Original Research Article

Perception of the respondents towards activities of farmer producer organization in Jalore district of Rajasthan, India

Abstract: The study was conducted in the Jalore district of Rajasthan to determine the perceptionof respondents towards activities of farmer producer organizations on both its beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Six villages under the Ahore block were chosen randomly, and a total of 120 respondents(60 beneficiaries and 60 non-beneficiaries) were selected randomly for the study. Data was collected using a pre-structured interview schedule through personnel interviews, and the results were ~~analysed~~~~analyzed~~analysedusing appropriate statistical methods. The study found that middle-aged individuals were the largest group among both beneficiaries (53.33%) and non-beneficiaries (65.00%). The majority of respondents had medium landholdings, with (53.33%) being beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries(46.67%) ~~were~~ having small ~~landholding~~landholdings. High-income individuals were the largest group among beneficiaries (63.34%), while low-income individuals were the largest group among non-beneficiaries (45.00%). The perception of farmers towards activities of FPO on its beneficiaries was found to be at a medium level (48.34%), while in the case of non-beneficiaries, it waslow i.e.(46.66%). The study also found that age, education,land holding, annual income, extension contact, social participation, Mass media exposure, risk preference, and economic motivation were positively and significantly correlated with the perception of farmers towards activities ~~of FPO~~of FPO on both its beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.

Keywords: Perception, Farmer Producer Organization

Introduction:

India had over 138 million farm holdings as per the Agricultural Census.~~over~~ Overhalf of the workforce in India works in the agriculture sector, which is vital to the nation's economy. But the majority of it is made up of little, dispersed farms. The Indian government has improved this by implementing a new system to link small farmers with big businesses in order to boost productivity and promote growth. Most of the population will benefit from having jobs and food security as a resultof 2011 **(GOI, Agricultural Census, 2011).**

One of the most effective ways to address the many challenges facing agriculture is through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO), or the collectivization of producers, particularly small and marginal farmers into producer ~~organisations~~organizations. More significantly, this involves a better approach to investments, inputs, technology, and markets. Farmers Producer Organisations registered under the specific provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 have been identified by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, as the most suitable institutional form around which to organise farmers and establish their capacity to jointly leverage their production and selling

effectiveness. collective action is an acclaimed strategy to deal with these challenges that small-scale producers face. Specifically, farmer organizations – such as cooperatives; associations; unions, groups; and federations with different organizational structures – have been identified to play a key role in enhancing farmers' access to markets **(Chirwa *et al.* 2005;Hellin *et al.* 2007).**Currently, there are several cooperatives across the country which consist of approximately 70% of the total agricultural producers (Ministry of Agriculture, **Govt.of India 2015).**farmer perceptions towards FPOs and found that farmers are positive about FPOs. Farmers claimed positive ~~change~~ changesin the quality of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides due to their participation in FPOs. The study further found that the government schemes are not reaching farmers due to corrupt practices whereas FPOs are able to distribute inputs to farmers without any corruption. Producer Organizations ~~therefore~~, therefore, are as supposed to be non-political entities aimed at providing business services to smallholder farmer members, founded on the ~~principal~~ principleof self-reliance **(Onumah *et al.*,2007).** Still, a large portion of farmers who belong to the small and marginal ~~land holding~~land-holding category are facing problems due to market intermediaries, FPOs should find some permanent solution ~~of~~ tothis problem like registration with APMC and eNAM **(Bishnoi and Kumari, 2020)**

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in Rajasthan

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are playing an important role in improving the lives of farmers in Rajasthan. By pooling their resources and working together, FPOs are able to negotiate better prices for their produce, access better inputs and services, and market their products more effectively.As a result of these efforts, FPOs have been able to significantly increase the incomes of their members. A study by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) found that FPOs in Rajasthan were able to increase the incomes of their members by an average of 25%. In addition to increasing incomes, FPOs are also helping to improve the quality of life for farmers in Rajasthan. By providing access to better inputs and services, FPOs are helping farmers to improve their yields and reduce their costs. This is leading to a more sustainable and profitable agricultural sector.

Research Methodology:

The present study was conducted in Jalore district of Rajasthan. Out of 6 blocks in Jalore district, Ahore block is selected purposively based on maximum number of farmers were engaged in Farmer producer organization. From the selected block, six villages were selected purposively based on maximum number of farmers were engaged in Farmer producer organization. Ex-Post facto design was adopted for the study as it describes the characteristics or phenomena that are being studied.

Results and Discussion:

Table 1. Socio-economic profile of the respondents

Sl. No.	Independent Variables	Category	Beneficiaries		Non-Beneficiaries	
			Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young age(Up to	17	28.33	11	18.33

		35 years)				
		Middle age (36-55 years)	32	53.33	39	65.00
		Old age (above 55 years)	11	18.34	10	16.67
2.	Caste	General	29	48.33	13	21.67
		OBC	22	36.67	27	45.00
		SC & ST	9	15.00	20	33.33
3.	Education	Illiterate	11	18.33	22	36.67
		Primary school education	19	31.67	26	43.33
		High school education	14	23.33	5	8.33
		Intermediate	11	18.34	4	6.67
		Graduate & above	5	8.33	3	5.00
4.	Occupation	Only farming	20	33.33	41	68.34
		Farming + Business	31	51.67	11	18.33
		Farming + Service	9	15.00	8	13.33
5.	Family Size	Small(1-4)	14	23.33	16	26.67
		Medium(5-8)	34	56.67	27	45.00
		Large(9above)	12	20.00	17	28.33
6.	Type of house	Kuchha	2	3.33	10	16.67
		Semi-cemented	20	33.33	39	65.00
		Cemented	38	63.34	11	18.33
7.	Land holding	Marginal (<1 ha)	4	6.67	16	26.67
		Small (1-2 ha)	7	11.67	28	46.67
		Medium (2-3 ha)	32	53.33	12	20.00
		Large (4> ha)	17	28.33	4	6.66
8.	Annual Income	Low(below 1 lakh)	5	8.33	27	45.00
		Medium(1-2lakh)	17	28.33	22	36.67
		High(Above2lakh)	38	63.34	11	18.33
9.	Extension contacts	Low	11	18.33	21	35.00
		Medium	32	53.34	28	46.67
		High	17	28.33	11	18.33
10.	Social Participation	Low	8	13.33	19	31.67
		Medium	29	48.34	32	53.33
		High	23	38.33	9	15.00
11.	Mass media	Low	9	15.00	33	55.00

	exposure	Medium	32	53.33	25	41.67
		High	19	31.67	2	3.33
12.	Risk Preference	Low	11	18.33	28	46.67
		Medium	31	51.67	25	41.67
		High	18	30.00	7	11.66
13.	Economic motivation	Low	11	18.33	16	26.67
		Medium	20	33.33	32	53.33
		High	29	48.34	12	20.00

From the table 1, it was observed that distribution of various independent variables among beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. age, middle-aged individuals are the largest group among both beneficiaries (53.33%) and non-beneficiaries (65.00%). In terms of caste, the largest group among beneficiaries are General category individuals (48.33%), while among non-beneficiaries were OBC individuals are the largest group (45.00%).In terms of education, the largest group among both beneficiaries (31.67%) and non-beneficiaries (43.33%) has only primary school education. Regarding occupation, farming along with businesswas the most common occupation among both beneficiaries (51.67%) and in non-beneficiaries (68.34%)are only practicing farming. Medium family size (5-8 members) is the most common category among both beneficiaries (56.67%) and non-beneficiaries (45.00%).In terms of type of house, cemented houses are more common among beneficiaries (63.34%), while semi-cemented houses are more common among non-beneficiaries (65.00%). Regarding landholding, medium landholdingis the most common category in beneficiaries (53.33%) and non-beneficiaries(46.67%) were having small landholding. Regarding annual income, high-income individuals are the largest group among beneficiaries (63.34%), while low-income individuals are the largest group among non-beneficiaries (45.00%).In terms of extension contact, the medium level of contact is the most common category among both beneficiaries (53.34%) and non-beneficiaries (46.67%). Similarly, social participation is mostly at the medium level among both beneficiaries (48.34%) and non-beneficiaries (53.33%).Regarding mass media exposure is the most common category among beneficiaries (53.34%), while low ownership is more common among non-beneficiaries (55.00%). In terms of risk orientation, medium risk preference is the most common category among both beneficiaries (51.67%) and non-beneficiaries (46.67%) in low.Finally, economic motivation is high among most beneficiaries (48.34%), while it is medium among most non-beneficiaries (53.33%). Similar findings also reported by **Venkattakumar *et al.* (2019) and Subhangi (2016).**

Table 2. Distribution of respondent according to their perception of FPO

S.NO.	STATEMENT	Beneficiaries			Non- Beneficiaries		
		Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree
1.	It provides	38	15	7	14	20	26

	timely inputs	(63.33%)	(25.00%)	(11.67%)	(23.33%)	(33.33%)	(43.33%)
2.	It provides extension support (training program, demonstration, meeting, exposure visit)	47 (78.33%)	8 (13.33%)	5 (8.33%)	11 (18.33%)	25 (41.67%)	24 (40.00%)
3.	It has tie-up with the agricultural universities to facilitate access to improved technology and expert advice	25 (41.67%)	28 (46.67%)	7 (11.67%)	8 (13.33%)	23 (38.33%)	29 (48.34%)
4.	Regular audit	26 (43.33%)	20 (33.33%)	14 (23.33%)	16 (26.67%)	17 (28.33%)	27 (45.00%)
5.	It has well-built storage structures	16 (26.67%)	40 (66.67%)	4 (06.66%)	11 (18.33%)	14 (23.33%)	35 (58.34%)
6.	It has well equipped transport facilities	15 (25.00%)	39 (65.00%)	6 (10.00%)	7 (11.67%)	16 (26.67%)	37 (61.66%)
7.	It helps in grading and packaging of the produce	16 (26.67%)	39 (65.00%)	5 (8.33%)	10 (16.66%)	25 (41.67%)	25 (41.67%)
8.	It helps in quick payment to farmers	10 (16.67%)	47 (78.33%)	3 (05.00%)	4 (6.67%)	26 (43.33%)	30 (50.00%)
9.	It helps in planning group activities	20 (33.33%)	37 (61.67%)	3 (05.00%)	7 (11.66%)	25 (41.67%)	28 (46.67%)
10.	It help in marketing produce	34 (56.67%)	21 (35.00%)	5 (8.33%)	12 (20.00%)	17 (28.33%)	31 (51.67%)
11.	Ideology of all members	10 (16.67%)	47 (78.33%)	3 (05.00%)	8 (13.33%)	17 (28.33%)	35

	match						(58.34%)
12.	Are friendly with each other in action	10 (16.67%)	49 (81.67%)	1 (1.67%)	4 (6.67%)	14 (23.33%)	42 (70.00%)
13.	It helps in form coordination committee to solve conflicts related to organizational management	40 (66.67%)	16 (26.67%)	4 (6.66%)	12 (20.00%)	16 (26.67%)	32 (53.33%)
14.	Given equal opportunity to contribute	39 (65.00%)	14 (23.33%)	7 (11.67%)	4 (6.67%)	27 (45.00%)	29 (48.33%)
15.	Encourage others to raise questions	43 (71.67%)	15 (25.00%)	2 (03.33%)	10 (16.66%)	19 (31.67%)	31 (51.67%)

Table 3. Overall perception of respondent on its beneficiaries and non-Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries				**Non - Beneficiaries**		
S.No	**Category**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**	**Category**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
1.	Low (19-24)	5	8.33	Low (17-21)	28	46.66
2.	Medium (25-29)	29	48.34	Medium (22-25)	22	36.67
3.	High (30-34)	26	43.33	High (26-29)	10	16.67
Total		60	100		60	100

It is evident from the above table that among beneficiaries, 48.34% of the respondents have medium levels of progressiveness, 43.33% have high levels of progressiveness, and only 8.33% have low progressiveness. Similarly, among non-beneficiaries, 46.66% of respondents have low levels of progressiveness, 36.67% have medium levelsof progressiveness, and only 16.67% have high progressiveness.

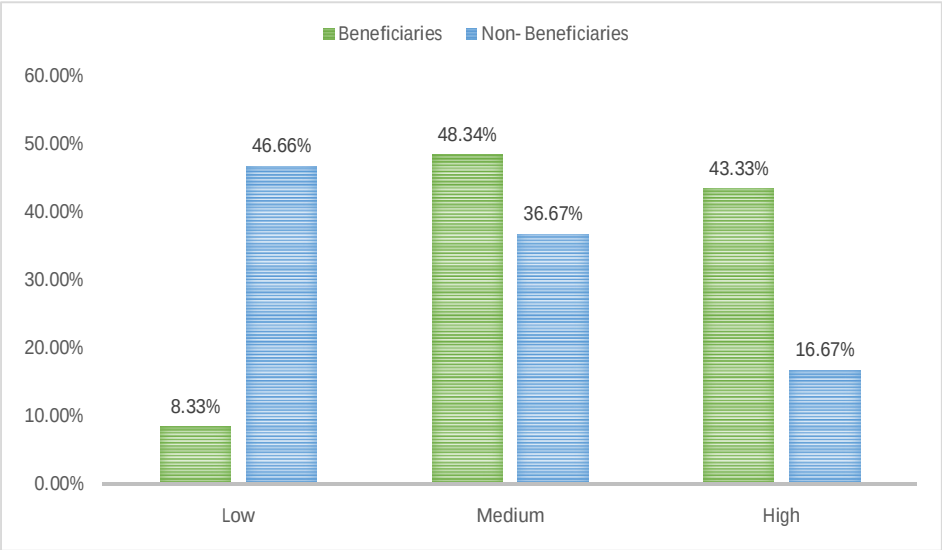

Figure 1. Overall perception of respondent on its beneficiaries and non-Beneficiaries

Table 4.Association between selected independent variables with Perception of farmer towards activities of FPO on its beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries:

Sl. No.	Independent Variable	Correlation coefficient	
		Beneficiaries	**Non- Beneficiaries**
1.	Age	0.349**	0.218**
2.	Caste	0.089NS	0.027NS
3.	Education	0.755*	0.756*
4.	Occupation	0.089NS	0.087NS
5.	Family size	0.093NS	0.076NS
6.	Type of house	0.802*	0.159**
7.	Land holding	0.795*	0.866*
8.	Annual income	0.700*	0.999*
9.	Extension contacts	0.795*	0.727*
10.	Social participation	0.986*	0.596*
11.	Mass Media Exposure	0.885*	0.996*
12.	Risk preference	0.836*	0.979*
13.	Economic motivation	0.802*	0.371**

***= 0.01% level of probability, **= 0.05% level of probability, NS= Non-significant**

From this above Table 4 concluded that independent variable education, type of house, land holding, annual income, extension contact, social participation, mass media exposure, risk

preference and economic motivation were positively and significantly correlated at 0.01~~per cent~~percent level of probability and age was positively and significantly correlated ~~with Perception~~with Perceptionof farmer towardsactivities of FPO on its beneficiaries at 0.05% probability. Therefore,the null hypothesis ~~were~~waswasrejected for these variables.caste, occupation, and family size were negatively and not significantly correlated ~~with~~ with the impact of FPO on its beneficiaries similar finding also reported by **S.K. Sharma*etal.* (2020)**. concluded that independent variableeducation, occupation, family size, land holding, annual income, extension contact, social participation, massmedia exposure and risk ~~preference were~~preference were positively and significantly correlated at 0.01 ~~per cent~~percent level of probability and age, type of house and economic motivation were positively and significantly correlated with perception of farmers towards activities of FPO on its non-beneficiaries at 0.05% probability. Therefore, null hypothesis was rejected for these variables.Caste, occupation and family sizewasnon-significantly correlated.

The candidate manuscript does not have a robust scientific discussion, I suggest the authors incorporate the suggested paragraphs, in this way it would improve the scientific quality of the manuscript:

The perception of respondents towards the activities of farmer-producer organizations (FPOs) in India can vary based on multiple factors, including their personal experiences, cultural context, and socioeconomic background. However, there are certain common themes that emerge when examining the perception of FPOs in India and comparing them with studies in agricultural, rural, and indigenous areas of Latin America (Cortez et al. 2016a; Camacho et al. 2018; Olivares, 2022).

Empowerment and Collective Strength: FPOs are often seen as platforms that empower farmers by enabling them to collectively bargain for better prices, access credit, and inputs, and improve their bargaining power in the market (Cortez et al. 2016b). This perception is shared both in India and Latin America, where FPOs have been seen as vehicles for strengthening the position of small-scale farmers and marginalized communities (Orlando et al. 2018; Hernandez et al. 2020).

Improved Market Access: FPOs in both India and Latin America are perceived to enhance market access for farmers. By pooling resources and coordinating production and marketing activities, FPOs can help farmers overcome challenges such as limited market information, lack of infrastructure, and fragmented production (Guevara et al. 2012a; Hernández and Olivares, 2020). This perception reflects the potential of FPOs to improve the livelihoods of farmers by connecting them to better market opportunities (Guevara et al. 2012b; Hernandez et al. 2018).

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building: FPOs are often viewed as platforms for knowledge sharing and capacity building, where farmers can learn about improved agricultural practices, market dynamics, and value-addition techniques (Montenegro et al. 2021a; Olivares, 2014a). This perception is consistent across India and Latin America, where

FPOs are recognized for their role in disseminating information and promoting innovation among farmers (Olivares, 2014b; Olivares and Hernández, 2019; Montenegro et al. 2021b).

Institutional Support and Policy Relevance: The perception of FPOs in both regions emphasizes the need for institutional support and favorable policy environments. Stakeholders often express the view that governments and other relevant institutions should provide adequate resources, infrastructure, and policy frameworks to enable the effective functioning of FPOs (Olivares et al. 2017a). This perception reflects the recognition that FPOs alone cannot address the structural challenges faced by farmers, and supportive policies and institutions are crucial for their success (Olivares et al. 2017b).

Challenges and Limitations: While there is generally a positive perception of FPOs, studies also highlight challenges and limitations. Common concerns include issues related to governance, transparency, financial viability, and the need for effective leadership within FPOs (Orlando and Franco,2015; Pitti et al. 2021). These challenges are not limited to a specific region but are shared by FPOs in both India and Latin America (Rodriguez et al. 2015; Zingaretti et al. 2016).

It is important to note that while there are similarities in the perception of FPOs between India and Latin America, there can also be significant variations within each region and among different contexts. Factors such as cultural diversity, historical background, and local agricultural systems can influence the specific perceptions and outcomes associated with FPOs in different areas.

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Conclusion:

It was concluded that the majority of respondents, both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, were middle-aged and had a primary level of education. Most respondents were part of a nuclear family and owned 1-2 hectares of land. Both groups had moderate levels of extension contact and social participation. The perception of farmers towards activities of the farmer producer organization on its beneficiaries was observed to be at a medium level and in the case ~~of~~ of non-beneficiaries was observed to be at a low level. Moreover, it was found that age, family size, education, ~~house holding~~householding, annual income extension contacts, social participation, media ownership, risk preference, and economic motivation were positively and significantly correlated with the perception of farmers towards activities of FPO.To improve the perception of farmers towards FPOs, the government should provide subsidized training, demonstrations, infrastructure facilities, and inputs.

Reference:

I suggest adding recent references which address the issue in question in Latin American territories. Suggested citations are for genuine scientific reasons that emphasize the current topic of study in context:

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