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A study on profile characteristics of cotton farmers in Yedlapadu Mandal of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract
The study was conducted in Yedlapadu Mandal of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh in 2019 to study the profile characteristics of cotton farmers. A total of 80 respondents were purposively selected from the members of farmer producer organization (FPO). The detailed analysis of profile of the cotton farmers indicated that majority of the cotton farmers were belonged to middle age followed by Illiterate, medium family size, annual income ranges to Rs. 51,000/- Rupees, medium farming experience, more than half of them were under gone 3-4 trainings, semi medium land holding ranges 2-4 acres, medium farming experience, medium risk orientation, medium innovativeness, medium economic motivation, medium extension contact and medium social participation.

Keywords: farmer producer organization, cotton farmers

Introduction

Cotton (*Gossypium sp.*) the 'king of fibre crops plays a very vital role in the Indian economy. It is named as a major cash crop of India. It is the major input to the Indian cotton textile industry. It generates employment to millions of people from cotton background engaged in various operations like; harvesting, plucking, and marketing, ginning and pressing of cotton. Cotton is one of the leading crops since it is labor-intensive, it needs season long plant protection measures and also it is harvested not once, as in the case of most other crops, but four of five times in a season. It also contributes significantly to the country's foreign trade. More importantly, it is the highest earner of net foreign exchange, contributing over 30% from textile industry, which is fully dependent on Indian raw cotton. India ranks first in the world accounting for 20% of the total area under cotton plantation. However, even with highest area under cotton which is 9 million hectares; India occupies third position with only 13% of global production share. Although enough viable and adoptive technologies have been developed in Bt. Cotton cultivation but many of these have not reached to the growers till today. It is due to several reasons including the technological as well social aspects. In Andhra Pradesh cotton was cultivated in an area of 4.49 lakh hectares with a production of 13.10 lakh bales and productivity of 791 Kg/ha in 2016-17. (Anonymous, 2016). Keeping this in view, it was felt necessary to undertake the study with the following objective.
1) To study the profile characteristics of cotton farmers

Methodology

An *Ex-Post-Facto* research design was followed to achieve the objectives of the study as the variables already occurred. According to Kerlinger (1983), the *Ex-Post-Facto* research design is a systematical empirical enquiry in which the scientist does not have any direct control of independent variables and was not manipulable. The present study was conducted in Yedlapadu mandal of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh in 2019 to identify the profile characteristics of cotton farmers. A total of 80 respondents were purposively selected from the farmer producer organizations (FPOs) group. Profile characteristics namely age, education, family size, annual income, land holding, farming experience, training received, risk orientation, innovativeness, economic orientation, extension contact and social participation were taken for the study.

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Results and Discussion
1. Age

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Young age (Up to 35)	12	15.00
Middle age (36-50)	43	53.75
Old age (Above 50)	25	31.25
Total	80	100.00

It is evident from the Table 1 that more than half (53.75%) of the cotton farmers were belonged to middle age followed by old (31.25%) and young (15.00%) age category. The above trend might be due to the fact that middle and young aged cotton farmers were enthusiastic, active in performing agricultural practices, possess more physical strength and have more work efficiency than older farmers. The above finding was in agreement with the findings of Prashanth (2011) and Karthik (2014).

2. Education

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their education

Education	Frequency	Percentage
Illiterate	32	40.00
Primary school (1st to 4th standard)	24	30.00
Middle school (5th to 7th standard)	14	17.50
High school (8th to 10th standard)	3	3.75
College (11th and above)	7	8.75
Total	80	100.00

It is concluded from Table 2 that less than half (40.00%) of the cotton farmers were Illiterate followed by those belonging primary school (30.00%), middle school (17.50%), college (8.75%) and high school (3.75%) education. Thus, it could be inferred that a greater proportion of the cotton farmers were literate followed by primary school. They might be due to the fact that lack of encouragement from their family members in education and the need for more investment prevented them from higher education. The above finding was in agreement with the findings of Vysali *et al.* (2019) [6].

3. Family size

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their family size

Family size	Frequency	Percentage
Small (1 to 3) members	3	3.75
Medium (4 to 6) members	77	96.25
Large (7 to 9) members	0	0.00
Very large (10 and above)	0	0.00

Form Table 3 it could be concluded that majority (96.25%) of the cotton farmers had medium family size followed by those with small family (3.75%) and none of them were in the category of large families.

4. Annual income

Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to their annual income

Annual income	Frequency	Percentage
Up to Rs. 50,000	35	43.75
Rs. 50,001 to Rs.1,00,000	27	33.75
Rs. 1,00,001 to Rs. 1,50,000	11	13.75
Rs. 1,50,001 to Rs. 2,00,000	4	5.00
Above Rs. 2,00,000	3	3.75
Total	80	100.00

The data presented in Table 4 indicated that less than half (43.75%) of the cotton growers belonged to annual income of Rs. 50,000/- rupees followed by (33.75%) annual income of Rs.51,000-1,00,000/- rupees (13.75%) annual income of Rs.1,00,001 to 1,50,000/-rupess, (5.00%) of the annual income of Rs. 1,50,001 to Rs. 2,00,000 and (3.75%) anural income of Above Rs. 2,00,000/- rupess. This result was a new finding away from the results of earlier findings.

5. Land holding

Table 5: Distribution of respondents according to their land holding

Land holding		
Marginal (Up to 1.00 acres)	10	12.50
Small (1.01 – 2.00 acres)	23	28.75
Semi-medium (2.01 – 4.00 acres)	30	37.50
Medium (4.01 – 10.00 acres)	15	18.75
Large (Above 10.00 acres)	2	2.50
Total	80	100.00

It is clear from Table 5 concluded that majority (37.50%) semi medium land holding followed by small (28.75%), medium (18.75), Marginal (12.50%) and large (2.50%).

6. Farming experience

Table 6: Distribution of respondents according to their farming experience

Farming Experience	Frequency	Percentage
Low (1-5 years)	12	15.00
Medium (11-15)	44	55.00
High (16-20)	24	30.00
Total	80	100.00

The results indicate that more than half (55.00%) of the cotton farmers had medium level of farming experience (44.00%) followed by high (30.00%) and low farming experience (15.00%). The finding was in conformity with Gangadhar (2009) [2].

7. Training received

Table 7: Distribution of respondents according to their training received

Training received	Frequency	Percentage
Untrained	0	0.00
1-2 trainings	19	23.75
3-4 trainings	43	53.75
Above 5 trainings	18	22.50
Total	80	100.00

From the results it could be concluded that more than half (53.75%) of cotton farmers were under gone 3-4 trainings followed by remaining (23.33%) of them were undergone 1-2 trainings, 22.50 percent of them were above 5 trainings and none of them were untrained. The reason might all the farmers belonged to producer group so the group head conduct regular trainings to enhance the knowledge about cotton cultivation. This result was a new finding away from the results of earlier findings.

8. Risk Orientation

Table 8: Distribution of respondents according to their risk orientation

Risk Orientation	Frequency	Percentage
Low (>15.00)	15	18.75
Medium (15.00-22.34)	47	58.75
High (<22.34)	18	22.50
Total	80	100.00

The findings from the table revealed that little more than half of the cotton farmers (58.75%) had medium risk orientation, followed by high (22.50%) and low (18.75%) level of risk orientation. The plausible reason for the majority of the cotton farmers with medium risk orientation is that they have to pay the leased rent to the owner farmers in spite of profits or losses and were ready to take the risk for obtaining good returns. This finding was in agreement with the findings of Vysali et al. (2019) [6].

9. Innovativeness

Table 9: Distribution of respondents according to their innovativeness

Innovativeness	Frequency	Percentage
Low (>21.34)	27	33.75
Medium (21.34-32.16)	31	38.75
High (<32.16)	22	27.50
Total	80	100.00

It is evident from the table that majority (38.75%) of the cotton farmers had medium innovativeness, followed by low (33.75%) and high (27.50%) level of innovativeness. The probable reasons for the above trend might be due to the fact that majority of the cotton farmers had medium extension contact, so that they can update their knowledge and skills from time to time and were ready to accept the new technologies which helped them to develop better level of innovativeness regarding cotton cultivation whereas, the farmers having low risk-taking ability were not ready to adopt new technologies and thereby having low level of innovativeness. These findings were in agreement with the findings of Vysali (2019) [6].

10. Economic motivation

Table 10: Distribution of respondents according to their economic motivation

Economic motivation	Frequency	Percentage
Low (>16.52)	31	38.75
Medium (16.52-22.16)	38	47.50
High (<22.16)	11	13.75
Total	80	100.00

A glance at the table indicated that the majority (47.50%) of the cotton farmers had the medium economic motivation, followed by low (38.75%) and high (13.75%) level of economic motivation. It was clear that the majority of the cotton farmers had medium economic motivation because most of them were profit motive and they have strong desire to increase their productivity thereby improving their standards economically. These findings were in agreement with the findings of Vysali et al. (2019) [6].

11. Extension contact

Table 11: Distribution of respondents according to their extension contact

Extension contact	Frequency	Percentage
Low (>21.34)	27	33.75
Medium (21.34-25.91)	39	48.75
High (<25.91)	14	17.50
Total	80	100.00

It is clear from the table that less than half of the cotton farmers (48.75%) had medium extension contact, followed by low (33.75%) and high (17.50%) extension contact. The majority of the cotton farmers had the medium level of extension contact because of their interest and eagerness in solving the field problems in consultation with agricultural experts. The possible reason attributed might be inadequate extension staff and they contact friends for information. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen extension organizations. The above finding was in conformity with the findings of Vysali (2019) [6].

12. Social Participation

Table 12: Distribution of respondents according to their social participation

Social participation	Frequency	Percentage
Low (>7.81)	23	28.75
Medium (7.81-9.46)	41	51.25
High (<9.46)	16	20.00
Total	80	100.00

Table 12 revealed that the more than half (51.25%) of the cotton farmers had medium social participation, followed by low (28.75%) and high (20.00%) social participation. Illiteracy and lack of awareness about the advantages of becoming a member, non-attracting activities undertaken by the organizations and local politics might also be the cause for the low social participation of the cotton farmers. The above finding was in conformity with the findings of Vysali et al. (2019) [6].

13. References

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