

AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF APPLE GROWERS IN KASHMIR (J&K)

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Abstract

Socio-economic condition of the farmers plays a pivotal role in agriculture in India. Literature said that there has a number of researches being done on Indian farmers however the socio-economic condition has been explored in few research papers. The present study was conducted with a view to analyze socio-economic condition of the sample apple growers in Baramulla, Kupwara and Shopian districts of Jammu & Kashmir. The study shows that the majority of the sample apple growers have joint family system in all the three districts. 61.7 per cent of the sample apple growers have agriculture as the main occupation and 38.33 per cent apple growers have agriculture as subsidiary occupation. This study also reveals the type of house they have, their source of drinking water, means of transport they own and their income level.

Keywords: Agriculture, Apple growers, Jammu & Kashmir, Socio-economic Condition.

INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic condition of the farmers plays a pivotal role in agriculture in India. Economic status of apple growers depends upon the prices of the fruits, but it is badly affected by the low prices of the apple during the peak season and non-availability of storage facilities during peak season (Bhat 2014). Family education, media exposure and cost of production also decides the socio-economic condition of the apple growers and these variables are positively related with the socio-economic condition (Acharjee, 2002). Age, sex and experience of the farmers plays a pivotal role in the economic condition of the farmers in US. Younger workers have more efficiency than the older ones. Similarly, male workers have more efficiency than the female workers (Cuskaden, 1973). The relative peace in the valley, made farmers to focus on improving their livelihood. The apple sector has potential to influence several households and improve their economic prospects (Naquash et al, 2018). Literature said that there has a number of researches being done on Indian farmers. However, the socio-economic condition has been explored only in few research papers. Similarly, there has only few research papers showing the socio-economic condition of apple growers in Jammu & Kashmir.

In this paper socio-economic characteristics comprises of distribution of apple growers, occupation of the apple growers, their educational level, average family size and composition, distribution of family members by literacy. Moreover, the aim of this paper is to through light on some social indicators of the apple growers in Jammu & Kashmir.

Objective and Research Methodology

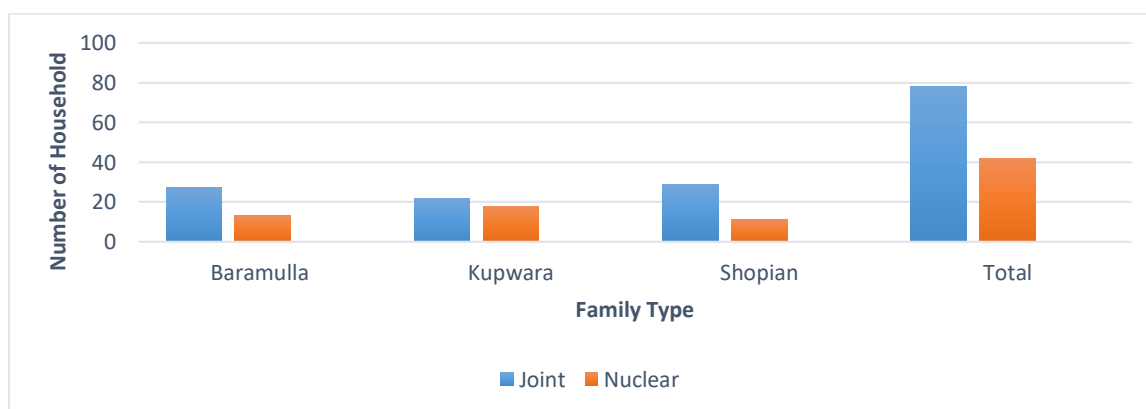
The present study based on primary data aims to analyze some socio-economic aspects of apple growers in Kashmir. Primary data gathered through a well-structured interview schedule. The universe for conducting the present study is Baramulla, Kupwara and Shopian districts from Jammu and Kashmir are selected purposively for field study. The reason behind this is that these districts cover highest area and production of apple cultivation. Therefore, finally three districts are considered for the study. In Baramulla, two tehsils, Baramulla and Sopore were selected. In Kupwara, Hindwara and Kupwara tehsils were selected and in Shopian district there is only one tehsil Shopian, selected for the study purpose. A total number of 40 apple growers from each district, 20 from each tehsil are selected purposively as sample for collecting the primary data for study purpose and hence the total sample size for the present study is 120.

Results and Explanation

Family Type

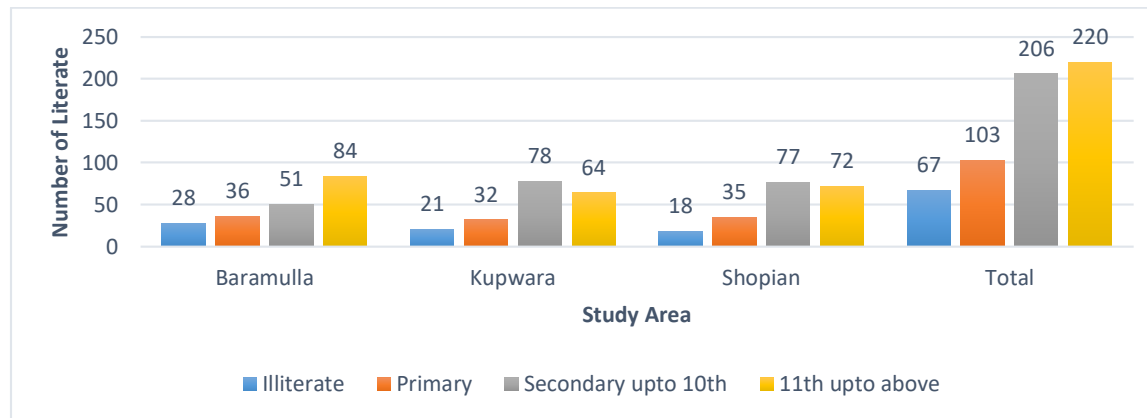
The following table represents the social characteristics of sample apple growers in Jammu & Kashmir. It is appeared in the table that maximum families in all the three districts belongs to the joint family. There is 67.5 per cent respondents who have joint family in Baramulla. Similarly, there is 55 per cent growers in Kupwara and 72.5 per cent growers in Shopian who have joint family. On the other hand, there is 32.5 per cent in Baramulla, 45 per cent in Kupwara and 27.5 per cent families in Shopian are living in nuclear family. There is majority of the sample apple growers in all the three districts were joint in nature (i.e., 65 per cent) while the remaining (i.e., 35 per cent) were nuclear in nature.

The following diagram shows the number of households vertically and family type on horizontally. This diagram also shows that majority of the households in all the three districts belong to the joint family system. Out of 40 households in each district, 27 in Baramulla, 22 in Kupwara and 29 in Shopian have joint family system and 78 households out of 120 in J&K have joint family system and remaining have nuclear family system as shown in the following diagram.



Literacy Level

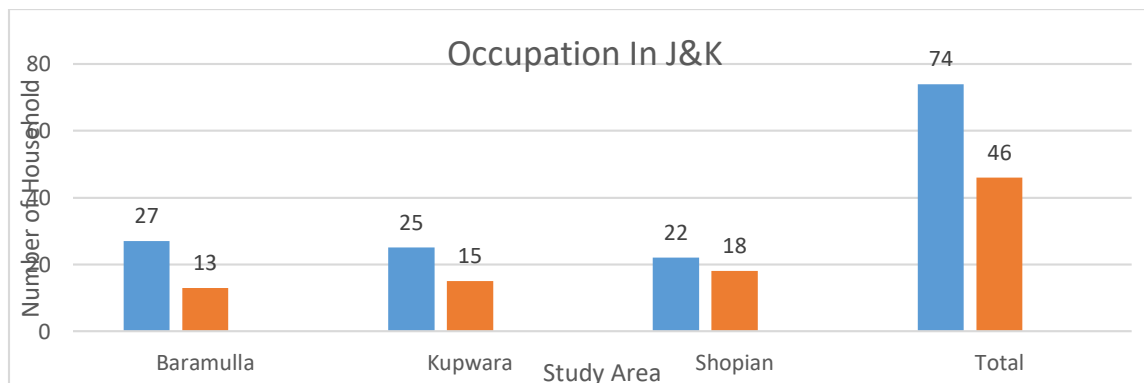
The study shows that maximum members have received secondary level education in Kupwara and Shopian (i.e., 40 per cent and 38.12 per cent) but in Baramulla maximum members have received 11th up to above level of education (i.e., 42.21 per cent). There were 14.07 per cent illiterate sample apple growers found in Baramulla, 10.77 per cent in Kupwara and 8.91 per cent illiterate sample growers were found in Shopian. Overall, there were 11.24 per cent illiterate sample apple growers found in all the three districts. The district wise literacy level in Jammu and Kashmir is also shown in the following diagram.



The above diagrams and Pie charts clearly speak that the out of 596 persons only 67 were found illiterate and remaining 529 were literate i.e., only 11.24 per cent sample apple growers in Jammu & Kashmir found illiterate and remaining 88.76 per cent apple growers are literate.

Occupation

With regard to the occupation of the growers, it was found that 67.5 per cent growers in Baramulla, 62.5 per cent growers in Kupwara and 55 per cent apple growers in Shopian i.e., majority of them, agriculture was the main occupation while for the rest it was a subsidiary occupation as shown in the following diagrams.



The above diagrams clearly indicate that out of 120 sample apple growers from Jammu & Kashmir 74 has agriculture as the main occupation and remaining 46 has agriculture as subsidiary occupation i.e., 61.67 per cent apple growers has agriculture as main occupation and 38.33 per cent apple growers has agriculture as subsidiary occupation.

Table-1

Social characteristics of apple growers in Jammu & Kashmir

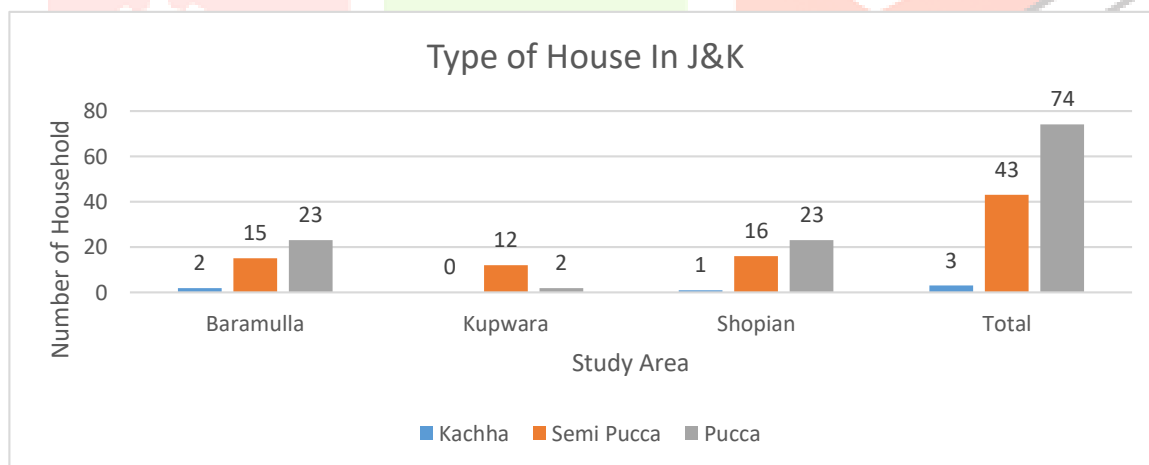
| S.no | Particular | Baramulla | | Kupwara | | Shopian | | Total | |
|------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | Number | Per Cent | Number | Per Cent | Number | Per Cent | Number | Per cent |
| 1 | Family Type | | | | | | | | |
| | Joint | 27 | 67.5 | 22 | 55 | 29 | 72.5 | 78 | 65 |
| | Nuclear | 13 | 32.5 | 18 | 45 | 11 | 27.5 | 42 | 35 |
| | Total | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 120 | 100 |
| 2 | Literacy Status | | | | | | | | |
| | Illiterate | 28 | 14.07 | 21 | 10.77 | 18 | 8.91 | 67 | 11.24 |
| | Primary | 36 | 18.09 | 32 | 16.41 | 35 | 17.33 | 103 | 17.28 |
| | Secondary up to 10th | 51 | 25.63 | 78 | 40 | 77 | 38.12 | 206 | 34.56 |
| | 11th up to above | 84 | 42.21 | 64 | 32.82 | 72 | 35.64 | 220 | 36.91 |
| | Total | 199 | 100 | 195 | 100 | 202 | 100 | 596 | 100 |
| 3 | Occupation | | | | | | | | |
| | Agriculture as main occupation | 27 | 67.5 | 25 | 62.5 | 22 | 55 | 74 | 61.67 |
| | Agriculture as subsidiary occupation | 13 | 32.5 | 15 | 37.5 | 18 | 45 | 46 | 38.33 |
| | Total | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 120 | 100 |
| 4 | Type of House | | | | | | | | |
| | Kachha | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2.5 | 3 | 2.5 |
| | Semi Pucca | 15 | 37.5 | 12 | 30 | 16 | 40 | 43 | 35.83 |
| | Pucca | 23 | 57.5 | 28 | 70 | 23 | 57.5 | 74 | 61.67 |
| | Total | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 120 | 100 |
| 5 | Source of Drinking water | | | | | | | | |
| | Pipe water | 17 | 42.5 | 19 | 47.5 | 20 | 50 | 56 | 46.67 |
| | Tube well | 4 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 5 |
| | Hand pump | 5 | 12.5 | 6 | 15 | 3 | 7.5 | 14 | 11.67 |
| | Spring /stream | 12 | 30 | 13 | 32.5 | 15 | 37.5 | 40 | 33.33 |
| | Others | 2 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3.33 |

| | Total | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 120 | 100 |
|----------|------------------------------|----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|-------|
| 6 | Means of transport | | | | | | | | |
| | Two-wheeler | 19 | 47.5 | 23 | 57.5 | 15 | 37.5 | 57 | 47.5 |
| | Four-wheeler | 13 | 32.5 | 11 | 27.5 | 9 | 22.5 | 33 | 27.5 |
| | Having both | 6 | 15 | 7 | 17.5 | 7 | 17.5 | 20 | 16.67 |
| | No means of transport | 8 | 20 | 6 | 15 | 16 | 40 | 30 | 25 |

Source: Field Survey (2018)

Type of House

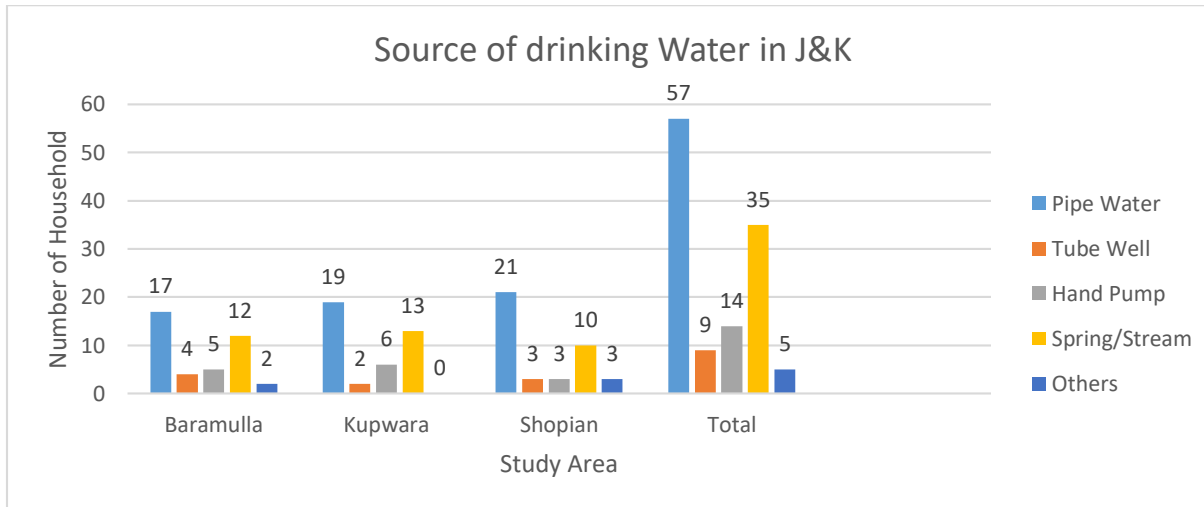
The above table also reveals the type of houses growers have. It found that majority of the apple growers have own pucca house i.e., 57.5 per cent in Baramulla, 70 per cent in Kupwara, 57.5 per cent in Shopian and overall, 61.7 per cent apple growers have pucca house. On the other hand, there is only 5 per cent apple growers in Baramulla and 2.5 per cent apple growers in Shopian were found with kaccha house and 37.5 per cent in Baramulla, 30 per cent in Kupwara & 40 per cent apple growers in Shopian were found with semi pucca houses. Overall, 2.5 per cent apple growers found with kaccha house, 35.83 per cent with semi pucca and 61.67 per apple growers in J&K were found with pucca house in the study area which is also reveals in the following diagrams.



Source of Drinking Water

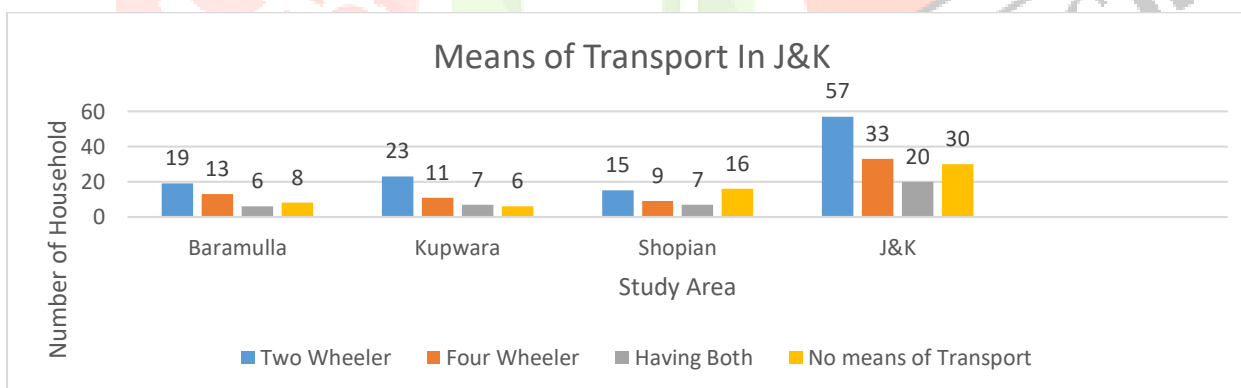
It is found in the study area that in Baramulla 42.5 per cent apple growers depends on pipe water for drinking, 10 per cent for tube well, 12.5 per cent for hand pump, 30 per cent for spring/stream and 5 per cent for other sources of water for drinking purpose. In Kupwara 47.5 per cent apple growers depends on pipe water for drinking, 5 per cent for tube well, 15 per cent for hand pump and 32.5 per cent for spring/stream for drinking purpose. In Shopian, 50 per cent apple growers depend on pipe water for drinking, 7.5 per cent for hand pump, 37.5 per cent for spring/stream and 5 per cent for other sources of water for drinking purpose. Overall, 46.67 per cent sample apple growers depends on pipe water for their drinking purpose, 5 per cent depends on tube well,

11.67 per cent depends on hand pump, 33.33 per cent depends on spring/stream and only 3.33 per cent respondent apple growers depends on other sources of drinking water like well, river etc. as shown in the following diagrams.



Means of Transport

There is 20 per cent of apple growers in Baramulla, 15 per cent in Kupwara and 40 per cent apple growers in Shopian have not any personal means of transport. But 47.5 per cent in Baramulla, 57.5 per cent in Kupwara and 37.5 per cent sample growers in Shopian were found with two-wheeler as a means of transport. Similarly, 32.5 per cent in Baramulla, 27.5 per cent in Kupwara, and 22.5 per cent in sample apple growers in Shopian having four-wheeler as a means of transport and there is 15 per cent in Baramulla, 17.5 per cent in Kupwara, and 17.5 per cent growers in Shopian having both two-wheeler as well as four-wheeler vehicle as a means of transport which is also shown in the following diagram.



Average size of land holding of the respondent households in Jammu & Kashmir:

In the following table, land ownership was classified into two different categories i.e., total land holding and land under apple cultivation and the sample apple growers were stratified into three categories, i.e., small (up to 20 Kanals), medium (more than 20 Kanals to 40 Kanals) and large farmers (more than 40 Kanals). The detail pertaining to the same are presented in table. In Baramulla and Kupwara majority were found to be smallfarmers with an average apple growing area of 8.85 Kanals and 11.75 Kanals followed by medium having average area under apple crop is 19.54 Kanals & 18.32 Kanals. There is not found any large farmer in Baramulla district but

only one farmer found in Kupwara and 2 large farmers in Shopian. In Shopian majority were found to be medium farmers with an average size of land holding is 32.05 Kanals and average area under apple crop is 20.86 Kanals.

Table-2

Average size of land holding of the respondent households in Jammu & Kashmir (in Kanals)

| s.no | District | Small | | | Medium | | | Large | | | Total | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | No. of Growers | Average size of land holding | Average area under apple | No. of Growers | Average size of land holding | Average area under apple | No. of Growers | Average size of land holding | Average area under apple | No. of Growers | Average size of land holding | Average area under apple |
| 1 | Baramulla | 17 | 14.24 | 10.47 | 13 | 29.69 | 9.08 | 10 | 51.2 | 19.7 | 40 | 28.5 | 12.33 |
| 2 | Kupwara | 13 | 15.76 | 11.23 | 18 | 29 | 13.89 | 9 | 50.56 | 30 | 40 | 29.55 | 16.65 |
| 3 | Shopian | 16 | 13.38 | 9.06 | 22 | 32.05 | 20.86 | 2 | 64 | 52.5 | 40 | 26.18 | 17.73 |
| Total | | 46 | 14.46 | 10.25 | 53 | 30.25 | 14.61 | 21 | 55.25 | 34.07 | 120 | 28.077 | 15.57 |

1.3 Income level of the respondent households in Jammu & Kashmir

Table 3.3 clearly depicts that in Jammu and Kashmir 3.3 per cent sample apple growers have income level below 15 thousand per month. 13.3 per cent have 15 to 25 thousand per month, 20.8 per cent have between 25 to 35 thousand per month, 30 per cent have between 35 to 45 thousand per month and 32.5 per cent apple growers have income level more than 45 thousand. This shows that majority of the sample apple growers have income more than 45 thousand per month in Jammu & Kashmir.

Table 1.3

Income level of the respondent households in Jammu & Kashmir (in Rs Thousand/Month)

| Income Level (In Rs Thousand) | Baramulla | | Kupwara | | Shopian | | Jammu & Kashmir | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | No of farmers | Per cent | No of farmers | Per cent | No of farmers | Per cent | No of farmers | Per cent |
| below 15 | 1 | 2.5 | 1 | 2.5 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3.3 |
| 15-25 | 6 | 15 | 6 | 15 | 4 | 10 | 16 | 13.3 |
| 25-35 | 11 | 27.5 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 25 | 25 | 20.8 |
| 35-45 | 6 | 15 | 15 | 37.5 | 15 | 37.5 | 36 | 30 |
| 45-above | 16 | 40 | 14 | 35 | 9 | 22.5 | 39 | 32.5 |
| Total | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 40 | 100 | 120 | 100 |

Source: Field Survey (2018).

Further analysis states that in Baramulla 40 per cent apple growers have income level more than 45 thousand per month but in Kupwara and Shopian most of them confined to 35 to 45 thousand per month.

Conclusion

It is concluded on the basis of the above table that majority of the respondents have joint family system, the majority of them did not have a good educational level. It is also concluded that majority of the respondents have pucca type of house. With regard to occupational status, the majority of the respondents had agriculture as main occupation. Pipe water is the main source of drinking water for majority of the respondents and majority of the respondents owned two-wheeler vehicle as a means of transport. It is also concluded from the above analysis that majority of the respondent household in Kupwara & Baramulla found to be small farmer but in Shopian majority of the respondent household found to be medium farmers.

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