



SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILING OF TUMKUR DISTRICT FARMERS IN KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

Rural agricultural work experience programme (RAWEP) is an innovative programme initiated and implemented by University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore during 1995-96. RAWEP is a learner centered approach of exposing undergraduate students by using the principle of 'learning by doing' and 'seeing is believing'. The RAWEP aims at providing an opportunity to have first-hand experience in promoting technologies related to agriculture and allied activities among the farming community. Under this program students are placed in Hobli level Agriculture office called as "Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSKs)" to gain knowledge regarding the activities related to the agriculture and allied sectors. The study was conducted in three Hoblis namely Bellavi, Tovinakere and Kalambella. Totally 60 students placed in the above Hoblis for three months duration from July to September 2014. Initially to study the socio-economic and natural resource status of the village and farmers, the students collected data and analyzed. The results indicated that nearly fifty percent (46.99 %) of the members was belonged to middle age group. With respect to education, 28.31 percent had high school education. 53.77 percent of the land area was under rainfed condition, 69.16 percent of the respondents possessed bore wells for irrigation; The respondents had possessed mobile (29.40 %) and plough (29.59 %). 21.74% of the respondents get the agriculture information from progressive farmers. Majority of the farmers are exposed to TV (69.74 %). Nearly one-fourth of the respondents had knowledge on crop insurance (24.37%) and Aerobic rice cultivation (23.12 %). More number of farmers possessed cows (45.84 %). The socio-economic profiling of Tumkur district farmers helps the extension workers to understand the local situations and facilitate them to plan realistic and need based developmental and extension programs for the farmers.

KEY WORDS: RAWEP, technologies, agriculture, socio-economic, natural resource.

INTRODUCTION

Rural agricultural work experience programme (RAWEP) is an innovative programme initiated and implemented by university of agricultural sciences, Bangalore during 1995-96. RAWEP is a learner centered approach of exposing undergraduate students by using the principle of 'learning by doing' and 'seeing is believing'. The RAWEP aims at providing an opportunity to have first-hand experience in promoting technologies related to agriculture and allied activities among the farming community. Here the students are placed in Hobli level Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSKs) to gain knowledge regarding the activities related to the agriculture and allied sectors. It helps the students to get familiarity with the life situations in the village, rural institutions, socio-economic conditions of farmers and their problems. It also provides an opportunity to students in practical training, diagnostic skills and crop production through work experience. It helps to develop communication skills among students using extension methods and teaching aids. It also helps students to acquaint with ongoing transfer of technology (TOT) programmes related to agriculture and allied aspects. Thus it's a platform where students can apply the knowledge gained to solve the field level problems. With this context the undergraduate students were placed in Tumkur district of Karnataka. The fifteen students each placed at Agriculture Department RSK hoblis namely Bellavi, Tovinakere and kalambella. Thus 60 students stayed in the

above Hoblis for three months duration from July to September 2014. To prepare the plan of work for the three months duration the students were conducted a socio-economic survey of farmers to understand the village dynamics such as age, education level, social participation level, motivational level, social stratification, village institutions, natural resource base *etc.* A thorough understanding of the socio-economic status of farmers had helped the students to chalk out need-based agricultural extension activities in the Tumkur district.

MATERIALS & METHODS

The study was conducted in Tumkur district of Karnataka State during the year 2014. The data was collected from three hoblis of Tumkur district namely Bellavi, Tovinakere and kalambella. The samples were selected randomly from each RSK Hobli. From each RSK 100 farmers selected (40 small farmers, 20 each big, marginal and land less farmers). Thus a total sample of 300 which includes 120 small farmers, 60 each big, marginal and land less farmers. Fifteen variables namely age, education, land using pattern, source of irrigation, houses and equipments, material possession, social participation, agricultural equipment and implements, extension contact, source of information on agriculture, mass media exposure, extension participation, livestock rearing, and source of information on new technology and practices were selected as a socio-economic and natural resource variables to

assess the socio economic status of the people of Tumkur district. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was prepared. Data was collected by Personal interview method. Simple statistical tools like frequency and percentage was used for analysis.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

It could be inferred from the result that 46.99 per cent of the members were from middle aged. 36.01 per cent and

17 per cent belonged to young and old age respectively. In general, the farmers of young and middle aged group were enthusiastic and have more work efficiency. Moreover, the middle aged people have more family responsibility and sensibility. They work with commitment and involvement. These might be the probable reasons for more number of the respondents to be found in the middle aged group followed by young and old age. This finding was in line with the findings of Shanthamani (2007).

TABLE 1: Age (n=300)

SN.	Members	Total	Percentage
1	Old age	646	17.00
2	Middle age	1785	46.99
3	Young age	1368	36.01
Total		3799	100.00

It is observed that 28.31 per cent of the members had high school education followed by college education (17.75 %), and primary school (17.08 %) and illiterates were noticed to the extent of 15.28 per cent, followed by graduate level education (14.60 %). There are many reasons for beneficiaries to belong low level of education; it could be lack of finance, lack of access to education and further, the

utilization of family members as labor after primary school education for farming purpose. However, some of them have completed the college level education and choose farming for their livelihood. The above findings got support from the study conducted by Parvathamma (2006) which revealed that more number of farmers were educated up to high school level.

TABLE 2: Educational level (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Illiterate	68	15.28
3	Primary school	76	17.08
4	Middle school	31	6.98
5	High school	126	28.31
6	College	79	17.75
7	Graduate	65	14.60
Total		445	100.00

It is observed that more than half of the land (53.77 %) was under rainfed area followed by irrigated area (29.54 %) and garden land (16.69 %). The possible reasons that

could be attributed to this result were that it is plain land and mainly depended on rains for their farming. Lack of irrigation sources also contributes for the above result.

TABLE 3: Land use pattern (n=300)

SN.	Type of land	Total	Percentage
1	Rainfed area	404.5	53.77
2	Irrigated area	222.25	29.54
3	Garden land	125.5	16.69
TOTAL		752.25	100.00

It is observed that more than half of the source of irrigation was from bore well (69.16 %) followed by open well (16.67 %) and from pond (14.17 %). Due to decrease in rainfall pattern, farmers are depending majorly on irrigation facility for agriculture, thus there is increase in

the number of bore well used for irrigating the agricultural field. Thus in turn irrigation helps in increasing the yield of the crops which ultimately increases the income level of the farmers.

TABLE 4: Source of irrigation (n=300)

SN.	Source of irrigation	Total	Percentage
1	Pond	17	14.17
2	Open well	20	16.67
3	Bore well	83	69.16
TOTAL		120	100.00

It is observed that 18.50 per cent of the farmers have cowsheds, 17.20 per cent members had LPG connection followed by 8.60 per cent of having biogas. Few (2.15 %)

had solar system. The farmers are practicing diary as their subsidiary occupation and hence the results.

TABLE 5: Household sheds and equipment's (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Cowshed	86	18.50
2	Gowdown	7	1.50
3	Equipments room	15	3.22
4	farm house	29	6.25
5	Solar	10	2.15
6	Biogas	40	8.60
7	LPG	80	17.20
8	Others	0	0
Total		465	100.00

It was found that more number (29.40 %) of the members possessed mobile followed by TV (23.92 %), cycle (13.91 %), scooter (11.90 %), radio (10.51 %), refrigerator (3.70 %), car / jeep (2.79%), computer (1.70 %), washing machine (1.40 %) and moped (0.77%).The raise in family

income increases the possession of assets since man has no end to his needs and wants. If one need is fulfilled at the same time another need arises. The results of the study of Arunbabu (2005) and Vishvanath Hiremath (2007) were in conformity with the findings of the present study.

TABLE 6: Material possession (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Radio	68	10.51
2	TV	155	23.92
3	Refrigerator	24	3.70
4	Washing machine	9	1.40
5	Computer	11	1.70
6	Cycle	90	13.91
7	Moped	5	0.77
8	Scooter	77	11.90
9	Car / jeep	18	2.79
10	Mobile	190	29.40
Total		647	100.00

It reveals that more number of farmers possessed plough (29.59 %), 18.38 per cent of the farmers possessed harrow, 17.00 per cent of the farmers possessed sprayers, 11.22 per cent of the farmers possessed tiller, 6.80 per cent of the farmers possessed 5.79 per cent of the farmers possessed weeding machine, equal percent (3.06 %) of the farmers possessed power tiller and harvesting machine, only 2.72 per cent of the farmers possessed tractor and 2.38 per cent of the farmers possessed horticulture equipment's. The observations in the earlier days indicates that majority of the respondents were small farmers who cannot afford to

improved farm implements which requires high investment. Further, it is also true that the small and medium land holdings do not permit them to have the tractor and other improved implements `it is not surprising to note that majority of the farmers possess all the materials required for farming, in addition, the agriculture demands timely operations for which they cannot wait till they get the materials from others. Hence it is quite essential to own and use the farm implements for quality production.

TABLE 7: Agricultural implements and other equipment's (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Bullock cart	20	6.80
2	Tiller	33	11.22
3	Harrow	54	18.38
4	Weeding machine	17	5.79
5	Plough	87	29.59
6	Sprayer	50	17.00
7	Power tiller	9	3.06
8	Tractor	8	2.72
9	Harvesting machine	9	3.06
10	Horticulture equipments	7	2.38
Total		294	100.00

It is revealed that little more than one-fourth of the farmers (25.92 %) participate in gram panchayat followed by equal participation of the farmers (22.22 %) in milk cooperative society and mahila mandals, 18.51 per cent of the farmers participate in SHGs and 11.13 per cent of the members

participate in youth society. All the respondents were educated and having medium to high level of extension participation, mass media participation and economic motivation. All these characteristics would naturally enable the respondents to have high social participation.

TABLE 8: Social participation (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Gram panchayat	14	25.92
2	Milk cooperative society	12	22.22
3	Youth society	6	11.13
4	Mahila mandali	12	22.22
5	SHG	10	18.51
Total		54	100.00

It is revealed that majority of the members 22.53 per cent have contact with Agricultural officer followed by 18.57 per cent of them have contact with Agriculture Extension officer, 18.18 per cent of the members have contact with Asst. Agricultural officer, 15.89 per cent of the members

have contact with Extension agents, 15.10 per cent of the members have contact with Veterinary doctors and 9.73 per cent of the members have contact with Asst. Director of Horticulture.

TABLE 9: Extension contact (n=300)

SN.	Personnel	Total	Percentage
1	Asst. Agriculture officer	142	18.18
2	Agricultural officer	176	22.53
3	Agriculture extension officer	145	18.57
4	Asst. Director of Horticulture	76	9.73
5	Vetenary doctor	118	15.10
6	Extension agents	124	15.89
Total		781	100.00

It is revealed that with regard to the source of information on agriculture 21.74 percent of the members consulted progressive farmers followed by relatives (20.73 %), friends (20.70 %), village leaders (18.61 %), and neighbors (18.22 %). It is evident from the findings of the present study that progressive farmers, relatives, friends, village leaders served as important source of information. The reason might be that progressive farmers had practiced and

gained good knowledge and income, this made other farmers to contact him for information. It is the tendency of the farmers to share their ideas with farmers, friends and relatives than other outside sources. They have easy accessibility with their friends and relatives to get the information. The result is in accordance with the findings of Santhoshkumar (2008)

TABLE 10: Source of information of agriculture (n=300)

SN.	Personnel	Total	Percentage
1	Progressive farmers	167	21.74
2	Village leader	143	18.61
3	Friends	159	20.70
4	Relatives	159	20.73
5	Neighbors	140	18.22
Total		768	100.00

The result on extension participation revealed that 16.40 percent participated in Agricultural exhibition, followed by Krishimela (15.80 %), group meeting (15.60 %), study tour (14.71 %), farmer training program (8.17 %), method demonstration (7.50 %), equal participation in result demonstration and field demonstration (6.80 %), campaign (5.15 %) and field visit (3.07 %). The probable reason for this might be their eagerness in solving their problems with extension workers and also interest in extension activities to gather recent information and to learn about improved technologies in agriculture from extension workers.

It is revealed that majority of the respondents (69.74 %) were exposed to doordarshan, followed by newspaper

(20.06 %) and radio (10.20 %). The reason for mass media exposure of respondents may be due to medium level of education as revealed in the study and also maximum interest in current issues and new technology. Almost all the people own a television. Respondents are very much dependent on mass media not only as a source of news and information, but also as a source of entertainment and leisure. In general, it raises the awareness level among the agricultural population. They help to update latest developments which are a good sign and speak about the interest of respondents to view the things. This result was in support with the studies of Kaini (2004).

TABLE 11: Extension participation (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Group meeting	124	15.60
2	Method demonstration	59	7.50
3	Result demonstration	54	6.80
4	Field demonstration	54	6.80
5	Agriculture exhibition	130	16.40
6	Farmer training program	65	8.17
7	Field visit	24	3.07
8	Krishimela	127	15.80
9	Study tour	117	14.71
10	Campaign	41	5.15
Total		795	100.00

TABLE 12: Mass media exposure (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Radio	31	10.20
2	Doordarshan	212	69.74
3	Newspaper	61	20.06
Total		304	100.00

It is revealed that more number (45.84 %) of the respondents possessed cows, followed by buffalos (29.16 %), poultry (16.66 %), and goat/sheep (8.34 %) and there was no respondents possessing pigs. The reason for the

livestock rearing is to generate addition income from subsidiary occupation. It also helps in farming which will decrease the additional spending on hiring bullocks for ploughing. It also reduces the expenditure on manure.

TABLE 13: Livestock rearing (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Buffalos	21	29.16
2	Cow	33	45.84
3	Goat / sheep	6	8.34
4	Pig	0	0.00
5	Poultry	12	16.66
Total		72	100.00

The result on the information on new technology and practices revealed that more number of farmers (24.37 %) have information on crop insurance, followed by aerobic rice cultivation (23.12 %), contract farming (19.07 %), minimum support price (16.87 %), organic farming (4.69 %), horticulture mission and tissue culture (3.12 %), bio fuel plant (2.18 %), green house technology (1.90 %) and

drip irrigation (1.56 %). The reason for this is the farmers are having greater interest in getting information related to new technology due to high level of education and also high level of extension participation and high knowledge. Improved technologies also help the farmers in gaining high profit and ultimately increase the standard of living.

TABLE 14: Information on new technology and practice (n=300)

SN.	Particulars	Total	Percentage
1	Minimum support price	54	16.87
2	Crop insurance	78	24.37
3	Tissue culture	10	3.12
4	Organic farming	15	4.69
5	Green house technology	6	1.90
6	Drip irrigation	5	1.56
7	Aerobic rice cultivation	74	23.12
8	Horticulture mission	10	3.12
9	Contract farming	61	19.07
10	Bio fuel plant	7	2.18
Total		320	100.00

CONCLUSION

The study provides a glimpse of socio-economic profile of a sample of farmers of tumkur district and ascertains their socio-economic status. This gives an idea of the livelihood status of the farmers of the Tumkur district. Under the Rural Agricultural Work Experience Program the students before planning various extension activities in their designated villages this sort of socio-economic and natural resource inventory will help them to understand the village dynamics and also provide input for their planning of various agricultural and rural development activities in the villages. It also helps to gain knowledge regarding the activities related to the agriculture and allied sectors and they will get familiarity with the life situations in the village, rural institutions, socio-economic conditions of farmers and their problems.

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