

# **Original Research Article**

## **Socio-economic profile of Sugarcane growers in district Lakhimpur Kheri**

### **Abstract**

A Multistage stratified purposive cum random sampling technique was adopted for the study of 150 farmers selected through proportionate randomly sampling. It was found that maximum 84.06 per cent of marginal farmers were belonging to nuclear family system and 62.32 per cent of them were backward in caste. 21.74 per cent marginal farmers were having education up to high school and 81.16 per cent of marginal farmers were of agriculture practising category. Maximum 37.68 per cent marginal farmers belonged to higher income group followed by 33.33 and 28.99 per cent marginal farmers belonging to lower and higher income groups, respectively.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic, sugarcane, income.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Sugarcane is one of the important commercial led industrial crop in India. It has contributed significantly to the growth of Indian Agriculture and National Gross Domestic Products (GDP). The rural economy in traditional sugarcane growing area is primarily linked with sugarcane crop and sugar or allied industries. Sugarcane plays an important role for the general socio-economic development of farming community (Rehman and Bee, 2019). With the shrinking land holding size of the farmers in India, it is of utmost important to improve the working efficiency in order to gain maximum returns and ultimately the satisfaction. To achieve it is important to use each and every piece of land efficiently and in an appropriate manner. All these require a managerial skill which further depends upon the social know-how of the farmer. Therefore, the factors like the education, age, family size etc., of the farmers become deciding factors in the farm to its success and failure. In rural areas the success of the farm solely depends upon the social endowment of the farmer about the farm and its operation. The farm success or failure depends upon the criterion of the practice that how the decisions are being made on the farm, and also how the management decisions of the farm is being

taken. Therefore, in this context a study is being made in the Lakhimpur Kheri district regarding the socio-economic behaviour of the Sugarcane growers.

## **ADOPTED RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

A Multistage stratified purposive cum random sampling technique was used for the study. 150 farmers were selected randomly through proportionate allocation to the population of 02 blocks namely Mohammadi and Kumbhi od district Lakhimpur Kheri. District Lakhimpur Kheri of U.P. was selected purposively because of well acquaintance with the investigator and one of the major sugarcane growing district of U.P. The primary data was collected from the respondent by using pretested interview schedule by personal contact. Simple averages and mathematical operations are used in analysing the collected data.

## **RESULTS & FINDINGS**

### **Land holdings:**

The details of land holding, area under different size group of sample farms is given in table 1 The average size of land holding on marginal, small and large farms were found 0.78, 1.35, and 2.56 hectares, respectively. The total cultivated area at all categories of sample farms were found in irrigated condition. On an average, size of land holding was estimated at 1.31 hectare and irrigated areas were found 100.00 per cent, respectively.

Hence it can be concluded that area possessed by sample farms were irrigated.

Distribution of cultivated land owned by different size group of sample farms revealed that 27.97 per cent of cultivated land was owned by 46.00 per cent of marginal size of farms. Whereas 36.20 and 35.83 per cent of this area were owned by 35.33 and 18.67 per cent of small and large size group of farms. It shows that land and human labour combination on sample farm are not appropriate.

**Table 1 Average size of holding under different size group of sample farms (ha):**

<b>Size of sample farms</b>	<b>No. of respondents</b>	<b>Total area</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Average size</b>
<b>Marginal</b>	69	53.89	27.97	0.78
<b>Small</b>	53	71.79	36.20	1.35
<b>Large</b>	28	71.93	35.83	2.57

<b>Total</b>	120	156.93	100	1.31*
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\*Indicate overall average

(Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage of total.)

### **Family type of sugarcane growers**

It is evident from table 2 that maximum 84.06 per cent marginal farmers were belonging to nuclear family system and 15.94 per cent were belonging to joint family system. Similarly, 81.13 per cent small farmers belonged to nuclear family and 18.87 per cent small farmers belonged to joint family. The 89.29 per cent large farmers belonged to nuclear family, 13.64 per cent belonged to joint family. Thus, it is clear from table-6 that most of the sugarcane growers belonged to nuclear family system.

### **Caste composition**

It is evident from table 2 that the maximum 62.32 per cent marginal farmers belonged to backward caste followed by 21.74 per cent and 15.94 per cent belonging to scheduled caste and general caste, respectively. In case of small farmers maximum 73.58 per cent belonged to backward caste and 20.75 per cent belonged to scheduled caste and 5.66 per cent general caste belonged to. In case of medium farmers maximum 75.00 per cent belonged to backward caste followed by 14.29 and 10.71 per cent belonging to general caste and scheduled caste, respectively.

Thus, it is clear from table 2 that the most of the sugarcane growers belonged to backward caste. It means backward people were using sugarcane as a cash crop, which will be helpful for upliftment of the socio-economic status of sugarcane growers.

### **Age of sugarcane grower**

It is evident from table 2 that majority 47.83 per cent marginal farmers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group remaining 30.43, 11.59 and 10.14 per cent marginal farmers belonged to lower medium (31-45 years), higher medium (45-60 years) and old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively.

In case of small farmers maximum 45.28 per cent small farmers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group remaining 26.42, 24.53 and 3.77 per cent small farmers belonged to higher medium (46-60 years), lower medium (31-45 years), and old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively. The 42.86 per cent large farmers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group remaining 25.00, 17.86 and 14.29 per cent large farmers belonged

to lower medium (31-45 years), higher medium (45-60 years) and old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively.

Thus, it is clear from table 2 that the overall most of the sugarcane growers belonged to young (18 to 30 years) of age group that is 46.00 per cent, 27.33 per cent belonged to lower medium (31-45 years), 18.00 per cent higher medium (46-60 years) and 8.67 per cent old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively. It can be said that young farmers are very keen to grow sugarcane.

### **Education level**

It is apparent from table 2 that 21.74 per cent marginal farmers were having education up to high school followed by 17.39, 15.94, 14.49, 13.04 and 4.35 per cent marginal farmers were having graduate, up to primary, up to junior high school, intermediate and post graduate and above level of education, respectively. Only 13.04 per cent marginal farmers were found illiterate.

In case of small farmers 30.19 per cent were having intermediate of education followed by 15.09, 13.21, 11.32, 7.55 and 7.55 per cent small farmers having graduate, up to junior high school, up to primary, up to high school and post graduate and above level of education, respectively. Only 15.09 per cent small farmers were found illiterate.

In case of medium farmers 22.73 per cent intermediate were educated followed by 18.18, 18.18, 13.64, 9.09 and 9.09 per cent large farmers having up to high school, up to junior high school, up to primary, graduate, and post graduate and above level of education, respectively. Only of the large farmer was found 10.71 per cent in the category of illiterate.

Thus, it is clear from table 2 that maximum respondents were having intermediate followed by graduate, up to high school level, up to primary, up to junior high school, and post graduate and above level of education. Only 13.33 per cent sugarcane cultivators were found illiterate. It means most of the educated persons were having interest of sugarcane cultivation.

### **Occupation of the sugarcane growers**

It is evident from table 2 that majority of the marginal 81.16 per cent, small 81.13 per cent and large farmers 75.00 per cent were adopting agriculture as a main occupation whereas 11.59 per cent marginal, 11.32 per cent small and 14.29 per cent large farmers

were adopting agriculture + business, as for as the 7.25 per cent marginal, 7.55 per cent small and 10.71 per cent large farmers were doing agriculture + Business + service. Thus, it is clear from table-5.3 that the majority (80.00 per cent) of the farmers were involved in agriculture, only 12.00 per cent farmers were adopting Agriculture + Business and only 8.00 per cent farmers were adopting Agriculture + Business + Service.

### Annual income

It is evident from table 2 that maximum 37.68 per cent marginal farmers belonged to higher income group followed by 33.33 and 28.99 per cent marginal farmers belonging to lower and higher income groups, respectively. In case of small farmers majority 43.40 per cent belonged to medium income group followed by 35.85 per cent and 20.75 per cent belonging to higher and lower income groups, respectively. In case of large farmers majority 53.57 per cent belonged to medium income group followed by 25.00 and 21.43 per cent belonging to lower and higher income groups, respectively.

**Table 2 Socio-economic characteristics of sugarcane growers**

Characteristics	Marginal	Small	Large
Number of respondents	69	53	28
Average land holding size	0.78	1.35	2.57
<b>Type of Family (in percentage)</b>			
Nuclear	84.06	81.13	89.29
Joint	15.94	18.87	13.64
<b>Caste Category (in percentage)</b>			
General	15.94	5.66	14.29
Backward	62.32	73.58	75.00
Schedule	21.74	20.75	10.71
<b>Age (in percentage)</b>			
18-30 years	47.83	45.28	42.86
31-45 years	30.43	24.53	25.00
46-60 years	11.59	26.42	17.86
Above 60 years	10.14	3.77	14.29
<b>Educational status (in percentage)</b>			
Illiterate	13.04	15.09	10.71
Primary	15.94	11.32	13.64

Junior high school	14.49	13.21	18.18
High School	21.74	7.55	18.18
Intermediate	13.04	30.19	22.73
Graduate	17.39	15.09	9.09
Post Graduate and above	4.35	7.55	9.09
<b>Occupation (in percentage)</b>			
Agriculture	81.16	81.13	75.00
Agriculture + Business	11.59	11.32	14.29
Agriculture + Business + Service	7.25	7.55	10.71
<b>Annual Income (in percentage)</b>			
Lower income (upto Rs. 15000)	33.33	20.75	25.00
Medium Income (Rs. 15001 - 50000)	28.99	<b>43.40</b>	<b>53.57</b>
Higher (Rs. Above 50000)	<b>37.68</b>	35.85	21.43
Cropping Intensity (in percentage)	248.72	245.19	244.92
<b>Net Income for Sugarcane cultivation (Rs.)</b>	<b>91801.41</b>	<b>94094.41</b>	<b>109761.49</b>

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