Original Research Article

Profile of Cotton Growers of Telangana State

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A B S T R A C T

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The present research conducted in Adilabad and Mahabubnagar distict of Telangana state was purposively selected for the study. A sample of 240 farmers was selected for the study. *Ex-post facto* research design was adopted. The analysis of profile of the cotton growers indicates that majority of them belonged to middle age (67.94%), illiterate (46.67%), semi medium farmers (65.42%), medium farming experience (68.33%), medium family size (66.67%), medium annual income (66.25%), medium achievement motivation (48.33%), medium extension contact (71.67%), medium social participation (41.67%), high Cosmo politeness (42.08%), medium credit and subsidy orientation (58.33%), medium preparedness for adaptation (49.58%) and medium risk orientation(62.92%).

Introduction

Climate is projected to increase drought occurrence in the districts like Adilabad and Mahabubnagar which would impact not only water resources but also have a cascading effect on other dependent sectors. Increased drought conditions can also severely affect agricultural and pastoral livelihoods and increase vulnerability and risks for farmers, and people depending on such livelihoods. For farmers who are strongly dependent on rainfall for agricultural activities, crop failure caused by drought can lead to household food insecurity. For pastoralists and agro-pastoralists whose livelihoods and food security depend on livestock, drought conditions can cause malnutrition or disease

in livestock because of insufficient fodder. This study, takes a closer look at how affected communities respond and cope with climate variability in selected areas of the district.

It uses personal interview to investigate the impacts of climate variability, coping mechanisms and to identify the key factors that promote greater resilience among communities.

Many adaptation and mitigation strategies have been developed by many government and private agencies in order to reduce or tackle the harmful effects of climate variability, but very few studies and researches relate to unearth the preparedness

in adoption of the practices to face the climate variability. Till now no study has been undertaken in Adilabad and Mahabubnagar district of Telangana state to study the farmer's perception and adaptability towards climate variability. Keeping this in view, the research problem entitled "Perception and adaptability of the cotton growers towards climate variability in Telangana state" was designed.

Materials and Methods

For this study, *ex-post facto* research design was adopted. According to Kerlinger (1973), *ex-post facto* research is a systematic empirical enquiry, in which the scientists do not have direct control on influencing (independent) variables because their manifestations have already occurred.

Telangana was purposively selected for the study as the researcher is from this state. Adilabad and Mahabubnagar districts of Telangana was purposively selected for the study as Climate is projected to increase drought occurrence in the districts like Adilabad and Mahabubnagar which would impact not only water resources but also have a cascading effect on other dependent sectors. Increased drought conditions can also severely affect agricultural and pastoral livelihoods and increase vulnerability and risks for farmers, and people depending on such livelihoods.

For farmers who are strongly dependent on rainfall for agricultural activities, crop failure caused by drought can lead to household food insecurity.

The study was conducted in twelve villages selected from two mandals of each district, which included 20 farmers from each of the selected villages. A sample of 240 farmers was selected for the study.

Results and Discussion

Age

It could be found from the Table:1 majority of the farmers were categorized into middle age group (67.94%), 11.25 per cent belonged to young age group and rest of them (20.83%) were in old age group.

The reason for above trend might be due to the fact that young people preferred to move towards urban areas for higher education or employment or business. The old age farmers preferred to stay at their houses. The above two reasons accounts for low percentage of young and old age group farmers respectively.

Education

From the Table: 1 could be seen that majority of the respondents were illiterates (46.67%), followed by primary school (22.50%), secondary school (20.83%), intermediate (5.83%) and Degree(4.17%) level education.

It could be concluded that poor financial conditions and lack of good educational facilities in the rural areas, lack of awareness among the farmers about the importance and need of education and also of unavoidable necessity in the family to help their parents may be the reasons for poor formal schooling among the respondents. Most of the marginal and small farmers who were poor could not go for higher studies.

Farming experience

It could be indicated from the Table 1 that majority of the respondents was grouped under medium farming experience (68.33%) followed by low (09.58%) and high (22.08%) farming experience. The medium experience of the respondents in farming might be

attributed to their middle age. Definitely the farming experience is an important factor which influences the farmers to accept, evaluate and experiment the innovative technologies in their farm.

But richness of farming experience is more important than quantity. Hence, to improve the quality and richness of experience the extension agencies have to conduct extension activities like training, result demonstration, method demonstration, meetings, exposure visits and group discussions etc.

Land holding

It could be indicated from the Table 1 that majority of the respondents were Semi-medium followed by small farmers (23.75%) followed by marginal (08.33%) and medium (02.5%) farmers

It could be inferred that the sub division and fragmentation of the farm land from one generation to another generation is the main cause for declining the land holding size of each farmer in the rural areas. Hence the present study also depicted the same trend of more semi medium land holders.

Family size

It could be indicated from the Table 1 that, majority of the respondents had medium family size (66.67%) followed by low (28.75%) and high (4.58%) family size respectively. This finding is in line with the results of Sagar and Vijaya (2004).

Annual income

It could be indicated from the Table 1 majority of the respondents had medium annual income (66.25%) followed by low (22.08%) and high (11.67%) family income

respectively. This might be because of the reason that almost all the farmers were getting similar income as the high prices were not being paid to the farmers and the farmers were getting only marginal benefits. This finding is in line with the results of Nagabhushana (2007) and Anup *et al.,* (2010).

Achievement motivation

It could be indicated from the Table 1 majority of the respondents had medium (48.33%) level of achievement motivation followed by high (32.50%) and low (19.17%) level of achievement motivation respectively.

This might be because of the reason that most of the respondents had medium profile characteristics and farmers in the area of investigation were traditional. This finding is in line with the results of Begum (2008).

Extension contact

It could be indicated from the Table 1 majority of the respondents had medium (71.67%) level of extension contact followed by high (16.25%) and low (12.08%) level of extension contact respectively.

The probable reason for the above trend might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents were semi medium and marginal famers with low level of education and poor economic status, hence they were not meeting the officials of Department of Agriculture and also the extension workers might have concentrated their contacts on big farmers rather than on small and marginal farmers.

Hence the above trend was observed. This finding is in line with the results of Sivanarayana *et al.,* (2008) and Gangadhar (2009).

Table.1 Profile of the cotton growers

Sr.No.	Varaible	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young	27	11.25
		Middle	**163**	**67.92**
		Old	50	20.83
2.	Education	**Illiterate**	**112**	**46.67**
		Primary school	54	22.50
		Secondary school	50	20.83
		Intermediate	14	5.83
		Degree	10	4.17
3.	Farming experience	Low	23	09.58
		Medium	**164**	**68.33**
		High	53	22.08
4.	Land holding	Marginal	20	08.33
		Small	57	23.75
		Semi-medium	**157**	**65.42**
		Medium	6	02.50
		Large	0	00.00
5.	Family size	Low	69	28.75
		Medium	**160**	**66.67**
		High	11	4.58
6	Annual income	Low	53	22.08
		Medium	**159**	**66.25**
		High	28	11.67
7	Achievement motivation	Low	46	19.17
		Medium	**116**	**48.33**
		High	78	32.50
8.	Extension contact	Low	29	12.08
		Medium	**172**	**71.67**
		High	39	16.25
9.	Social participation	Low	75	31.25
		Medium	**100**	**41.67**
		High	65	27.08
10.	Cosmo politeness	Low	80	33.33
		Medium	59	24.58
		High	**101**	**42.08**
11.	Credit and subsidy orientation	Low	45	18.75
		Medium	140	**58.33**
		High	55	22.92
12	Preparedness for adaptation	Low	59	24.58
		Medium	119	**49.58**
		High	62	25.83
13	Risk orientation	Low	53	22.08
		Medium	151	**62.92**
		High	36	15.00
		Total	**240**	**100**

Social participation

It could be indicated from the Table 1. majority of the respondents had medium level of social participation (41.67%) followed by low (31.25%) and high (27.08%) level of social participation respectively. Larger portion of the respondents had medium level of social participation followed by those with high and low social participation. This might be due to the fact that few social organizations are active in the villages and the small and marginal farmers were not in reach of social organizations present in the villages and it might also be due to their low level of education and not knowing the importance of the organizations. Extension agencies should encourage the farmers for more social participation by helping them to form youth clubs, welfare associations, farmers discussion groups etc. so that they will get more exposure and empowerment.

Cosmo politeness

It could be indicated from the Table 1 majority of the respondents had high (42.08%) level of Cosmo politeness followed by low (33.33%) and medium (24.58%) level of Cosmo politeness respectively. It could be observed that majority of the respondents had high level of Cosmo politeness followed by low and medium Cosmo politeness respectively. This trend might be due to the fact that majority of the respondents were going to mandal to meat AEO (Agricultural Extension Officers) to enquire about "Rhythu Bandhu" Scheme and they are also attending meetings in MAO(Mandal Agricultural Officer).

Credit and subsidy orientation

It could be inferred from the Table 1 that majority of the respondents had medium level of credit and subsidy orientation (58.33%), followed by high (22.92%)and low (18.75%)

level of credit and subsidy orientation respectively. This was probably due to the fact that majority of the cotton growers had very low level of literacy. Another reason for this could be due to the fact that majority of the respondents were semi marginal and marginal farmers.

The farmers reported that as the amount of credit to be borrowed is very less and they sometimes borrowed from their relatives, friends, neighbours and money lenders. This could be also due to the lack of information about credit and loan availability in the locality. They also perceived that borrowing money from the bank was a complicated procedure.

Preparedness for adaptation

It could be indicated from the Table 1 that majority of the respondents had medium preparedness for adaptation (49.58%), followed by high (25.83%) and low (24.58%) preparedness for adaptation respectively. This was probably due to the fact that majority of the respondents were illiterate and have medium extension contact and social participation. As a result farmers were unable to get weather and climate information regularly. This hampered their preparedness to climate variability. It was also observed that most of the farmers had little understanding about the concepts of climate variability itself and were having medium farm income and medium credit and subsidy orientation. This was also probably the reason for medium preparedness to climate variability.

Risk orientation

It was noticed from the Table 1 that most of respondents had medium (62.92%) risk orientation followed by low (22.08%) and high (15.00%) risk orientation respectively. The probable reason for the above trend

might be attributed to the findings in age which is mostly on upper side, in education the number of illiterates were more, even among educated primary level are more, majority of the respondents having semi medium to small farm size all these factors adversely affect the risk orientation of the cotton growers as they may not be capable to cope up with the uncertainty involved in their climate variability. With better training and skills as well as simple credit structures, the cotton growers risk orientation level could be improved. The analysis of profile of the cotton growers indicates that majority of them belonged to middle age (67.94%), illiterate (46.67%), semi medium farmers (65.42%), medium farming experience (68.33%), medium family size (66.67%), medium annual income (66.25%), medium achievement motivation (48.33%), medium extension contact (71.67%), medium social participation (41.67%), high Cosmo politeness (42.08%), medium credit and subsidy orientation (58.33%), medium preparedness for adaptation (49.58%) and medium risk orientation(62.92%).

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