The Andhra Agric. J 63 (3): 732-736, 2016

Socio-Economic and Psychological Characteristics of Bengal Gram Farmers in Prakasam District

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh to study the socio-economic and psychological characteristics of Bengal gram farmers. Ex post-facto research design was followed for the study. Prakasam district was purposively selected because of its largest area, production and productivity under Bengal gram crop in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. The study was conducted in six villages Nagulapalem, Parchur, Veerannapalem, Pothavaram, Nagulauppalapadu and B. Nidamanuru, a total number of 120 respondents were selected from these villages. Majority of the Bengal growers were middle aged having high school education, farming experience up to ten years, small landholding, cultivation as their main occupation, medium marketing orientation, high planning orientation, low farm power, high economic orientation, high scientific orientation and medium extension contact.

Key words : Bengal gram growers, Psychological, Socio-economic characteristics.

Bengalgram(*Cicer arietinum* L.) is the major pulse crop in India with a cultivated area of about 7.58 million hectares and production of 6.91million tonnes. In India ,Andhra Pradesh occupies a prominent place in Bengal gram cultivation with an area of 16 lakh acres with production of 8.57 lakh tonnes it is an important legume crop with good nutritive value, cultivated widely in Andhra Pradesh. In Prakasam district it is grown in an area of 80000 ha with a production of 1.64 lakh tonnes. Though the area under Bengal gram is more we could not meet the demand of people due to low production and productivity. Bengal gram yields have remained stagnant over a long time. Still, there is a big gap between achievable yields and achieved yields. This is mainly due to the fact that Bengalgram is being mostly grown in traditional way by the majority of the farmers.

Therefore, it is the most important task that the farmers must be educated for making them to acquire better knowledge and skill and at the same time their attitude should be changed favourably as a prelude for successful adoption of scientific innovation which in turn will be converted to higher production. For adoption of specific recommend cultivation practices the Bengalgram farmers should posses knowledge about Bengalgram cultivation practices. Since farmers are the final decision makers for adoption of Bengalgram cultivation practices, it is important for the technology providers to identify how farmers react to the provided techniques. However, not much attention has been paid for assessing of farmers knowledge and adoption about Bengal gram cultivation as perceived by Bengalgram farmers. Accordingly the present study has been undertaken with an objective to study the personal, socio-economic and psychological characteristics of Bengalgram growers.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present investigation was carried out in the state of Andhra Pradesh. Ex post-facto research design was followed for the study. Prakasam district was purposively selected because of its largest area, production and productivity under bengalgram crop in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Nagulauppalapadu and parchur mandals are purposively selected for the study as they are having highest area in Bengal gram cultivation in prakasam district. Three villages from each mandal were selected by following simple random sampling technique thus a total of six villages namely Nagulapalem, Parchur, Veerannapalem, Pothavaram, Nagulauppalapadu and

B.Nidamanuru .From each village twenty farmers were selected by random sampling method. Thus, a total number of 120 respondents were selected from 6 villages.

Keeping the objectives of the study in view, a well structured interview schedule was developed and pretested. This was administered to sample respondents through personal investigation. The data thus obtained were coded, classified, and tabulated. Frequency and percentage analysis were used to study the extent of knowledge of the respondents on Bengal gram production technology. The level of knowledge of the respondent were classified into three categories viz, low, medium and high on the basis of mean +S.D.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the table 1 indicated that 57.50 per cent of the respondents were middle age, followed by young (29.16%) and old (13.33%) age group. these findings draw support from Lokesh sirohiya *et al*.(2014)

A glance at the table 1 that majority (41.66%) of the farmers had high school education followed by middle school (13.33%), college (12.50%), primary school (10.83%), graduate & P.G (9.60%) and functionally literate (8.33%). These findings was in tune with the findings of khare *et al.*(2013)A perusal of the data from table 1 could be seen that majority (27.50%) of the farmers had farming experience up to 10 years. While 25.83 per cent had 11 to 20 years of farming experience,25.00 per cent had 21 to 30 years of farming experience and 21.66 percentage of farmers had farming experience of 31 years and above. This result is in agreement with Khare *et al.* (2013).

A Birdseye view of the table 1 revealed that majority (69.16%) of the farmers were found in the category of small farmers, where as 19.16 per cent of the respondents belonged to medium holding group and 11.66 per cent of the respondents to large size holding group. Table 1 also describes that 81.66 per cent of the farmers were not having any member ship in any organization while 18.33 per cent of them were having member ship in one social organization. this finding is akin to finding of Pandey *et al.* (2010).

The results of the table 1 indicates that 99.16 per cent of the respondents getting their livelihood from agriculture. The percentage of respondents who have income from labour is only 0.83 per cent and further it can also inferred from the table 1 that majority (85.00 %) of the respondents possessed low of farm power followed by medium (8.33%) and high (6.66%) category. similar findings were observed by Tripathi *et al* (2006).

It is seen from the table 1 that majority (67.50%) of the respondents had habit of visiting to nearest town for once in a month to purchase household articles, inputs for agriculture and for attending to the meetings or trainings. An observation of the results of the table 1 indicated that, majority (60.80%) of the farmers had high level of economic orientation followed by medium (36.60 %) and low (1.66%) category. This finding is in line with the findings of Chaudhary *et al* (2014).

An purview of the table 1 indicated that, majority (45.00%) of the farmers had high level of scientific orientation followed by medium (44.10 %) and low (10.80%) category and results of the table 1 also indicated that, majority (84.10%) of the farmers had low level of exposure to mass media followed by medium (11.60 %) and high(4.16%) category. These findings are in line with the findings of Tripathi *et al* (2006)

A close examination of the table 1 shown that, majority (47.50%) of the farmers had medium level of extension contact followed by low (38.30 %) and high(14.10%) category.It can be inferred from the table 1 that 50.83 per cent of the respondents had aspiration to educate their children up to degree in professional or technical course.24.16 per cent of the respondents had aspiration to educate their children up to degree in non professional courses. 15.00 per cent of the respondents had aspiration to educate their children up to high school. Whereas 10.00 per cent of the respondents had aspiration to educate their children up to diploma. The results were in accordance with the findings of Pandey *et al* (2010).

The results in table 1 further revealed that majority (80.80%) of the respondents had given preference for government job for their children followed by Agriculture(11.60%) and private job (7.50%) and it can also be inferred from the table

Table1. socio-economic and psychological characteristics of Bengal gram farmers.

S.No.	Independent variables	Category	Respondents	
			Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young (Below 35 years)	35	29.16
		Middle (35-58 years)	69	57.50
		Old (Above 58 years)	16	13.34
		Total	120	100.00
2.	Education	Illiterate	0	0.00
		Can read only	5	4.16
		Can read & write	10	8.33
		Primary	13	10.83
		Middle	16	13.33
		High school	50	41.66
		College	15	12.50
		Graduate & P.G.	11	9.16
		Total	120	100.00
3.	Experience	Upto 10 years	33	27.50
		11 – 20 years	31	25.84
		21 – 30 years	30	25.00
		31 years above	26	21.66
		Total	120	100.00
4.	Land holding	Small farmers (Upto 5 acres)	83	69.17
		Medium farmers(5-10 acres)	23	19.17
		Large farmers(> 10 acres)	14	11.66
		Total	120	100.00
5.	Extension contact	No members in any organization	98	81.67
		Members in one organization	22	18.33
		Members in more than one organization	0	0
		Office bearer	0	0
		Total	120	100.00
6.	Occupation	Labour	1	0.84
		Caste occupation	-	-
		Business	-	-
		Cultivation	119	99.16
		Services	-	-
		Total	120	100.00
7.	Farm power	Low (1-12)	102	85.00
		Medium (13-23)	10	8.34
		High (24-34)	8	6.66
		Total	120	100.00
8.	a. Cosmopoliteness	More than 2 times in a week	0	0.00
		Once in a week	5	4.17
		Twice in a month	3	2.51
		Once in a month	81	67.51
		Once in six months	31	25.81
		Never	0	0
		Total	120	100.00
	b. Purpose of visit	Agriculture and allied	10	8.34
		Personal	-	-
		Entertainment	2	1.66
		Others / Trainings	108	90.00
		Total	120	100.00

Table1. cont.....

9.	Economic orientation	Low (8-10)	3	2.5
		Medium (11-14)	44	36.67
		High (15-17)	73	60.83
		Total	120	100.00
10.	Scientific orientation	Low (9-12)	13	10.80
		Medium (13-15)	53	44.10
		High (16-18)	54	45.10
		Total	120	100.00
11.	Mass media	Low (5-10)	101	84.17
		Medium (11-15)	14	11.67
		High (16-20)	5	4.17
		Total	120	100.00
12.	Extension contact	Low (2-7)	46	38.30
		Medium (8-14)	57	47.50
		High (15-20)	17	14.20
		Total	120	100.00
13.	Level of aspiration	Professional degree & Technical Course	61	50.84
	a. Education level	Non-Professional Degree	29	24.16
		Diploma	12	10.00
		High School	18	15.00
		Middle School	0	0
		Primary School	0	0
		No Education	0	0
		Total	120	100.00
		Government job	97	80.90
	b. Type of job	Private job	09	7.50
		Agriculture	14	11.60
		Any other occupation	-	-
		Total	120	100.00
		No increase	12	10.00
	c. Level of income	Double the present income	94	78.40
	enhancement	Three times the present income	6	5.00
		Four times the present income	8	6.60
		Total	120	120.00
		Four times at present level	8	6.66
		Three times at present level	14	11.67
	d. Level of yield enhancement	Double the present level	84	70.00
		No increase	14	11.67
		Total	120	100.00
14.	Management orientation			
	a. Planning orientation	Low (9-12)	5	4.16
		Medium (13-15)	53	44.20
		High (16-18)	62	51.64
		Total	120	100.00
	b. Marketing orientation	Low (8-14)	14	11.60
		Medium (12-15)	57	47.60
		High (16-18)	49	40.80
		Total	120	100.00
	c. Production orientation	Low (8-11)	2	1.66
		Medium (12-15)	76	63.34
		High (16-18)	42	35.00
		Total	120	100.00
	d. Economic orientation	Low (8-10)	3	2.50
		Medium (11-14)	44	36.67
		High (15-17)	73	60.83
		Total	120	100.00

that majority (78.30%) of the respondents are having feeling to double the present income and 6.60 per cent of the respondents are having feeling to increase the present income by four times. 5 per cent of the respondents are having feeling to increase the present income by three times. Surprisingly 10 per cent of the respondents feels that there is no need to increase the present income level. The findings were in concurrence with the studies reported by Lokesh sirohiya *et al* (2014).

Table 1 indicates that majority(70.00%) of the respondents like to double the present crop yield.11.66 per cent of the respondents like to increase the present crop yield by three times.6.66 per cent of the respondents like to increase the present crop yield by four times and 11.66 per cent of the farmers feel that there is no need to increase the present level of yield.

It can be connoted from the table 1 that, majority (51.60%) of the farmers had high level of planning orientation followed by medium (44.16 %) and low (4.16%) category. An observation of the results of the table 1 also indicated that, majority (47.50%) of the farmers had medium level of marketing orientation followed by high (40.80 %) and low (11.6%) category and further results in the table revealed that majority (63.33%) of the farmers had medium level of production orientation followed by high (35.00 %) and low (1.66%) category. similar findings were reported by Singh *et al* (2013).

CONCLUSION

A study on profile characteristics revealed that majority of Bengalgram growers were middle aged having high school education, farming experience up to ten years, small landholding, 81 per cent doesn't have membership in any organisation ,99 per cent have cultivation as main occupation, 68 percent visit nearest town in a month, 85 per cent have low farm power, high economic orientation, high scientific orientation and having medium extension contact.

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(Received on 11.12.2015 and revised on 21.12.2015)