



CONSTRAINTS FACED AND SOCIO - ECONOMIC PROFILE OF TURMERIC CULTIVATORS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO COIMBATORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

India is considered as the largest producer, consumer as well as exporter of turmeric in the world. In India, turmeric is grown on an area of 0.18 million hectares with a yield of 0.83 million tons in 2014-15. Tamil Nadu accounts for 14.04 per cent of the total production. In Tamil Nadu, Erode district is the largest in turmeric growing, which contributes about 24.14 per cent of total area and 33.37 per cent of total production (Statistical Handbook of Tamil Nadu, 2016, Government of Tamil Nadu). Here an attempt has been made to analyze the socio-economic conditions and various constraints faced by the turmeric growers in Coimbatore district. The area selected for the study was Karamadai and Thondamuthur block of Coimbatore district which is highest in area under cultivation of turmeric. For the present study frequency or percentage analysis has been done for elucidating the socio-economic background of the turmeric growers and Garret ranking techniques for ranking the constrains facing by the farmers were used. It was concluded that many of the turmeric cultivators (respondents) were facing an issue of very low productivity of produce which need to addressed soon to enhance the livelihood of the growers.

Keywords: Turmeric, Production, Education Level, Income, Constraints

I. INTRODUCTION

Turmeric, also known as ‘*Curcuma Longa*’ in botanical terms, is a popular commercial crop in India. It is a rhizomatous spice crop that has been grown in India since antiquity. It originated in India (Cochin) and is currently a tropical commercial crop. Turmeric is an ancient spice, a native of south East Asia and is also a kharif culture. It is one of the anticoagulant foods, which has antiplatelet, anticoagulant and fibrinolytic effects. (Kanjana et al., 2016). It is in fact regarded as the cheapest spices. Although use of turmeric as a dye is similar to saffron, culinary uses of the two spices should not be confused and turmeric can replace saffron in food dishes. Turmeric is grown in tropical countries such as India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Chile, Peru, Haiti, El Salvador, Japan, China, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Taiwan,

Jamaica, and the West Indies, among others. India is the world's largest producer, consumer, and exporter of turmeric, accounting for 80 per cent of global output. India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. Indian turmeric is considered to be the best in the world due to presence of Cur cumin. In India, cultivation of turmeric takes place in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

Indian turmeric powder is considered to be the best in the world market due to its high curcumin content. In India, turmeric is grown on an area of 0.18 million hectares with a yield of 0.83 million tonnes in 2014-15. The state of Tamil Nadu accounts for 14.04 per cent of the total production whereas in the state, Erode district is largest in turmeric growing, which contributes about 24.14 per cent of total area and 33.37 per cent of total production (Statistical Handbook of Tamil Nadu, 2016, Government of Tamil Nadu).

Here an attempt has been made to analyze the socio-economic conditions and various constraints faced by the turmeric growers in Coimbatore district.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Kadte. A. J (2018) had conducted a study to access the socio-economic distinctiveness of turmeric growers and cost and returns of turmeric production in Sangali district of Maharashtra. Result exposed that; the average age of respondents was 44.83 years. In respect to education level score found was 2.6 and the cropping intensity was 144.40 per cent. **Paladugu Praveen Kumar et al., (2018)** had done a study entitled an economic analysis of production and marketing of turmeric in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh, which was conducted during the year 2017-18 with a sample of 120 respondents. The result points out that the number of respondents who had large and middle school educations were more in large farms followed by small and medium whereas the input and output ratio per hectare was small (1:1.50), medium (1:1.47) and large (1:1.43) respectively.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Following are the major objectives of the study;

1. To analyze the socio- economic conditions of turmeric cultivators in Coimbatore District.
2. To assess the problems faced by turmeric cultivators in the study area.

IV. MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Source and Mode of Data Collection

In Coimbatore district, out of 13 blocks, two were selected namely Karamadai and Thondamuthur block with maximum area under turmeric cultivation which accounts nearly 40 percent. Among these, two villages were selected randomly from each block. Finally, a sample of 94 respondents was selected using

multistage proportionate random sampling method. Later, the respondents were classified into two categories namely viz., small farmers (3 acres and below) and large farmers (above 3 acres). The field investigation has been done for the present study, and directly approached the farmers with pretested questionnaire to collect the information during the month of January to March 2021.

Tools of Analysis

For the present study frequency or percentage analysis has been done for elucidating the socio-economic background of the turmeric growers and Garret ranking techniques for ranking the constrains facing by the farmers were used.

Garret Ranking Technique:

This technique is used to evaluate the problems faced by the turmeric growers during the production process. In this method, the turmeric cultivators were asked to rank the constraints facing by them according to the magnitude of the problem. The order of merit given by the respondents were converted into ranks by using the following formula.

$$\text{Percentage position} = \frac{100 (R_{ij} - 0.5)}{N_j}$$

Where, R_{ij} = Rank given for i^{th} item and j^{th} individual

N_j = Number of items ranked by j^{th} individual

The percentage position of each rank thus obtained was converted into scores by referring to the table given by Henry Garrett. Then for each factor the scores of individual respondents were added together and divided by the total number of respondents for whom the scores were added. These mean scores for all the factors were arranged in the order of their ranks and inferences were drawn.

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Socio economic characters such as age of the turmeric growers, their nature of family, level of education, family size, income receiving from agriculture and land holding of the selected sample were studied and presented in Table 1.

Table. 1: Socio – Economic Characteristics of Turmeric Cultivators of Coimbatore District

| Sl. No. | Variables | Category | Respondents N = 94 | |
|---------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| | | | Frequency | Percentage |
| 1 | Sex | Male | 90 | 95.7 |
| | | Female | 4 | 4.3 |
| 2 | Nature of Family | Join | 47 | 50.0 |
| | | Nuclear | 47 | 50.0 |
| 3 | Religion | Hindu | 92 | 97.9 |
| | | Christian | 1 | 1.1 |
| | | Muslim | 1 | 1.1 |
| 4 | Education Level | Illiterate | 34 | 36.2 |
| | | Primary Education | 2 | 2.1 |
| | | Middle Education | 37 | 39.4 |
| | | High School | 20 | 21.3 |
| | | Higher Secondary School | 1 | 1.1 |
| 5 | Marital Status | Married | 89 | 94.7 |
| | | Unmarried | 5 | 5.3 |
| 6 | Size of the family | 1 - 2 Members | 4 | 4.3 |
| | | 3 - 5 Members | 59 | 62.8 |
| | | Above 5 Members | 31 | 33.0 |
| 7 | Types of Farmers | Small Farmers (3 acres and below) | 67 | 71.27 |
| | | Large Farmers (Above 3 acres) | 27 | 28.73 |
| 8 | Total Income from Agriculture | Rs. 200000 and below | 21 | 22.3 |
| | | Rs. 200001 - Rs. 300000 | 35 | 37.2 |
| | | Rs. 300001 - Rs. 400000 | 8 | 8.5 |
| | | Above Rs. 400000 | 30 | 31.9 |
| 9 | Experience in Agriculture | 15 Years and below | 3 | 3.2 |
| | | 16 - 25 Years | 31 | 33.0 |

| | | | | |
|----|-------------|-------------------------------|----|------|
| | | 26 - 35 Years | 44 | 46.8 |
| | | Above 36 Years | 16 | 17.0 |
| 10 | Constraints | High cost of labor | 3 | 3.2 |
| | | Lack of technical knowledge | 22 | 23.4 |
| | | Low productivity | 43 | 45.7 |
| | | Less Government Priority | 21 | 22.3 |
| | | Lack of storage of Facilities | 5 | 5.3 |

Source: Primary Data

The table 1 signifies the socio-economic profile of the turmeric growers in the Coimbatore District. It is evident from the table that majority of the farmers were (95.7 per cent) belongs to male, whereas only 4.3 per cent of the farmers were belongs to the female respondent. It highlights that about half of the respondents were living in nuclear family and remaining half were prefers joint family.

Majority of the farmers had income earning from agriculture ranging between Rs.2 and Rs.3 lakhs. However only 8.5 per cent of the farmers were earning income between Rs.300000 – Rs.400000 from agriculture. Hardly 3.2 percent of the farmers had agricultural work experiences under the group of 15 years below, and it significantly reveals that majority (44) of the farmers have experiences in agricultural work range between 26 – 35 years. Many of the turmeric cultivators (43) were facing a problem of low productivity of turmeric, whereas only 3 were having issue of high cost of labour and the remaining were facing the problems of lack of technical knowledge and less Government Priority.

Fig. 1.1: Religion and Education Level of the Respondents

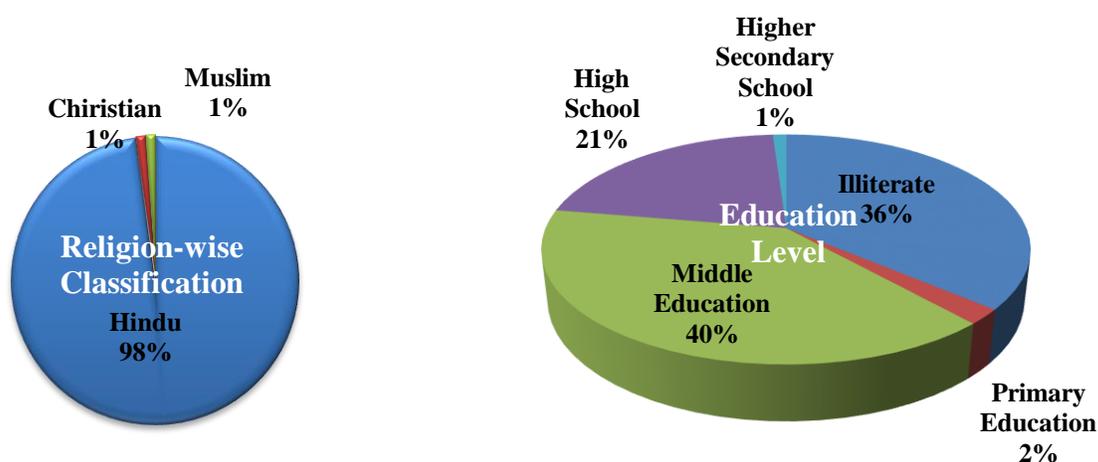


Fig. 1.1 describes the religion wise classification and education level of the turmeric farmers. It is obvious from the study that only 1.1 percent of the respondent were belonging to Christian as well as Muslim each and remaining 97.9 per cent belongs to Hindu religion. Thus, it can be concluded that the major part of the respondents comes under Hindu religion and it has been clearly depicted in the Fig. 1.1. Education is another important factor as it influences overall level of the study, among the 94 respondents,

39.4 per cent of the respondents has completed middle level education which was followed by 36.1 per cent those who were illiterate.

Table. 2: Problems faced by the Farmers in Production of Turmeric in Coimbatore District

| SL. No | Factors | | I 75 | II 60 | III 50 | IV 40 | V 24 | Total Score | Mean Value | Rank |
|--------|-------------------------------|----|---------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|---------------|------|
| 1 | High Cost of Labour | F | 35 | 7 | 20 | 9 | 23 | 94 | 52.73 | II |
| | | FX | 2625 | 420 | 1000 | 360 | 552 | 4957 | | |
| 2 | Lack of technical Knowledge | F | 12 | 13 | 8 | 31 | 30 | 94 | 42.97 | IV |
| | | FX | 900 | 780 | 400 | 1240 | 720 | 4040 | | |
| 3 | Low productivity | F | 41 | 10 | 11 | 25 | 7 | 94 | 57.37 | I |
| | | FX | 3075 | 600 | 550 | 1000 | 168 | 5393 | | |
| 4 | Less Govt. Priority | F | 31 | 9 | 14 | 13 | 27 | 94 | 50.35 | III |
| | | FX | 2325 | 540 | 700 | 520 | 648 | 4733 | | |
| 5 | Lack of storage of Facilities | F | 8 | 13 | 23 | 13 | 37 | 94 | 41.89 | V |
| | | FX | 600 | 780 | 1150 | 520 | 888 | 3986 | | |

Source: Primary Data

Note: X-Scale, F-Number of sample respondents, FX-Score.

The problems faced by the turmeric farmers in Coimbatore district are listed and ranked in table 2. Among the various constraints, the problem of low productivity stood first with the mean value of 57.37 which was followed by high cost of labour of turmeric (52.67) was the second problem faced by the farmers in the study area. According to the Garret ranking analysis, lack of proper storage facilities has been ranked fifth with a least mean value of 41.89.

VI. CONCLUSION

It is concluded that many of the turmeric cultivators (respondents) were facing an issue of very low productivity of produce which need to be addressed soon to enhance the livelihood of the growers. Majority of the farmers had earning income from agriculture which ranges between Rs.2 to 3 lakh per year. It is significantly evident from the study that more than half of the farmers were illiterate or otherwise having only middle level education. Therefore, the government should concentrate more on educating and provide knowledge about available modern technologies and giving adequate technical assistance such as proper warehousing facilities, conducting training programmes and providing subsidies for inputs.

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