

## **Profile characteristics of members of farmer producer organizations (FPOs) in Andhra Pradesh**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study was conducted in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh to examine the profile characteristics of members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). The findings revealed that a substantial proportion (43.34%) of the members were middle-aged and nearly one-third (28.33%) had attained high school education. Family structure analysis showed that 40.00 per cent belonged to small families, while a majority (76.67%) lived in nuclear families. With respect to farming experience about 43.34 per cent of the members possessed medium experience. Nearly half (46.67%) reported a medium level of annual income. Landholding status indicated that 44.17 per cent were small farmers. Regarding social attributes almost half (49.17%) reported a medium level leadership ability. More than half 64.17 per cent showed a medium degree of group cohesiveness. In decision-making ability 42.50 per cent of the members fell under the medium category. More than one-third (39.17%) had received two trainings. Information-seeking behaviour was medium for 45.00 per cent of the respondents. Risk orientation was medium among 43.33 per cent of members. Extension contact was medium for 39.17 per cent, whereas extension participation was medium for 50.83 per cent of the respondents. Notably more than half (52.50%) of the members exhibited a high level of mass media utilization. Overall the study highlights that most FPO members demonstrate moderate levels across key personal, socio-economic, and behavioural characteristics, suggesting significant potential for capacity-building initiatives.

**Keywords:** *Farmer Producer Organizations and Profile characteristics*

Regular farming won't be able to keep farmers engaged and these improve agriculture's profitability (revenue per unit of time and land) and employment to survive. In today's competitive modern era, agriculture can succeed in the competition if it transform into an active agricultural business entity small and marginal farmers are more vulnerable to agricultural issues such as smaller operational land holdings, natural disasters, a lack of a market connection, lower productivity, crop failures, a lack of information, a lack of agricultural credit, rising input costs, poor communication links with larger markets, and as a result, intermediaries' exploitat in the acquisition of inputs and the marketing of fresh produce, as well as the availability and cost of credit (Dev, 2005)

In view of this, it is crucial to mobilize farmers into a Government of India effort, such as a group of farmer-driven businesses or "Farmers' Organizations" for united action. The Indian government has established membership-based institutional frameworks like farmers' cooperatives and other village-based

organizations, as well as contract farming, in response to the growing importance of small and marginal farmers in improving the agricultural economy of India (Desai and Joshi, 2014). Thus the objective of the present study was as to study profile characteristics of members of Farmer Producer Organizations.

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

The study was conducted during the year 2023-2024 in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh using Ex-post facto research design. Four FPOs were selected for the study. 30 members from each FPO were selected randomly, thus making a sample of 120 members from four FPOs. Two recently formed FPOs namely Parla farmers producer company limited and K Markapuram farmers producer company limited and two old FPOs namely Chillabanda farmers producer company limited and Y. Khanapuram farmers producer company limited were selected for the study. Statistical tools like

arithmetic mean, standard deviation, frequency, and percentage analysis were used for the study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results of the study depicted that nearly half (43.34%) of members were in middle age followed by young age (30.83%) and old (25.83%). Middle-aged farmers were consistent on their beliefs and actions and were more positive. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Sahoo *et al.* (2022). Nearly one third (28.33%) of the members belong to high school followed by illiterates (22.50%), intermediate (17.50%), primary school (14.17%), graduate (10.83%) and 6.67 per cent of members belonged to post graduate and above level of education. The farmers with a certain level of education have a characteristic inclination towards grasping changes within the social framework. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Karthik *et al.* (2016). Over one third (40.00%) and (34.17%) of the members belong to small family and medium family respectively and little over one fourth (25.83%) of members belong to big family size. In the region where the study was carried out, most couples were married and were had two children. The results obtained were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Singh *et al.* (2019). Majority (76.67%) of the members belong to nuclear family and followed by joint family (23.33%).

The prevalence of nuclear families may be attributed to the recognition of the benefits of a nuclear family in terms of family management, fewer responsibilities and for privacy concerns. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Barman *et al.* (2021). Nearly half (43.34%) of members belong to medium farming experience followed by low (33.33%) and high (23.33%). The reason for medium farming experience was due to middle aged category. Similar findings on the study conducted by Dechamma *et al.* (2020).

Nearly half (46.67%) of members belong to medium level of annual income followed by 30.83 per cent of members belong to high level of annual income and 22.50 per cent of members belong to low level of annual income. Involvement in FPOs had aided the members in securing a stable income from their farming operations. Similar findings were obtained on Sahoo *et al.* (2022). Nearly half

(44.17%) of the members were small farmers followed by marginal (32.50%) and semi medium (15.83%) followed by medium categories (6.67%). A least (0.83%) of them belong to large category. The findings may be explained by passed down variations in land from generation to generation. The major findings of the study were similar with the findings of the study conducted by Mahesh *et al.* (2021).

Nearly fifty (49.17%) of members belong to medium level of group leadership followed by high (29.17%) and low (21.66%). The reason for this was that leaders were involved in the members' advancement in general. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Prema and Manonmani (2022). Majority (64.17%) of members belong to medium level of group cohesiveness followed by low (23.33%) and high (12.50%). This could be because of the members often coming of identical circumstances. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Prema and Manonmani (2022). Nearly half (42.50%) of members belong to medium level of decision making followed by 30.83 per cent of members belong to high level of decision making and 26.67 per cent of members belong to low level of decision making. As they were FPO members, it made simple for the members to make accurate choices regarding the activities needed throughout all phases of agricultural production with the assistance of the FPO authorities. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Sharma *et al.* (2022).

Over one third (39.17%) of members belong to two trainings followed by 36.67 per cent of members belong to one training and 24.16 per cent of members belong to more than two trainings. Due to the uniqueness of the FPO concept, members perceived training as an essential element to comprehend. Nearly half (45.00%) of members belong to medium level of information seeking behaviour followed by 30.00 per cent of members belong to low and 25.00 per cent of members belong to high level of information seeking behaviour. Since most members only have a basic understanding of knowledge, they can get information that is helpful to them and relevant to their farming activities from a wide range of sources. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Kotha *et al.* (2022). Nearly half (43.33%) of the members belong to medium level of risk orientation followed by 30.00

**Table 1. Profile characteristics of members of FPOs**

Sl. No.	Characteristics	Category	(n=120)	
			Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	Young (Up to 35 Years)	37	30.83
		Middle aged (36- 50 Years)	52	43.34
		Old (>50 Years)	31	25.83
2	Education	Illiterate	27	22.50
		Primary school	17	14.17
		High school	34	28.33
		Intermediate	21	17.50
		Graduate	13	10.83
		Post graduate and above	8	6.67
3	Family size	Small Family (2-4) members	48	40.00
		Medium family (5-7) members	41	34.17
		Big family (8 and above) members	31	25.83
4	Family type	Nuclear	92	76.67
		Joint	28	23.33
5	Farming experience	Low (<7.75)	40	33.33
		Medium (7.75-18.15)	52	43.34
		High (>18.15)	28	23.33
6	Annual income	Low income (< Rs. 158733.3)	27	22.50
		Medium income (Rs. 158733.3 - Rs. 213500)	56	46.67
		High income (> Rs. 213500)	37	30.83
7	Land holding	Marginal (< 1.00 hectare)	39	32.50
		Small (1.00-2.00 hectare)	53	44.17
		Semi-medium (2.00-4.00 hectare)	19	15.83
		Medium (4.00-10.00 hectare)	8	6.67
		Large (>10.00 hectare)	1	0.83
8	Group leadership	Low (<17.81)	26	21.66
		Medium (17.81-21.61)	59	49.17
		High (>21.61)	35	29.17
9	Group cohesiveness	Low (<18.69)	28	23.33
		Medium (18.69-20.11)	77	64.17
		High (>20.11)	15	12.50
10	Decision making	Low (<7.68)	32	26.67
		Medium (7.68-9.44)	51	42.50
		High (>9.44)	37	30.83
11	Training Received	(One Training)	44	36.67
		(Two Trainings)	47	39.17
		(>Two Trainings)	29	24.16
12	Information seeking behaviour	Low (<12.81)	36	30.00
		Medium (12.81-15.11)	54	45.00
		High (>15.11)	30	25.00
13	Risk orientation	Low (<14.35)	36	30.00
		Medium (14.35-17.31)	52	43.33
		High (>17.31)	32	26.67
14	Extension contact	Low (<6.54)	41	34.17
		Medium (6.54-9.04)	47	39.17
		High (>9.04)	32	26.66
15	Extension participation	Low (<9.56)	23	19.17
		Medium (9.56-11.16)	61	50.83
		High (>11.16)	36	30.00
16	Mass media utilization	Low (<13.53)	20	16.67
		Medium (13.53-16.01)	37	30.83
		High (>16.01)	63	52.50

per cent of members belong to low and 26.67 per cent of members belong to high level of risk orientation. These was because of members were taken part in trainings which improve a person's self-esteem and willingness to undertake risks. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Sahoo *et al.* (2022). Over one third (39.17%) of the members belong to medium level of extension contact followed by low (34.17%) and high (26.66%). Members often stay in touch with the agents to express curiosity in taking part in various extension aspects. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Dechamma *et al.* (2020).

Little half (50.83%) of the members belong to medium level of extension participation followed by high (30.00%) and low (19.17%). Members were actively participated in extension actions that were essential for improving the effectiveness of FPO. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Dechamma *et al.* (2020). Over half (52.50%) of members belong to high level of mass media utilization followed by medium (30.83%) and low (16.67%). The most likely reason was that their greater access to mass media helped them remain updated on information related to them. The results were in line with the findings of the study conducted by Suriyapriya and Kavaskar (2021).

## CONCLUSION

The study revealed that majority of members were in middle aged category followed by high school, small family, nuclear type of family. Most of them belong to medium farming experience, medium level of annual income, small farmers, medium level of group leadership and group cohesiveness. Majority belong to medium level of decision making, two trainings. Information seeking behaviour resulted that most of them belong to medium level. Nearly half belong to medium level of risk orientation. Over one third belong to medium level of extension contact. Most of them belong to medium level of extension participation and high level of mass media utilization.

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