

Research Article**Socio-Economic Conditions of Agricultural Farmers: A Study in Karimnagar District****Kanthaiah Garise**

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The present study deals with the socio, economic particulars of the agricultural farmers with special reference to Karimnagar district in Telangana. The present paper has been divided into three sections. Section-I deals with the importance of the agricultural sector in Telangana. Section-II deals with the objectives and methodology of the study. Findings and suggestions of the study had been presented in Section-III. The present study is primarily based on the data gathered from primary and secondary sources.

Keywords: Agricultural sector, Socio, Economic conditions, Agricultural farmers .

I. Introduction

The role of agriculture in the economic development of any country is borne out by the fact that it is the primary sector of economy which provides the basic ingredients necessary for the existence of mankind. In most of the developing economies agriculture is the pre-dominant sector, which provides a substantial livelihood to rural masses. The growth of agriculture and allied sectors are expected to contribute a lot to overall growth and poverty alleviation. In the case of Indian agriculture, during pre-independence period it is very much apt to describe it as a subsistence occupation. But during the post-independence period especially after the advent of Green Revolution some of the farmers started it on a commercial basis. Agriculture is the most important source of national income in India. The share of agriculture in GDP at factor cost was around 55.1 per cent in 1950-51 (includes agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying) declined to 37.6 per cent in 1981-82 and the share of Gross value added (GVA) of agriculture and allied sectors in total economy to 20.3 per cent in 2020-21 and further to 18.3 per cent in 2022-23. Growth of GVA of agriculture and allied sectors to 4.1 per cent in 2020-21 declined to 3.3 per cent in 2022-23 (at 2011-12 prices) (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India -2022-23). This decline had been attributed to the growth of secondary and tertiary sectors. Various resources like manures and fertilizers, irrigation facilities, availability of manpower, seeds, bullock labour, working capital, farm implements and machinery, crop protection and cropping pattern etc. determines the growth of the agriculture sector. The farm income is determined by the efficiency with which farmers are able to utilise the resources at their command. If the farmers are efficient in the use of scarce resources then farmers can increase their income. In Indian agriculture, the availability of resources is not the same all over the country. The optimum use of available resources and cropping pattern is *sin-a-quanon* for the growth of agricultural production. In view of this, it is pertinent to throw light on the place and importance of agriculture in the Indian economy.

Importance of Indian agriculture also arises from the role it plays in India's trade. Agricultural products-tea, sugar, oilseeds, tobacco, spices, etc. – constituted the main items of exports of India. Broadly speaking, the proportion of agricultural goods which were exported came to 50 per cent of our exports, and manufactures with agricultural content (such goods as manufactured jute, cloth and sugar) contribute another 20 per cent or so; and the total comes to 70 per cent of India's exports in 1950-51. But with diversification of exports, more especially after the introduction of agricultural exports which were 18.5 per cent in 1990-91 rose to 20.3 per cent in 1996-97 and thereafter indicated a continuous decline and were of the order of only 12.9 per cent in 2011-12 and 14.2 per cent in 2013-14.

Thus, from the above analysis it can be said that agriculture has its own place in the national economy and its performance sets the pace of growth in the economy as a whole. Further, it can also be surmised that agriculture is a backbone of the Indian economy. Keeping all these aspects in view, here it had also been undertaken to discuss the genesis of agriculture under the regime of economic reforms in general and the economic reforms led to the crisis in the State of Telangana in particular.

Agriculture is the backbone of the economic structure of Telangana. Most of the people of the State are cultivators who earn their living by cultivating the lands of their fore-fathers. In order to increase the production of the agricultural goods, the Government of Telangana has established a separate Department of Agriculture to extend a helping hand to the farmers of the State. The department imparts modern technical knowledge to the farmers to enhance the agricultural productivity. Keeping all these facts in view, it is very much pertinent to throw light on its impact of technological changes on cropping pattern in Telangana.

II. Objectives and Methodology

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- i. to examine the importance of agricultural sector in India; and
- ii. to examine the socio-economic features of the sample households;

The methodology adopted for the study is as given here under.

The research design adopted for the study is to examine the socio-economic particulars of the agricultural farmers in Telangana. For this, the research design adopted in the study is an analytical one where both data from primary as well as secondary sources had been collected. Karimnagar Division and Huzurabad Division of the Karimnagar District had been chosen for the present study. The stratified random sampling method had been adopted for the selection of villages. In view of the research design adopted for the study, a sample design had been worked out for the present study. The stratified random sampling frame had been adopted while selecting the sample farmers in the study area. In each village 50 sample households have been chosen at random. Altogether, three mandals, six villages and 300 sample households had been selected for the present study.

III. Results and Discussion:

The present study examines the socio-economic particulars of the agricultural farmers in Telangana and the sample respondents in particular had been ascertained through the collection of primary data during the field investigation in the six villages of the three mandals of Karimnagar District.

Table-1: Caste Particulars of the Sample Farmers

Caste	Huzurabad	Choppadandi	Ramadugu	Total
SC	14 (4.7)	13 (4.3)	23 (7.7)	50 (16.7)
ST	16 (5.3)	16 (5.3)	15 (5.0)	47 (15.7)
BC	45	49	48	142

	(15.0)	(16.3)	(16.0)	(47.3)
OC	25 (8.3)	22 (7.3)	14 (4.7)	61 (20.3)
Total	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	300 (100.0)

Source: Field Study

Table-1 deals with the caste particulars of the sample farmers. It throws light that in the entire sample areas of 300 farmers 47.3 per cent i.e. 142 members belong to backward class communities followed by OC whose farmers is 61 i.e. 20 per cent, the representation of the SC and ST communities were ranging between 47-50 i.e. 15.7 to 16.7 per cent only.

Table-2: Educational Particulars of the Sample Farmers

Educational particulars	Huzurabad	Choppadandi	Ramadugu	Total
Illiterates	42 (14.0)	42 (14.0)	27 (9.0)	111 (37.0)
Primary	12 (4.0)	12 (4.0)	10 (3.3)	34 (11.3)
Secondary	40 (13.3)	40 (13.3)	44 (14.7)	124 (41.3)
Inter	4 (1.3)	3 (1.0)	2 (0.7)	9 (3.0)
Degree	2 (0.7)	3 (1.0)	17 (5.7)	22 (7.3)
Total	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	300 (100.0)

Source: Field Study

Educational status of the sample farmers has shown and presented in the Table-2. When we look at the entire area-wise observation on the educational status of the respondents, out of 300 respondents from both the areas put together, 41.3 per cent possessed secondary educational background. On the other 37 per cent are illiterates, 11.3 are primary educational background and the remaining 7.3 per cent are degree background. Education creates awareness and they can actively participate in the various activities of the agricultural sector and strengthen them.

Table-3: Family Members Particulars

Family members	Huzurabad	Choppadandi	Ramadugu	Total
2-3	10 (3.3)	8 (2.7)	8 (2.7)	26 (8.7)
3-4	82 (27.3)	83 (27.7)	74 (24.7)	239 (79.7)
Above 4	8 (2.7)	9 (3.0)	18 (6.0)	35 (11.7)
Total	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	300 (100.0)

Source: Field Study

Family member's particulars had been presented in the Table-3. We have categorised into three such as 2-3 members, 3-4 members and above 4 members. It is interesting to note that out of 300 respondents, 79.7 per cent of them have 3- 4 members, 11.7 per cent an above 4 members and 8.7 per cent 2-3 members in their family. Thus, family composition of the farmers is not high and most of them preferring small family.

Table-4: Nature of the Family Particulars

Nature of the family	Huzurabad	Choppandandi	Ramadugu	Total
Nuclear family	74 (24.7)	73 (24.4)	71 (23.7)	218 (72.9)
Joint family	26 (8.7)	27 (9.0)	28 (9.4)	81 (27.1)
Total	100 (33.4)	100 (33.4)	99 (33.1)	299 (100.0)

Nature of the family particulars of the sample farmers had been presented in Table-4. The Table reveals the fact that an overwhelming majority of sample households (i.e. 72.9 per cent) are having the nuclear family system. The sample households those who are having the nuclear family system, the percentage is relatively higher in Huzurabad mandal followed by Choppadandi and Ramadugu mandals with 24.7 per cent, 24.4 per cent and 23.7 per cent respectively and the remaining sample households (27.1 per cent) are having the joint family system in the study area. From the analysis, it can be inferred that the joint family system is replaced by the nuclear family system in general and the study area in particular. During the field work, the researcher also observed that nuclear family system preponderates over other types of family system.

Table-5: Category of the Farmers

Category	Huzurabad	Choppadandi	Ramadugu	Total
Big Farmer	24 (8.0)	31 (10.3)	13 (4.3)	68 (22.7)
Medium Farmer	47 (15.7)	40 (13.3)	36 (12.0)	123 (41.0)
Small Farmer	21 (7.0)	21 (7.0)	33 (11.0)	75 (25.0)
Marginal Farmer	8 (2.7)	8 (2.7)	18 (6.0)	34 (11.3)
Total	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	100 (33.3)	300 (100.0)

Source: Field Study

Table-5 throws light on various groups of the farmers in the selected area. It is observed that in the entire study areas, out of 300 respondents, 123 members i.e. 41 per cent belong to medium farmers and another 25 per cent i.e. 75 members were from middle level categories of farmers in the entire sample representing the selected areas of the study. On the other, we could find 68 big farmers i.e. nearly 22.7 per cent in the entire sample and only 11.3 per cent i.e. 34 members are marginal farmers representation in the sample is less, whereas proportion of small and medium farmers are found to be good in number.

Finally, it can be said that the study indicates that factors such as age, education, family size, landholding, occupation, income, access to credit, irrigation facilities, and adoption of

modern technology have a considerable influence on the economic condition of agricultural farmers. Most of the farmers continue to depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihood. However, small and marginal landholdings, rising costs of cultivation, inadequate access to institutional credit, lack of modern technology, and uncertainties in agricultural markets create several challenges. Education and awareness help farmers adopt improved agricultural practices and make better economic decisions. Thus, there is a need for suitable policies and programmes to strengthen the socio-economic position of agricultural farmers and ensure sustainable agricultural and rural development.

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