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Farmer's Perception and Satisfaction towards Farmer Producer Organization in Jamnagar District, Gujarat, India

K. L. Solanki ^{a*}, R. M. Jadeja ^b, P. M. Vaghela ^a
and B. P. Solanki ^{c++}

^a College of Agribusiness Management, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat, India.

^b Department of Agricultural Economics, CPCA, SDAU, Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat, India.

^c Department of Agronomy, JAU, Junagadh, Gujarat, India.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

The present study had been undertaken in Lalpur, Jamjodhpur, Jamnagar and Jodiya talukas of Jamnagar district. Multistage sampling technique was adopted to select the districts, talukas and villages. 120 farmers were selected from the 20 villages of Jamnagar district. The study was mainly based on primary data, which were collected through personal interview with the help of structured survey schedule. Result revealed that 45.83 per cent of respondents belonged to middle age group (35 to 50 years) followed by 35.00 per cent respondents were above 50 years. Majority of farmers were male i.e., 91.67 per cent followed by female i.e., 8.33 per cent. Result indicates that 47.50 per cent respondent have studied up to primary level followed by secondary level. The result revealed that 80.83 per cent of the farmers have annual income of ₹200942.45 to ₹892350.89 and 39.17 per

⁺⁺ Ph.D. Scholar;

*Corresponding author: E-mail: ketansolanki3046@gmail.com;

cent farmers had semi-medium land holding. 40.83 per cent farmers were engaged in both farming and animal husbandry followed by 24.17 per cent farmers were involved in farming with business. Majority farmers (48.33%) had source open well for irrigation. Observed that 81.67 per cent farmers had more than 15 years of farming experience and 70.83 per cent farmers had 1 to 1.5 years of membership in FPO. The information about per hectare benefits received to farmer members by FPO. Result found that total crop production of farmers increased. Total cost of cultivation decreased, Overall crop price increased and overall income of farmer increased.

Keywords: FPO; socio-economic status; benefits received to farmer members by FPOs.

1. INTRODUCTION

FPO is one type of Producer Organization (PO) where the members are farmers. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is providing support for promotion of FPOs. A FPO can be a producer company, a cooperative society or any other legal form which provides for sharing of profits /benefits among the members. Collectivizing farmers into Producer Organizations (POs) has been considered as one of the ways to overcome these challenges faced by the small and marginal farmers. The main objective of FPO is to ensure better income for the producers through an organisations of their own. Small producers do not have the volume individually (both inputs and produce) to get the benefit of economies of scale. The goal of FPOs is to increase farmers' advantage in emerging market opportunities and their competitiveness. The main aim of the FPOs is to increase the income for the producers through an organization of their own. In the recent years (2020-21), the focus of the Government of India, state governments and the various development agencies has been towards promotion of farmers' producer organizations (FPOs). Under the 12th Five Year Plan of the Government of India, promotion and strengthening of FPOs has been one of the key strategies to achieve inclusive agricultural growth. The formation and development of FPOs will be actively encouraged and supported by the Central and State Governments and their agencies, using financial resources from various centrally sponsored and state-funded schemes in the agriculture sector agencies. By suitable amendments in the APMC Act to allow direct sale of farm produce by FPOs at the farm gate, through FPO owned procurement and marketing centres and for facilitating contract farming arrangements between FPOs and bulk buyers.

1.1 Objectives of the Study

- 1) To study the socio economic status of farmers

- 2) To ascertain the benefits received to farmer members by FPOs

2. METHODOLOGY

A multi stage sampling method was adopted as appropriate sampling procedure for the study. In the first stage, Jamnagar district was purposively selected for the study because Devdhara Farmers Producer Company Limited wants to improve the network in Jamnagar district. At the second stage four talukas viz, Lalpur, Jamjodhpur, Jamnagar and Jodiya these were selected randomly for the study. In the third stage, from each taluka five villages were selected randomly for the study. From each village six farmers were randomly selected. The final sample of 120 farmers were selected for the research study. Analytical tools like simple tabular method, mean and standard deviation method and percentage analysis method were used for performing analysis of present study.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Socio Economic Status of Farmers

The socio-economic of farmers was determined by including various indicators namely; age, education, size of land holding, farming experience, membership period in FPO, annual income, occupation, source of irrigation, etc. Their age is presented in Table 1. From the study it could be concluded that 45.83 per cent of respondents belonged to middle age group (36 to 50 years). 35.00 per cent respondents were above 50 years and only 19.17 per cent respondents belonged to young age group.

The gender of respondents is the very important demographic factor. The perusal of the data displayed in Table 2. Majority of farmers were male i.e., 91.67 per cent followed by female i.e., 08.33 per cent.

The perusal of the data displayed in Table 3 clearly indicates that 47.50 per cent respondent

have studied up to primary level and 25.00 per cent respondents have studied up to secondary level followed by 16.67 per cent respondents studied up to illiterate whereas, 5.83 per cent respondents have studied up to higher secondary level and 5.00 per cent respondents have studied up to graduation. Similar result found from Prajapati et al [1].

The data has been shown in Table 4 The result revealed that 80.83 per cent of the farmers have annual income of ₹200942.45 to ₹892350.89

while, 10.83 and 8.33 per cent of the farmers were found having annual income more than or equal to ₹892350.90 and less than or equal to ₹200942.44 respectively.

Table 5 show that in study area 39.17 per cent farmers have semi-medium land holding followed by 34.17 per cent famers have small size land, 23.33 per cent farmers have medium size land, 2.50 per cent farmers have marginal size land farmers and 0.83 per cent farmers were having land holding size 10.01 ha and above.

Table 1. Distribution of farmers according to their age (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Age (Year) | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Young (18 to 35) | 23 | 19.17 |
| 2 | Middle (36 to 50) | 55 | 45.83 |
| 3 | Old (More than 50) | 42 | 35.00 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 2. Distribution of farmers according to their gender (n=120)

| Sr. No | Gender | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|--------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Male | 110 | 91.67 |
| 2 | Female | 10 | 08.33 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 3. Distribution of farmers according to their education level (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Educational qualification | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Illiterate | 20 | 16.67 |
| 2 | Primary level (1 to 8 std.) | 57 | 47.50 |
| 3 | Secondary level (9 and 10 std.) | 30 | 25.00 |
| 4 | Higher secondary level (11 and 12 std.) | 07 | 05.83 |
| 5 | Graduation / Post Graduation | 06 | 05.00 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 4. Distribution of farmers according to their annual income level (n=120)

| Sr. No | Annual income | Range | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1 | Mean - S.D. | <=200942.44 | 10 | 8.33 |
| 2 | Mean \pm S.D. | 200942.45 - 892350.89 | 97 | 80.83 |
| 3 | Mean + S.D. | >=892350.90 | 13 | 10.83 |
| Total | | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 5. Distribution of farmers according to their size of land holding (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Size of land | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Marginal (up to 1.0 ha) | 03 | 2.50 |
| 2 | Small (1.01 to 2.0 ha) | 41 | 34.17 |
| 3 | Semi medium (2.01 to 4.0 ha) | 47 | 39.17 |
| 4 | Medium (4.01 to 10.0 ha) | 28 | 23.33 |
| 5 | Large (more than 10.01 ha) | 01 | 0.83 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

The distribution of farmers according to their occupation is given in Table 6, it is apparent that among 120 farmers, 40.83 per cent farmers were engaged in both farming and animal husbandry followed by 24.17 per cent farmers were involved in farming with business. Additionally, there were 12.50 per cent farmers were involved in farming with services, 09.17 per cent farmers were involved in farming and animal husbandry with business and only 07.50 and 05.83 per cent farmers who were doing farming only and farming and animal husbandry along with service respectively.

Different sources of irrigation facilities available to farmers are indicated in Table 7. It can be observed 48.33 per cent farmers had source of open well for irrigation, followed by 45.83 per cent farmers had open well with bore well and

5.83 per cent farmers who had bore well for irrigation.

Details about farming experience of farmers presented in Table 8 it can be observed that 81.67 per cent farmers had more than 15 years of farming experience, followed by 16.67 per cent farmers who had more than 10 to 15 years of farming experience and 01.67 per cent farmers had more than 5 to 10 years of farming experience and 15 farmers had 10 years.

The information about farmers according to their membership period in FPO. Result indicated in Table 9 it can be observed that majority *i.e.*, 70.83 per cent of farmers had 1 to 1.5 years of membership in FPO, followed by 29.17 per cent farmers who had 1.6 to 2.0 years of membership in FPO.

Table 6. Distribution of farmers according to their occupation (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Occupation | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Farming | 09.00 | 07.50 |
| 2 | Farming + Animal husbandry | 49.00 | 40.83 |
| 3 | Farming + Animal husbandry + Business | 11.00 | 09.17 |
| 4 | Farming + Animal husbandry + Service | 07.00 | 05.83 |
| 5 | Farming + Business | 29.00 | 24.17 |
| 6 | Farming + Service | 15.00 | 12.50 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 7. Distribution of farmers according to their source of irrigation facilities (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Source of Irrigation | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Open well | 58 | 48.33 |
| 2 | Bore well | 07 | 5.83 |
| 3 | Open well + Bore well | 55 | 45.83 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 8. Distribution of farmers according to their farming experience (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Farming Experience (Year) | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | 5 to 10 | 02 | 01.67 |
| 2 | 11 to 15 | 20 | 16.67 |
| 3 | More than 15 | 98 | 81.67 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 9. Distribution of farmers according to their membership period in FPO (n=120)

| Sr. No. | Membership period in FPO (Year) | Respondents (n) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | 1.0 to 1.5 | 85 | 70.83 |
| 2 | 1.6 to 2 | 35 | 29.17 |
| Total | | 120 | 100.00 |

Table 10. Benefits received to farmer members by FPO in groundnut (n=120)

| Benefits received to farmers by FPO | Before | After | % change |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Crop production(kg/ha) | 2463.08 | 2678.62 | 8.75 |
| Cost of cultivation (Rs.) (Cost A) | 64530.26 | 54596.25 | -15.39 |
| Crop price (Rs.) | 1182.58 | 1272.04 | 7.56 |
| Income (Rs.) | 146661.62 | 171555.89 | 16.97 |

3.2 Ascertain the Benefits Received to Farmer Members by FPOs

The information about per hectare benefits received to farmer members by FPO presented in Table 10 indicated total crop production of farmers increased from 2463.08 kg/ha to 2678.62 kg/ha, Total cost of cultivation decreased from ₹64530.26 to ₹54596.25, Overall crop price increased from ₹1182.58 to ₹1272.04, Overall income of farmer increased from ₹146661.62 to ₹171555.89. Similar result found from Rathour et al. [2,3-9].

4. CONCLUSION

Based on finding, it is concluded that, farmers members are getting benefits by FPO. Crop production, Crop price and Income of the farmers member are increased in certain percentage, which is beneficial for farmer member. As well as Cost of cultivation is decreased which is helpful to maximize their profit.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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