

FARMER'S PERCEPTION AND SATISFACTION TOWARDS FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATION IN JAMNAGAR DISTRICT , GUJARAT, INDIA

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 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.

Key words: FPO, socio-economic status, benefits received to farmer members by FPOs

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.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To study the socio economic status of farmers
- 2) To ascertain the benefits received to farmer members by FPOs

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.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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.

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

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.

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

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.* (2023).

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

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 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 ± S.D.	200942.45 - 892350.89	97	80.83
3	Mean + S.D.	>=892350.90	13	10.83
Total			120	100.00

Below 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 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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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 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

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.* (2022).

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

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.

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