

Personal, Situational and Socio-Economic Characteristics of Cotton Growers in Distress Areas of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Cotton was considered as 'white gold' in the initial years of its introduction. Later, failure of the same was attributed to suicides of farmers. An attempt has been made in this study to look in detail the personal, situational and socio-economic profile of cotton farmers in distress areas of Guntur and Warangal districts, where in considerable number of farmers suicides had occurred. About 46 per cent of the respondents belong to small farmers category are below 35 years where as about 41 per cent of the big farmers category are middle aged (36-50 years). Majority of the respondents had primary to high school education. Great majority (more than 80 %) of the respondents have the occupation of agriculture + labour. Nuclear family is predominant among the respondents contributing to more than 80 percent of the respondents. About 68 per cent of the small farmers and 28 per cent of the big farmers incurred losses. Majority had more than 10 years of farming experience. No abnormalities were found with regard to the situational and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents. There is no striking feature (except losses realized by 49 per cent of the farmers and the negative mean income with small farmers and resulting indebtedness) which can be attributed as an important reason for the suicides in the study area.

Key words : Cotton, Growers, Situational, Socio-economic.