

Socio- Economic Characteristics of Farmers and Constraints in Tobacco Cultivation

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was undertaken to study the socio-economic characteristics of farmers, constraints and suggestions in tobacco cultivation. Ex-post-facto research design was adopted. One hundred and fifty farmers were selected randomly from fifteen mandals of Prakasam Dist. Majority of the farmers were in old age, illiterates, with semi medium land holding, tenant barn holding, with medium farming experience, achievement motivation, innovativeness, risk orientation, economic orientation, social participation, extension contact and mass media exposure. Majority of the tobacco farmers felt that low price (100.00%), increased cost of cultivation, rainfed cultivation and insufficient rains (92.00%), *Orabanche* problem (88.00%), increased labour charges (86.00%), labour intensive crop (82.67%) and abnormal price fluctuations were the major constraints experienced by them in tobacco cultivation. The suggestions given by the tobacco farmers were providing minimum average support price not less than Rs.15000/- per quintal (97.33%), providing license to unauthorized barns (89.33%), at a time purchase to avoid weight losses (80.67%), developing high yielding varieties with good quality (72.67%) and management for *Orabanche* (70.67%).

Key words: *Constraints, Socio-economic characteristics, Suggestions, Tobacco.*