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A STUDY ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE HORTICULTURE FARMERS IN PRAKASAM DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

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The horticulture sector is quickly rising because of the most remunerative sector for dynamic the age recent husbandry especially within the rain-fed dry lands, hills, arid and coastal agro-ecosystems. Agriculture crops area unit characterized by high productivity, higher returns, and better potential for employment generation and exports, relatively lower demand for water and simple ability to adverse soils. The input-output magnitude relation in most of the agriculture crops is way above that within the field crops and their role in the surroundings is another advantage. (Chadha and Pareek, 1993). The study carried with the objective of to study the socio economic conditions of the farmers of horticultural crops in Prakasam District.

Sampling method

Among two mandals, six sample villages, three from each mandal have been identified: Binginipalli, Kalikivaya and Kanumalla from Singarayakonda mandal and Atmakur, Baddepudi and Krishnapuram from Ulvapadu mandal, since cultivation is very predominant in these villages. In the fourth and final stage, the sample farmers have been chosen. As the basic aim of the study is to analyse the role of cultivation of horticultural crops in the socio-economic conditions of the sample farmers, only the farming households in the six sample villages form the population for this study. From each of the sample village, 25.0 per cent of the farming households which cultivate horticultural crops have been selected as the sample farmers. The number of total 360 farming households finalized for study.

Findings of the study

The profile of socio-economic conditions of the sample respondents such as age, marital status, religion, family composition, education, income and other social aspects has been discussed. The findings of the study about the socio-economic conditions of the horticulture farmers in Prakasam District are explore the socio-economic status.

Table-1: Area wise Gender of the Respondents

Area	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Singarayakonda	158	22	180
	43.9%	6.1%	50.0%
Ulvapadu	159	21	180
	44.2%	5.8%	50.0%
Total	317	43	360
	88.1%	11.9%	100.0%

The table 1 revealed that among the 360 sample respondents, 317 (88.1 per cent) are males and (43) 11.9 per cent are females.

On the other hand, 180 (50.0 per cent) belong to Singarayakonda and 180 (50.0 per cent) belong to Ulavapadu. Whereas, 43.9 per cent males and 6.1 per cent females live in Singarayakonda and 44.2 per cent males and 5.8 per cent females live in Ulavaspadu mandal.

Table-2: Area wise Age of Respondents

Age	Place of residence		Total
	Singarayakonda	Ulvapadu	
< - 25	7	7	14
	1.9%	1.9%	3.9%
26 - 35	64	64	128
	17.8%	17.8%	35.6%
36 - 45	73	71	144
	20.3%	19.7%	40.0%
46 - 55	22	23	45
	6.1%	6.4%	12.5%
56 - >	14	15	29
	3.9%	4.2%	8.1%
Total	180	180	360
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%

It is noted that among the 360 sample respondents, 14 (3.9 per cent) belong to the age group of upto 25 years, 128 (35.6 per cent) come under the 26-35 age group, 144 (40.0 per cent) fall in the age category of 36-45 years, 45 respondents (12.5 per cent) fall in the age category of 46 – 55 years and 29 respondents (8.1 per cent) belong to the above 56 age group. The average mean age is 41.2861.

Area wise in Singarayakonda, 1.9 per cent belong to below 25 years age group, 17.8 per cent belong to 26 – 35 years age group, 20.3 per cent belong to 36 – 45 years age group, 6.1 per cent belong to 46 – 55 years age group and 3.9 per cent belong to 56 and above age group are reside in Singarayakonda mandal.

Whereas in Ulavapadu, 1.9 per cent belong to below 25 years age group, 17.8 per cent belong to 26 – 35 years age group, 19.7 per cent belong to 36 – 45 years age group, 6.4 per cent belong to 46 – 55 years age group and 4.2 per cent belong to 56 and above age group are reside in Ulavapadu mandal.

Table-3: Age wise Gender of the Respondents

Age	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
< - 25	14	0	14
	3.9%	.0%	3.9%
26 - 35	105	23	128
	29.2%	6.4%	35.6%
36 - 45	129	15	144
	35.8%	4.2%	40.0%
46 - 55	43	2	45
	11.9%	.6%	12.5%
56 - >	26	3	29
	7.2%	.8%	8.1%
Total	317	43	360
	88.1%	11.9%	100.0%

It is understood that among the male category, 14 (3.9 per cent) belong to the age group of upto 25 years, 105 (29.2 per cent) come under the 26-35 age group, 129 (35.8 per cent) fall in the age category of 36-45 years, 43 (11.9 per cent) come under 46 – 55 years age group and 26 respondents (7.2 per cent) belong to the above 56 age group and the other side in female category, 23 (6.4 per cent) come under the 26-35 age group, 15 (4.2 per cent) fall in the age category of 36-45 years, 2 (0.6 per cent) come under 46 – 55 years of age group and 3 respondents (0.8 per cent) belong to the above 56 age group.

Table-4: Area wise level of Education of Respondents

Education	Place of residence		Total
	Singarayakonda	Ulvapadu	
Illiterate	107	108	215
	29.7%	30.0%	59.7%
Primary	33	32	65
	9.2%	8.9%	18.1%
High School	16	17	33
	4.4%	4.7%	9.2%
SSC	16	16	32
	4.4%	4.4%	8.9%
Graduate & above	8	7	15
	2.2%	1.9%	4.2%
Total	180	180	360
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%

It is depicted that among 360 sample respondents, 215 (59.7 per cent) are illiterate, 65 (18.1 per cent) are literate up to the primary level, 33 (9.2 per cent) are literate upto the high school level, 32 (8.9 per cent) have studied up to the SSC level and 15 respondents (4.2 per cent) are educated up to the degree level or more.

On the basis of area wise, in Singarayakonda madal 107 (29.7 per cent) are illiterates, 33 (9.2 per cent) are studied primary level, 16 (4.4 per cent) studied SSC and 8 (2.2 per cent) are studied graduate and above. In Ulavapadu madal 108 (30.0 per cent) are illiterates, 32 (8.9 per cent) are studied primary level, 16 (4.4 per cent) studied SSC and 7 (1.9 per cent) are studied graduate and above.

Table-5: Education wise Caste of Respondents

Education	Caste				Total
	BC	SC	ST	OC	
Illiterate	113	36	6	60	215
	31.4%	10.0%	1.7%	16.7%	59.7%
Primary	37	8	3	17	65
	10.3%	2.2%	.8%	4.7%	18.1%
High School	14	8	0	11	33
	3.9%	2.2%	.0%	3.1%	9.2%
SSC	17	6	0	9	32
	4.7%	1.7%	.0%	2.5%	8.9%
Graduate & above	6	3	1	5	15
	1.7%	.8%	.3%	1.4%	4.2%
Total	187	61	10	102	360
	51.9%	16.9%	2.8%	28.3%	100.0%

The table 5 portrays that among 360 respondents in illiteracy category, 113 (31.4 per cent) are BC caste community, 36 (10.0 per cent) are in SC caste community, 6 (1.7 per cent) belongs to ST caste community and 60 (16.7 per cent) OC community are illiterates. Primary category of education, 37 (10.3 per cent) in BC community, 8 (2.2 per cent) are in SC community, 3 (0.8 per cent) belongs to ST community and 17 (4.7 per cent) OC community literate up to primary. High School category of education, 14 (3.9 per cent) in BC community, 8 (2.2 per cent) are in SC community and 11 (3.1 per cent) OC community literate up to primary. SSC category of education, 17 (4.7 per cent) in BC community, 6 (1.7 per cent) are in SC community and 9 (2.5 per cent) OC community studied up to SSC. Graduate and above category of education, 6 (1.7 per cent) in BC community, 3 (0.8 per cent) are in SC community, 1 (0.3 per cent) belongs to ST community and 5 (1.4 per cent) OC community studied graduate and above education.

Table-6: Age wise Type of Family of Respondents

Age	Type of family			Total
	Nuclear family	Joint family	Extended	
< - 25	12	2	0	14
	3.3%	.6%	.0%	3.9%
26 - 35	93	27	8	128
	25.8%	7.5%	2.2%	35.6%
36 - 45	111	32	1	144
	30.8%	8.9%	.3%	40.0%
46 - 55	33	8	4	45
	9.2%	2.2%	1.1%	12.5%
56 - >	20	7	2	29
	5.6%	1.9%	.6%	8.1%
Total	269	76	15	360
	74.7%	21.1%	4.2%	100.0%

The table 6 shows that among the 360 respondents, in nuclear family 12 (3.3 per cent) belong to the age group of upto 25 years, 93 (25.8 per cent) come under the 26-35 age group, 111 (30.8 per cent) fall in the age category of 36-45 years, 33 (9.2 per cent) come under 46 – 55 years age group and 20 respondents (5.6 per cent) belong to the above 56 age group and in the other side joint family, 2 (0.6 per cent) belong to the age group of up to 25 years 27 (7.5 per cent) come under the 26-35 age group, 32 (8.9 per cent) fall in the age category of 36-45 years, 8 (2.2 per cent) come under 46 – 55 years age group and 7 respondents (1.9 per cent) belong to the above 56 age group. About extended family 8 (2.2 per cent) belongs to 26 - 35 years, 1 (0.3 per cent) comes under the 36-45 age group and 4 (1.1 per cent) fall in the age category of 46-55 years.

Table-7: Caste wise Type of House of Respondents

Caste	Type of house			Total
	Pucca	Tiled	Thatched	
BC	144	17	26	187
	40.0%	4.7%	7.2%	51.9%
SC	48	4	9	61
	13.3%	1.1%	2.5%	16.9%
ST	9	0	1	10
	2.5%	.0%	.3%	2.8%
OC	79	6	17	102
	21.9%	1.7%	4.7%	28.3%
Total	280	27	53	360
	77.8%	7.5%	14.7%	100.0%

The shows table 7 that among 360 respondents, in case of pucca houses 144 (40.0 per cent) are belongs to Back Ward caste community, 48 (13.3 per cent) are belongs to Scheduled Caste caste community, 9 (2.5 per cent) Scheduled Tribe caste community and remaining 79 (21.9 per cent) belongs to Forward (OC) caste community. In case of tiled houses, 17 (4.7 per cent) are belongs to BC community, 4 (1.1 per cent) meant for SC community and 6 (1.7 per cent) are belongs to OC community.

In case of thatched houses, 26 (7.2 per cent) are belongs to BC community, 9 (2.5 per cent) meant for SC community, 1 (0.3 per cent) are ST community and 17 (4.7 per cent) belongs to OC community.

Table- 8 : Distribution of Movable Assets of Respondents

Sl. No	Variable	Yes	No	Total N=360
1	Car	4.4	95.6	100.0
2	Tractor	5.3	94.7	100.0
3	Scoter	81.1	18.9	100.0
4	TV	75.6	24.4	100.0
5	Mobile	100.0	0.0	100.0
6	Refrigerator	15.3	84.7	100.0
7	Bullock cart	24.6	75.4	100.0
8	Jewels	91.9	8.1	100.0
Total		49.8	50.2	100.0

The above table 8 reveals the particulars of domestic assets of the sample households in the study areas. In the study, 4.4 per cent owned cars, 5.3 per cent of the respondents having tractors, large majority 81.1 per cent of the respondents owned scooters/motor cycles, 75.6 per cent facilitated with TVs, 100.0 percent are having Mobile Phones, 15.3 percent households are having Refrigerator followed by 24.6 percent of the households are owned Bullock Carts.

The television as the domestic asset is at the top in the sample area and all the households using mobile phones are in the study area. In overall observation the domestic assets are TVs, two-wheeler, mobile phone is relatively more in the study area.

Table-9: Distribution of Livestock of respondents

Sl. No	Variable	Yes	No	Total N=360
1	Work bullocks	26.4	73.6	100.0
2	Cows	33.3	66.7	100.0
3	Buffaloes	28.6	71.4	100.0
4	Goats	31.9	68.1	100.0
5	Poultry	8.3	91.7	100.0
Total		25.7	74.3	100.0

The table 9 divulges the type of the bovine population owned by the horticulture farmers. The farmers were asked to indicate their preference for local cows and buffalo in relation to feed, animal care susceptibility to disease, milk yield and milk quality. The table shows 26.4 per cent of the respondents have work bullocks, 33.3 per cent of the respondents have cows, 28.6 per cent of the respondents have buffaloes, 31.9 per cent and only 9.0 per cent of the respondents have goats and 8.3 per cent of the respondents have poultries. The table indicates that all 360 horticulture farmers owned either one of the bovine population.

Table-10: Area wise Nature of Land of Respondents

Nature of Land	Place of residence		Total
	Singarayakonda	Ulvapadu	
Dry land	94	95	189
	26.1%	26.4%	52.5%
Wet land	49	50	99
	13.6%	13.9%	27.5%
Both	37	35	72
	10.3%	9.7%	20.0%
Total	180	180	360
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%

The table 10 portrays that among 360 respondents, 189 (52.5 per cent) are owned the dry land, 99 (27.5 per cent) have the wet lands and followed by 72 ((20.0 per cent) are owned both dry and wet land.

Area wise in Singarayakonda 94 respondents (26.1 per cent) have dry land, 49 (13.6 per cent) owned wet land and 37 (10.3 per cent) have both dry and wet land.

Area wise in Ulvapadu 95 respondents (26.4 per cent) have dry land, 50 (13.9 per cent) owned wet land and 35 (10.3 per cent) have both dry and wet land.

Table-11: Area wise Annual Income of Respondents

Annual Income	Place of residence		Total
	Singarayakonda	Ulvapadu	
< - 50000	8	21	29
	2.2%	5.8%	8.1%
50001 - 75000	58	49	107
	16.1%	13.6%	29.7%
75001 - 100000	100	97	197
	27.8%	26.9%	54.7%
100001 - >	14	13	27
	3.9%	3.6%	7.5%
Total	180	180	360
	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%

The table 11 elucidates the annual income and it is categorized into four groups for convenience to analysis. Among 360 respondents, 29 (8.1 per cent) are earning Rs 50000.00 and below, 107 (29.7 per cent) earning in between Rs 50001 – 75000, 197 (54.7 per cent) getting their annual income Rs 75001 – 100000 and 27 (7.5 per cent) are earning their annual income from all the sources Rs. 100001 and above.

Area wise, in Singarayakonda mandal 8 (2.2 per cent) earning Rs 50000.00 and below, 58 (16.1 per cent) earning in between Rs 50001 – 75000, 100 (27.8 per cent) getting their annual income Rs 75001 – 100000 and 14 (3.9 per cent) are earning their annual income from all the sources Rs. 100001 and above.

Area wise, in Ulavapadu mandal 21 (5.8 per cent) earning Rs 50000.00 and below, 49 (13.6 per cent) earning in between Rs 50001 – 75000, 97 (26.9 per cent) getting their annual income Rs 75001 – 100000 and 13 (3.6 per cent) are earning their annual income from all the sources Rs. 100001 and above.

Extent of Asset Possession among the Respondents

The sample respondents possess different types of assets like, domestic assets, land, livestock, and consumer durables. The values of these assets vary considerably among them, as in the case of their monthly income, monthly food and non-food expenditure. In order to understand the extent of asset possession among the respondents, descriptive statistics on the different types of assets along with their income and expenditure is examined on the basis of their place of residence.

Table -12: Area-wise Assets Values of Descriptive Statistics

Singarayakonda Mandal				
Variable	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Assets value	88083.00	40414.31725	50000.00	320000.00
Livestock value	189170.00	97349.65489	50000.00	410000.00
Land value	1095300.00	1504890.00	100000	6000000.00
Annual Income	90583.00	30732.55966	65000.00	185000.00
Food expenditure	3687.20	348.66554	3635.9400	5500.00
Non food expenditure	3792.20	444.01112	3500.00	5000.00
Ulvapadu Mandal				
Assets value	87583.00	41864.62287	52000.00	360000.00
Livestock value	191670.00	98238.67868	51000.00	400000.00
Land value	1122500.00	1.54410E6	100000	6000000.00
Annual Income	91111.00	30505.77176	65000.00	1840000.00
Food expenditure	3692.20	361.63124	3500.00	5000.00
Non food expenditure	3801.10	452.18142	3500.00	5000.00

It can be seen from the table 12 that among the respondents who reside in Singarayakonda the assets possessed by respondents the mean value Rs.88083.00 per household and the minimum value of Rs. 50000.00 and the maximum value Rs.320000.00, in case of livestock the mean value Rs. 189170.00 with a minimum value of Rs.50000.00 and the maximum value of Rs. 410000.00, while in case of land, the mean value Rs. 1095300.00 with a minimum value of Rs. 100000.00 and the maximum value of Rs. 6000000.00. About the annual income of respondents the average mean value of Rs. 90583.00 and the minimum Rs.65000.00 and the maximum of Rs. 185000.00, whereas, the monthly food expenditure is the mean score Rs. 3687.20 incurred by the respondents with a minimum of Rs. 3635.94 and the maximum of Rs. 5500.00 and the non food expenditure of the mean value is Rs.3792.20 with a minimum value of Rs. 3500.00 and the maximum value of Rs. 5000.00.

In Ulvapadu mandal, assets possessed by respondents the mean value Rs.87583.00 per household and the minimum value of Rs. 52000.00 and the maximum value Rs.360000.00, in case of livestock the mean value Rs. 191670.00 with a minimum value of Rs.51000.00 and the maximum value of Rs. 400000.00, while in case of land, the mean value Rs. 1122500.00 with a minimum value of Rs. 100000.00 and the maximum value of Rs. 6000000.00. About the annual income of respondents the average mean value of Rs. 91111.00 and the minimum Rs.65000.00 and the maximum of Rs. 1840000.00, whereas, the monthly food expenditure is the mean score Rs. 3692.20 incurred by the respondents with a minimum of Rs. 3500.00 and the maximum of Rs. 5000.00 and the non food expenditure of the mean value is Rs.3801.10 with a minimum value of Rs. 3500.00 and the maximum value of Rs. 5000.00.

Conclusion

The basic characteristics of the sample respondents indicate that the level of education is low among the respondents in general, which is particularly true among the female respondents. The proportion of respondents who reside in pucca building is markedly higher and constructed by under Prime Minister Awas Yojana scheme. Also, the percentage of respondents who cultivate horticultural crops are belong to small and marginal farmers in the sample areas. Cultivation of horticultural crops is relatively more among those who possess below 5 acres of land and also among those who cultivate chiefly in dry land.

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