



STUDIES ON PERSONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CASHEW NUT GROWERS

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Abstract: The experiment was conducted to study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of the cashewnut growers in Ratnagiri district using an exploratory survey research design during 2010-2011. The cashewnut cultivation was taken up mostly by old age farmers (58%) having primary education (44%). The cashewnut growers belonged to medium family size (71%) with small land holding (61%) and having medium annual income (85%). Most of the cashewnut growers belonged to medium category of area under cashew cultivation (63%) having orchard of middle age category (61%). It is observed that most of the cashewnut growers belonged to medium category of per hectare cashew production (60%) having medium number of bearing trees (79%). It is found that they had medium experience in cashew cultivation (60%) and medium market orientation (70%).

Keywords: cashewnut, personal, socio-economic, age, education, market orientation.

Introduction

The cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*) is an important cash and dollar earning crop grown in Brazil, India, Kenya and other tropical countries. It was introduced in western coast of India by Portuguese in 16th century, mainly to check soil erosion. The cashew apple is used for preparation of ready to serve (RTS) juice, squash, syrup, jam, candy and wine. India is the largest producer of raw cashew in the world which ranks first in the area under cashew (8,55,000ha) with an annual production of 6.20 lakh MT (Anonymous, 2008). Konkan region of Maharashtra is very much suitable for this crop due to climatic conditions. The old cashew plantations which exists in the region, give low yield therefore, keeping in view the necessity and requirement of region, Dr. BSKKV., Dapoli has evolved eight high yielding varieties of cashew. The study was conducted in one of the major cashew growing district of Konkan region i.e. Ratnagiri. The findings of the study would be helpful to the extension workers in order to know the personal and socio-economic characteristics of the cashewnut growers.

Methodology

The study was conducted on cashewnut which is one of the important horticultural crop

grown in Ratnagiri district of the Konkan region of Maharashtra state. A research design is the arrangement of the condition or collection and analysis of the data in a manner that combines relevance to the research purpose with economy in procedure. In fact, the research design is the conceptual structure within which research is conducted. It constitutes the blue prints for collection, measurement and analysis of data. As such the design include outline of what the research would do from implications to the final analysis of data. The exploratory survey research design was used for the present study. The data was collected from two tahsils of Ratnagiri district i.e. Khed and Dapoli having maximum area under cashewnut cultivation. In consultation with the scientists, certain important variables were selected for the study i.e. age, education, family size, land holding, annual income, area under cashew cultivation, age of orchard, production from the cashewnut, number of bearing cashewnut trees, experience in cashewnut cultivation and market orientation.

Result and discussion

The data collected for the study were classified, tabulated, analyzed and results were presented.

A perusal of table 1 revealed that cashew cultivation was taken up mostly by the old age farmer and they might be having quite good experienced in farming. Similar results were reported by Chorge (2009) and Mandavkar (1998).

It can be observed from table 2 that maximum numbers of respondent were having primary education. The importance of the education was realized by the cashew growers but much will have to be done to improve further. Similar results were reported by Mandavkar (1998) and Zagade (1998).

It is seen from table 3 that most of the farmer had medium family size which might have influenced on their adoption level. Similar findings were reported by Priya Narvankar (2002) and Satale (2005).

Land holding is an important parameter for cashew production. It could be observed from table 4 that most of cashewnut growers belonged to the small land holding. Similar results were reported by Chawkekar (1984).

It is observed from table 5 that the respondent had medium level of economic status due to the remunerative crops like cashew grown by them. Such results were reported by Priya Narvankar (2002) and Satale (2005).

It could be observed from table 6 that majority of the respondents belonged to the medium category of area under cashew cultivation. Similar finding were reported by the Misal (2002) and Khanolkar (2004).

It is observed that (table 7) most of the cashew growers had relatively younger orchard. Similar results were reported by Zagade (1998).

With regards to per hectare cashew production, it is seen from table 8 that most of the farmers had average cashew production per hectare. Such results were reported by Mane (1998) and Misal (2000).

It is seen from table 9 that most of the respondents had medium number of bearing cashew trees which might have been contributing substantially in the annual income of the farmers. Similar findings were reported by Zagade *et. al.* (2003) and Satale (2005).

It is observed that (table 10) most of the cashew growers had relatively medium range experience. Similar results were reported by Chorge (2009) and Thorat (2003).

With regards to market orientation, it is seen from table 11 that most of the farmers (70%) had medium market orientation. The findings of the present study are similar with the findings of Depali Topare (1996) and Misal (2002).

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their age

Sr. No.	Age (years)	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Young (up to 36)	14	14.00
2	Middle (37 to 57)	28	28.00
3	Old (58 and above)	58	58.00
	Average (years): 47 Total	100	100.00

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their education

Sr. No.	Education	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Pre-primary (up to 4)	12	12.00
2	Primary (5 to 7)	44	44.00
3	Secondary (8 to 10)	33	33.00
4	Higher secondary (11 to 12)	11	11.00
	Average 7 th standard Total	100	100.00

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their family size

Sr. No.	Family size	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Small (up to 5)	28	28.00
2	Medium (6 to 7)	71	71.00
3	Big (8 and above)	1	1.00
	Average 6 (No.) Total	100	100.00

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their land holding

Sr. No.	Land holding (ha)	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Marginal (up to 1)	26	26.00
2	Small (1.01 to 2)	61	61.00
3	Semi – medium (2.01 and above)	13	13.00
	Average 1.48 (ha) Total	100	100.00

Table 5: Distribution of the respondents according to their annual income

Sr. No.	Annual income (Rs)	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (up to 41994)	8	8.00
2	Medium (41995 to 121583)	85	85.00
3	High (121584 and above)	7	7.00
	Average:81788/- (Rs) Total	100	100.00

Table 6: Distribution of the respondents according to area under cashew cultivation

Sr. No.	Area under cashew cultivation (ha)	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Small (up to 0.19)	9	9.00
2	Medium (0.20 to 0.59)	63	63.00
3	Large (0.60 and above)	28	28.00
	Average:0.39ha Total	100	100.00

Table 7: Distribution of the respondents according to age of orchard

Sr. No.	Age of orchard (years)	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Young (up to 8)	14	14.00
2	Middle (9 to 14)	61	61.00
3	Old (15 and above)	25	25.00
	Average age: 12 Total	100	100.00

Table 8: Distribution of the respondents according to production per hectare

Sr. No.	Production per hectare	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (up to 853.64)	18	18.00
2	Medium (853.65 to 1376.58)	60	60.00
3	High (1376.59 and above)	22	22.00
	Average :1154.58kg/ha Total	100	100.00

Table 9: Distribution of the respondents according to number of bearing cashew trees

Sr. No.	Number of bearing cashew trees	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Small (up to 211)	11	11.00
2	Medium (212 to 268)	79	79.00
3	Large (269 and above)	10	10.00
	Average: 240 Total	100	100.00

Table 10: Distribution of the respondents according to their experience

Sr. No.	Experience (years)	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (up to 9)	18	18.00
2	Medium (10 to 20)	60	60.00
3	High (21 and above)	22	22.00
	Average (years): 15 Total	100	100.00

Table 11: Distribution of the respondents according to market orientation

Sr. No.	Market orientation	Respondents (N=100)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (up to 9)	14	14.00
2	Medium (10 to 12)	70	70.00
3	High (13 and above)	16	16.00
	Average: 12 (score) Total	100	100.00

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