector is in distress with reducing profitability due to rising cost of inputs and stagnant output prices. These twin problems of agricultural can be effectively tackled by the wider adoption of organic agriculture”(Seufert *et al*., 2012).

In India, organic farming is becoming more and more significant due to the growing concerns about the usage of artificial pesticides and fertilisers. Although genetically modified crops (GMOs) may generate very high levels, people are not yet ready to trust these foods and their long-term impacts are unknown. Aside from this, the global demand for organic food has increased significantly. By encouraging these organic agricultural methods, India will only be in a better position to benefit from the enormous export potential of these goods. The Indian government has chosen to implement the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana with these in mind. The National Mission of Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) subcomponent "Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" aims to develop sustainable models of organic farming through a combination of traditional wisdom and modern science to ensure long-term soil fertility buildup, resource conservation, and aid in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Its main goal is to improve soil fertility, which in turn aids in the production of nutritious food using organic methods devoid of the usage of agrochemicals.

It has been discovered that knowledge has a significant role in farmers adopting advised methods.

Nonetheless, there is a dearth of empirical data supporting farmers' understanding of organic farming methods. Thus, evaluating farmers' attitudes towards organic farming in light of their personal and socioeconomic backgrounds has emerged as a crucial problem that requires investigation.

Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out in the Ratnagiri district of Kokan region of Maharashtra state during the year 2019- 2020. There were nine tahsils in Ratnagiri district, out of which Khed and Dapoli tahsils were selected purposively. Villages were chosen using a list that was acquired from SDAO, Dapoli. The highest concentration of organic farmers, according to the list, could be found in the villages of Velavi and Dabhil in Dapoli tahsil, as well as Ayani and Vadi- malade in khed tahsil. In the chosen communities, there were 180 organic farmers in all. From each village 25 respondents were selected randomly for study. For estimating the research Ex-post-facto research design was used forthe study.

The data collected with the help of pretested interview schedule. The schedule was administered in local language. The independent variables, namely, age, Education, Size of family Occupation, Farm size, Annual income, Livestockpossession, Organic farming experience, Mass media exposure, Participation in social organization, Innovativeness, knowledge and practice related organic farming were selected for this study. The attitude towards organic farming as a dependent variable has been selected for this study.

The suitable statistical tools used were *viz*., The statistical methods and tests such as percentage, frequency, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, chi square test and correlation coefficient were used for the analysis of the data. The results of the study presented in Table no 1 as follows.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the farmers according to their organic farming profile.

Sr.	Profile	Frequency	Per cent
1	**Age**		
	Young (Up to 45 years)	26	26.00
	Middle (46 to 66 years)	56	56.00
	Old (67 and above years)	18	18.00
2	**Education**		
	Illiterate (no education)	02	02.00
	Pre-primary (Up to 4th standard)	14	14.00
	Primary school ((5th to 7th standard)	27	27.00
	Secondary (8th to 10th standard)	38	38.00
	Higher secondary (11th to 12th standard)	13	13.00
	Graduate (13th and above)	6	06.00
3	**Family size**		
	Small (Up to 3 members)	30	30.00
	Medium (4 to 6 members)	53	53.00
	Big (7 & above members)	17	17.00
4	**Farm size**		
	Marginal (Up to 1 ha.)	26	26.00
	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha.)	38	38.00
	Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha.)	18	18.00
	Semi medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha.)	17	17.00
	Big (10.01 ha. and above)	1	01.00
5	**Annual income**		
	Low (Up to Rs. 25000/-)	8	08.00
	Medium (Rs. 25001 to Rs. 2,00,000/-)	78	78.00
	High (Rs. 2,00,000 & above)	14	14.00
6.	**Livestock possession**		
	Low (Up to 5)	23	23.00
	Medium (6 to 14)	60	60.00
	High (15 and above)	17	17.00

7	**Organic farming experience**		
	Low (Up to 2 years)	04	04.00
	Medium (3 to 5 years)	69	69.00
	High (5 years & above)	27	27.00
8	**Mass media exposure**		
	Low (Up to 8)	29	29.00
	Medium (9 to 10)	54	54.00
	High (11 and above)	17	17.00
9	**Social Participation**		
	Low (Up to 4)	23	23.00
	Medium (5 to 9)	56	56.00
	High (10 and above)	21	21.00
10	**Innovativeness**		
	Low (Up to 32)	26	26.00
	Medium (33 to 40)	50	50.00
	High (41 and above)	24	24.00
11	**Knowledge level**		
	Low (Up to 8)	13	13.00
	Medium (9 to 10)	37	37.00
	High (11 and above)	50	50.00
12	**Organic farming practices**		
	Low (Up to 12)	13	13.00
	Medium (13 to 18)	72	72.00
	High (19 and above)	15	15.00

Age

As per as Age concern majority (56.00 per cent) of the respondents were in the 'middle' age group, while 26.00 per cent of the respondents were in the 'young' age group and 18.00 per cent of them were in 'old' age group. The averageage of the respondents was 56 years.

Findings are in line with findings of Domor (2013) and Anjali Sihare (2015)

Education

It is observed that maximum number 38.00 per cent respondents had 'secondary education' while 27.00 per cent of respondents had 'primary' education followed by 14.00 per cent respondents in pre- primary, 13.00 per cent in higher secondary, 06.00 per cent respondents in graduate category and only 02.00 per cent respondents were illiterate.

Findings are in line with findings of Domor (2013) and Singh *et al*. (2014).

Size of family

According to data presented in table 1, majority (53.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium size of family, followed by 30.00 per cent and 17.00 per cent respondents had small and large family size, respectively. Average family size was 5 members in family.

Findings are in line with findings and Singh *et al*. (2014).

Farm size

From the above presented data in table 1 noticed that, 38.00 per cent of the respondents had small land holding, followed by 26.00 per cent of them in marginal land holdings, 18.00 per cent in semi-medium size of land holding,

17.00 per cent in medium size of land holding and only one per cent respondent was noticed in big farm size respectively. The average size of land holding was 2.19 ha that indicate small to semi medium land holding. Findings are in line with findings of Damor (2013).

Annual income

The data presented in table 1 noticed that, majority (78.00 per cent) of the respondents in medium category of annual income followed by 14.00 per cent respondents were in high category and only 08.00 per cent respondents in low category.

Findings are in line with findings of Kadam (2016)

Livestock possession

The data presented in table 1 revealed that, majority (60.00 per cent) of the respondent had

medium size of livestockpossession followed by 23.00 per cent of them had 'small' and 17.00 per cent respondents had 'high' livestock possession respectively. Average livestock possession score was 10 which indicate medium size of herd.

Findings are in line with findings of Sharma (2014).

Organic farming experience

The data presented in table 1noticed that, majority (69.00 per cent0 of the respondents had 3 to 5 years of experience in organic farming followed by 27.00 per cent respondents had more than 5 years' experience and only 04.00 per centof them had up to two years organic farming experience.

Findings are in line with findings of Anjali Sihare (2015).

Mass media exposure

The information presented in table 1 reveled that, majority (54.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of mass media exposure, followed by 29.00 per cent of them had low and 17.00 per cent of the respondents had high mass media exposure. The average score of the mass media exposure was 10 which indicate medium level of mass media exposure.

Findings are in line with findings of Sharma (2014).

Social participation

It is seen in table 1 that, majority (56.00 per cent) of the respondents had medium social participation, followed by

23.00 per cent had low social participation and 21.00 per cent of them had high social participation respectively. Average score of the social participation was 7.00 which indicate medium level of social participation.

Findings are in line with findings of Sharma (2014).

Innovativeness

The data presented in table 1 reveled that, 50.00 per cent respondents had medium innovativeness followed by the

26.00 per cent of the respondents had low innovativeness and 24.00 per cent of them had high innovativeness. Average innovativeness score was 37 which indicate medium innovativeness

Findings are in line with findings of Jaganathan *et al.* (2009)

Knowledge about organic farming.

The data presented in Table 1 indicated that, half (50.00 per cent) of the respondents had high knowledge, followed by 37.00 per cent respondents had medium knowledge while 13.00 per cent respondents had low knowledge about organic farming. Average overall score on knowledge about organic farming was 10.24 which indicates medium knowledge.

Practices related organic farming

According to data presented in Table 1 noticed that, majority (72.00 per cent) of respondents found at medium level in adoption of practices, while 15.00 per cent and 13.00 per cent respondents had high and unfavorable adoption of organic farming practices, respectively. Average score of adoption of organic farming practices was 15.74.

Conclusions

The analysis of demographic personal and socio-economic profile of organic farmers respondents indicates that majority of them had secondary school education, fell under medium category in terms of age, family size, annual income, livestock possession, organic farming experience, mass media exposure, social participation, innovativeness and following the organic farming practices. Mostly farmers had small land holding with high level of knowledge about organic farming.

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