Exploratory Study

Socio-Economic Status of Dairy Farmers in Bundelkhand Region: An Exploratory Study

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ABSTRACT

Dairy is one of the prominent livelihoods for smallholder farmers across India. It plays a significant role in sustaining the rural livelihood and provides employment to 18 million people and nearly 70 percent of them are women. It acts as an alternative source of income for the farm family. The study was conducted in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh with the objectives to study the socio-economic status of dairy farmers. The sample size of 160 dairy farmers was randomly selected for the study and data were collected through personal interview method during 2019-20. A multi-stage random sampling technique was adopted for the study. Banda consists of eight blocks, out of which two blocks were selected randomly viz. Badokhar Khurd & Tindwari. Four villages were selected randomly from each selected block to constitute a total of eight villages and 20 Dairy farmers were selected from each selected village. Majority of respondents were from the middle age group within the range of 34-54 years and most of them were less educated. It was observed that most of the respondents had marginal landholding with medium annual income ranging between 1 lakh to 3 lakh rupees. It was reported from the study that the majority of the respondents had a joint and large family with most of them having *Kaccha* housing patterns. Most of the respondents were involved in dairy & wage-earning with a medium level of herd size (3-5). It is reported from the study that the majority of the respondents preferred medium mass media utilization & don't had membership of any organization.

HIGHLIGHTS

◉ Majority of the respondents (55%) possessed medium size of herd with 3 to 5 animals.
◉ More than fifty per cent (54.17 per cent) of respondents had an annual income between ₹ 1 lakh to 3 lakh.
◉ Majority of the respondents were found with marginal landholdings.
◉ Social participation of the respondents was found very low. Majority of the respondents (54.4%) had no participation in any social organisation.

Keywords: Dairy, employment, *Kaccha,* income, developing countries

Livestock & livelihood are very closely associated with each other in developing countries. Recently FAO claimed, about 150 million households around the globe are engaged in Dairy & its allied sources. On comparing major milk producing countries like USA & Poland, India is growing its production at faster pace of 4.7% annual growth rate for the last 15 years (Rajeswaran and Naik, 2016). In India,

Dairy is among the leading stream of majority of smallholders. Dairy farming plays significant role in sustaining the rural livelihood. Livestock sector

provides employment to 20.5 million people and nearly 69 per cent of them are women. The dairy sector supports around 10 million members/ farmers through one lakh cooperative societies existing in the country. Sudden shifting towards Dairy has been observed over the Globe in the last three decades. Quick return or regular income is the main reason behind this.

A significant percentage of dairy farmers are found in Uttar Pradesh. Among the Bundelkhand districts, Banda and Jalaun are leading in milk which might be due to their higher population of buffaloes and cross-bred cattle. The dearth of information available on characterization of socio-economic variables on smallholder dairy production has led to incongruent policy interventions in the dairy sector. Hence, it is inevitable to know what interventions, either in the Private or public sector, are suitable to make dairying profitable and sustainable.

Methodology

The study was carried out to identify the socio economic status of dairy farmers in Banda District. The sample size of 160 dairy farmers was randomly selected for the study and data were collected through personal interview method during 2019-20. Multi stage random sampling technique was adopted for the study with the Ex-Post Facto research design. Banda consists of eight blocks, out of which two blocks were selected randomly viz. Badokhar Khurd and Tindwari. Four villages were selected randomly from each selected block to constitute a total of eight villages and 20 Dairy farmers were selected from each selected village. The well-structured interviews schedule was used for collection of data and the data was analysed by using appropriate statistical methods such as percentage (%), mean and standard deviation.

Mean

$$\bar{X} = \frac{\sum X}{N}$$

Where,

$\bar{X}$ = Average or mean

ΣX = Total number of scores obtained by respondents

N = Total number of respondents

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

For examining socio economic status, selection of suitable variables is very important. Suitable selection provides proper understanding of farmers' background. Distributions of Dairy Farmers according to their various socio economic characteristics are given Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of Dairy Farmers according to their various socio economic characteristics

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
(I)	**Age**		
1	Young age (<34)	20	12.50
2	Middle age (34-54)	109	68.12
3	Old age (> 54)	31	19.38
(II)	**Sex**		
1	Male	154	96.25
2	Female	6	3.75
(III)	**Education**		
1	Illiterate	48	30.00
2	Primary	11	6.87
3	Middle	33	20.62
4	Secondary	23	14.37
5	High Secondary	27	16.87
6	Graduate & above	18	11.25
(IV)	**Caste**		
1	UR	31	19.40
2	OBC	119	74.40
3	SC	10	6.30
(V)	**Family Type**		
1	Nuclear	62	38.80
2	Joint	98	61.30
(VI)	**Family Size**		
1	Small (=<5)	57	35.60
2	Large (>5)	103	64.40
(VII)	**Housing Pattern**		
1	Hut	10	6.30
2	*Kaccha*	73	45.60
3	Semi-*pucca*	54	33.80
4	*Pucca*	23	14.40
(VIII)	**Land Holding**		
1	Landless (0 ha)	19	11.90
2	Marginal (<1 ha)	57	35.60
3	Small (1-2 ha)	47	29.40
4	Semi medium (2-4 ha)	18	11.30
5	Medium (4-10 ha)	14	8.80
6	Large (>10 ha)	5	3.10
(IX)	**Occupation**		
1	Dairy & Wage earning	77	48.10
2	Dairy as a sole profession	25	15.60
3	Dairy & Business	31	19.40
4	Dairy & Service	2	1.30
5	Dairy & Agriculture	25	15.60

X	Annual Income		
1	Less than 1 lakh	47	29.37
2	Between 1 lakh to 3 lakh	87	54.37
3	More than 3 Lakh	26	16.25
XI	Herd Size		
1	Less than 3	61	38.12
2	Between 3 to 5	88	55.00
3	More than 5	11	6.80
XII	Mass Media Utilization		
1	Low (<2)	17	10.62
2	Medium (2-8)	93	58.13
3	High (>8)	50	31.25
XIII	Social Participation		
1	No membership of any organization	87	54.40
2	Membership of one organization	54	33.80
3	Membership of two organization	10	6.30
4	Membership of more than two organization	9	5.60
XIV	Training Undergone		
	Not any	98	61.30
	Undergone in any training	62	38.80

Age: It could be observed from the Table 1 that majority (68.12%) of the dairy farmers were from middle age group which is followed by old age group having 19.38% respondents. Only 12.5% respondents belong to young age group. Similar findings are supported by Sharma *et al.* (2018), Bagal *et al.* (2018).

Sex: Study revealed that about 96.25% of the respondents were male and only 3.75% respondents were female. Similar study is supported by Sonatakki *et al.* (2006) and Ahire *et al.* (2012).

Education: It is evident from the Table 1 that about 56% of the respondents having education below secondary level education. 16.87% respondents were from higher secondary education and 14.37% of the respondents belonged to secondary level of education. 11.25 percent respondents are graduate or above level of educated. Similar study is supported by Mahimasanthi (2019).

Caste: It is found that majority (74.4%) of the respondents belonged to OBC category which is followed by the unreserved category with 19.4 percent. Only 6.3 percent of the respondents belonged to SC. Similar study is supported by Mishra & Ghadei (2015).

Land holding: It is evident from the Table 1, around 35.6 percent of the respondents belonged to marginal land holding type which is followed by the small land holding type i.e. 29.4 percent. Around 11.9 percent of the respondents are landless. 11.3 percent of the respondents belonged to semi-medium land holding type which is followed by medium (8.8%) and large (3.1%) land holding type. The possible reason might be the continuous fragmentation of lands. Similar findings is supported by Rathod & Damodhar (2015).

Annual Income: Table 1 shows that 54.37 percent respondents had annual income between 1 lakh to 3 lakh/annum while 29.37 percent were having annual income less than 1 lakh and only 16.25 percent had belonged to annual income above 3 lakh. The reason might be that majority of the respondents were poor & had less land. Above findings are supported by Kale *et al.* (2014) and Shahjar *et al.* (2018).

Family Type: It is reported that majority (61.3%) of the respondents had joint family which is followed by nuclear family type i.e. 38.8 percent. Above findings are supported by Shahjar *et al.* (2018).

Family Size: It is evident from the Table 1 that majority of the respondents had large family size (>5) i.e. 64.4% while only 35.6% of the respondents had small family size (=<5). Above findings are supported by Shahjar *et al.* (2018).

Housing Pattern: It is observed from the Table 1, that majority (45.6%) of the respondents had *Kaccha* housing pattern while 33.8 percent of the respondents had semi-*pucca* housing pattern type. Only 14.4 percent of the respondents had *pucca* housing pattern followed by only 6.3 percent respondents having hut.

Occupation: It is evident from the Table 1, about 48.1% of the respondents are engaged in Dairy and wage earning which is followed by the Dairy & business i.e. 19.4 percent. Dairy and agriculture and Dairy as a sole profession share the same percentage of respondents i.e. 15.6 percent. Only 1.3 percent of the respondents are engaged in Dairy with services.

Herd Size: The data in Table 1 shows, most of the respondents (55%) had medium category (3 to 5 animals) followed by 38.12 percent respondent who belong to less (less than 3 animals) category, followed by 6.8 percent of the respondents having

more than 5 animals. Above findings are supported by Sarita *et al.* (2016).

Mass Media Utilization: It is evident from the Table 1 that majority (58.13%) of the respondents preferred medium utilization of mass media which is followed by the high and low i.e. 31.25 percent & 10.62 percent respectively. The above finding was supported by Shahjar *et al.* (2018).

Social Participation: It is reported from Table 1, that majority (54.4%) of the respondents are not associated with any organisation, followed by 33.8 percent respondents having associated with one organisation. 6.3 percent of the respondents had membership of two organization. Only 5.6 percent of the respondents membership of more than two organization. Above findings are supported by the study of Saroj *et al.* (2017).

Training Undergone: The data in Table 1 shows that, 61.3 percent respondents had never undergone through any training while only 38.8 percent respondents had gone through any kind of training session. Similar findings are supported by Modi *et al.* (2019).

CONCLUSION

It was concluded from the results of this investigation as; Socio Economic status of the Dairy Farmers of the Banda District in Bundelkhand region is medium. The study revealed that highest percentage of respondents were male and from middle age group within 34-54 years having medium annual income in the range of 1 lakh to 3 lakh per annum, were in middle socio economic status. It is reported from the study that most of the respondents were illiterate and belonged to OBC category. Most of the respondents were marginal farmers (<1 ha) with large and joint family. Dairy & wage earning was observed as the main occupation for most of the respondents. Maximum percentage of the respondents were having medium herd size, medium utilization of mass media and poor social participation. Socio economic status can be improved by providing suitable training to the dairy farmers in the areas of education and social participation.

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