

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Brinjal Growers in Latur District of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Present study was designed to study the socio economic characters of Brinjal growers in Latur district of Maharashtra. In this study multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsil, villages and brinjal growers. For this study primary data were collected from 60 sample Brinjal growers in study area. To analyze the data in the present study tabular analysis, frequency and percentage method were used. The results of study revealed that, average age of the Brinjal grower was 39.02 years and family size were 5.55 persons. In case of educational level, in brinjal grower 3.50 scores out of 5 quantum score which indicated that, brinjal growers were educated more than high school level. It was observed that, majority of brinjal growers engaged in agriculture and other occupation. Total land holding size of selected sample was observed to be of 2.95 hectares. The area under brinjal crop was observed to be 0.27 hectare.

Keywords: Socio, Economic, Brinjal, Latur, Education, Occupation

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INTRODUCTION

Vegetables play an important role in human diet because most of the vegetables are the important source of carbohydrates, proteins and vitamins which are required to maintain the good health of human. Hence, vegetables are the most important components of vegetarian diet of Indian population. Brinjal has origin in India. Its botanical name is *Solanum melongena* L. It belongs to family *Solanaceae*. Different varieties of brinjal from private sector are bioseed company's brinjal trishul, Ankur-Ajay, Mauli-Vishal, Gaurav-Panchganga etc. In India, it is one of the most common, popular and principal vegetable crops grown throughout the country except higher altitudes. It is a versatile crop adapted to different agro-climatic regions and can be grown throughout the year. It is a perennial but grown commercially as an annual crop. A number of cultivars are grown in India, consumer preference being dependent upon fruit colour, size and shape. Brinjal fruit are available throughout the year. It is used in curry preparation giving the taste of non vegetable food. The Bhurta is common dish in North India, prepared from brinjal. Bhurta is also famous in Khandesh region of Maharashtra. Apart from this, it is used as medicine to cure toothache and for diabetic patient. Besides from fruit, leaves and seeds used in medicine. It has about 1.4 per cent protein, 4 per cent carbohydrate, 0.3 per cent fat, 0.3 per cent minerals and 1.3 per cent fibre. Vitamin C content in brinjal is around 6mg/100g and vitamin A is 30 I.U. White cultivars contain twice as much crude fibre as the purple and green cultivars. The amino acid content is more in the purple cultivars than the white varieties. On the contrary, potassium and chloride content is highest in green and lowest in purple variety. Sometimes brinjal fruits taste bitter which is due to the presence of glycoalkaloids, that are of wide occurrence in plants belonging to Solanaceae family. Generally, high amount of glycoalkaloids (20 mg/100g fresh wt.) produces a bitter taste and off flavour. In most of the commercial cultivars of India, usually glycoalkaloid contents vary from 0.37 to 4.83 mg/ 100g fresh weight. Studies on organic and mineral element analysis of matured brinjal fruits revealed that, copper content and polyphenol oxidase activity is higher in the purple coloured fruits than in white cultivars, whereas iron content and catalase activity is highest in the green and lowest in white cultivars. Studies also suggested that the green cultivar had better processing properties than the more popular purple cultivars. The white cultivars, long white and round white, lack anthocyanins.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsil, villages and brinjal growers. In first stage, Latur district was purposively selected. In second stage, Latur and Renapur tehsil of Latur district was selected on the basis of highest area under brinjal production. In third stage, five villages were selected on the basis of maximum area under brinjal cultivation. Thus, from five selected village size of sample was 60. To analyze the data in the present study tabular analysis, frequency and percentage method were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-Economic Characteristics of Brinjal Growers

Socio-economic characteristics of brinjal grower was estimated and is presented in Table 1. The results revealed that, average age of the brinjal growers was 39.02 years. Regarding of family size of the brinjal growers, it was found to be 5.55 persons. In case of educational level, in brinjal grower was 3.50 out of 5 quantum score which indicated that, brinjal growers were educated more than high school level. It was observed that, in brinjal farmers the occupational level was 1.51 out of 3 quantum score which indicated that, majority of brinjal growers engaged in agriculture and other occupation. Total land holding size of selected sample was observed to be of 2.95 hectares. The area under brinjal crop was observed to be 0.27 hectare. The bullock pair and milch animal were observed to be 0.75 and 2.21 numbers, respectively. The investment on milch animal and bullock pair was observed to be Rs.49649.99 and Rs. 56200, respectively. The investment on commonly used assets was observed to be Rs. 28820.25 and investment on irrigation structure was Rs.128158.33 respectively. The results of this study are in correspondence with the previous studies [1, 2].

Table 1 .Socio-Economic Characteristics of Selected Brinjal Growers

Sr. No.	Particulars	Brinjal
1.	Age of farmer (year)	39.02
2.	Educational level (5 quantum score)	3.50
3.	Family size (No.)	5.55
4.	Occupational level (3 quantum score)	1.51
5.	Land holding(ha.)	2.95
6.	Area under Brinjal(ha.)	0.27
7.	Bullock pair (No.)	0.75
8.	Milch animal (No.)	2.21
9.	Investment on milch (Rs.)	49649.99
10.	Investment on bullock pair(Rs.)	56200.00
11.	Investment on commonly used assets (Rs.)	28820.25
12.	Investment on irrigation structure (Rs.)	128158.33

Cropping Pattern of Brinjal Growers

Cropping pattern of brinjal growers was evaluated and is presented in Table 2. It is seen from Table 4.2 that, area under brinjal crop was 0.27 hectare and their per cent area was 6.60 in general gross cropped area i.e. 4.09 hectares. Among *kharif* crops soybean, pigeon pea, *k. jowar*, green gram, and black gram were found as major crops. In general, the proportionate area under soybean was highest in *kharif* season i.e. 31.54 per cent followed by pigeon pea (13.20 per cent), *k. jowar* (7.09 per cent), green gram (3.66 per cent) and black gram (1.71 per cent, respectively). Among *rabi* crops, gram, *rabi* jowar, wheat and safflower were found as major crops. The proportionate area under gram was 9.53 per cent followed by *rabi* jowar (8.31 per cent), wheat (7.82 per cent) and safflower (6.11 per cent) respectively. Among *summer* crops, groundnut was found as major crop. Among *summer* crops, The proportionate area under groundnut was 1.95 per cent, followed by vegetables (1.71 per cent) and maize (0.73 per cent), respectively. The net cultivated area and double cropped area was 2.61 and 1.48 hectares, which was 63.82 and 36.18 per cent of gross cropped area. The cropping intensity was 164.10 per cent.

Table 2. Cropping Pattern of Brinjal Growers.

Sr. No.	Particulars		Brinjal
		Area (ha.)	Per cent
Kharif			
1.	Soybean	1.29	31.54
2.	Pigeon pea	0.54	13.20
3.	K. Jowar	0.29	7.09
4.	Brinjal	0.27	6.60
5.	Green gram	0.15	3.66
6.	Black gram	0.07	1.71
Sub Total		2.61	63.81
Rabi			
7.	Gram	0.39	9.53
8.	Rabi jowar	0.34	8.31
9.	Wheat	0.32	7.82
10.	Safflower	0.25	6.11
Sub Total		1.30	31.79
Summer			
11.	Groundnut	0.08	1.95
12.	Vegetable	0.07	1.71
13.	Maize	0.03	0.73
Sub Total		0.18	4.40
14.	Gross cropped area	4.09	100.00
15.	Net sown area	2.61	63.82
16.	Double cropped area	1.48	36.18
17.	Cropping intensity	-	164.10

CONCLUSION

From the above study it is concluded that, average age of the brinjal growers was 39.09 years. Also educational level was 3.50 scores in brinjal grower. Area under brinjal crop was 0.27 hectare in general gross cropped area i.e. 4.09 hectares. The net cultivated area and double cropped area was 63.82 and 36.18 per cent of gross cropped area. So area under brinjal can be increased because of higher profitability. Lower education, more land holding, lower family size and more investment on irrigation structure on farm can help to increase brinjal production. Farmer has to neglect the producer's share in consumer rupee and prefer the absolute net price in marketing of brinjal. To face problem of high wage rates and difficulties in labour availability labour saving technology must be adopted such as use of weedicides, drip irrigation system etc.

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