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Profile and problems of farmers growing summer ground nut in Ahemadnagar district

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Abstract

The groundnut crop is cultivated as a major edible oilseed crop in India. It finds extensive use as a cooking medium, both as refined oil and as vanaspati ghee. The Groundnut is the single largest source of edible oils in India and constitutes roughly about 50 percent of the total oilseed production. India occupies the first place in acreage and second in production of groundnut. In India, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra are the important groundnut-growing states. The list of summer groundnut growing villages includes Rahuri, Sangamner, Akole, Rahata, Newasa and Shirampur tehsils were obtained from Taluka Krishi Adhikari (Taluka Agriculture Officer). Two villages from each tehsil that is total 12 villages were selected for the study on the basis of area under summer groundnut crop. A total of 10 summer groundnut growers from each village were selected randomly on the basis of the summer groundnut crop's area. Hence, in 6 tehsils, 12 villages and 120 respondents were selected for the study. The data from the respondents was personally collected by interviewing them with the help of a well-structured interview schedule. Thus, data was collected and appropriated for statistical analysis. The findings revealed that 60.00 percent of respondents belonged to the middle age group. It was found that 46.67 percent of the respondents were educated up to secondary school level. About 72.50 percent of respondents had a medium size of family. It was observed that, about 49.16 percent of the respondents had medium-sized land holdings. It was observed that the majority of the summer groundnut growers (65.00 percent) had medium areas under summer groundnut. More than half (57.50 percent) of summer groundnut growers had annual incomes ranging from Rs 1,49,017.9 to Rs 3,42,182.1/-. It was observed that more than half (62.50 percent) of the respondents had medium social participation. It was observed that, a majority (61.66 percent) of the respondents had a medium-level source of information. It was found that, about 65.84 percent of the respondents had a medium level of risk orientation.

Keywords: Profile, summer groundnut growers

Introduction

The Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea*), also known as peanuts, or monkey nuts, are the edible seeds of a legume plant that grow to maturity in the ground. The 'nuts' are high in edible oil content (40-50%) and protein content (25%), as well as a good source of a variety of essential vitamins and minerals. Every part of the peanut plant is used in some way: kernels for human consumption, vines as fodder for cattle, and nitrogen fixed from its roots as nutrients for the soil. The Groundnut, a native of Brazil, is grown in more than 100 countries in the world. The China is the largest producer of groundnut followed by India. In our country is gifted with a wide range of agro-climatic conditions which enables the production of groundnut throughout the year for maintaining a continuous supply of fresh groundnuts. These off season groundnuts are in great demand in home market as well as in the neighboring gulf countries. Groundnut is the single largest source of edible oils in India and constitutes roughly about 50 percent of the total oilseeds production. Summer groundnut cultivation being labour intensive can substantially increase employment avenues too. The sizeable increase in groundnut production over the years was possible through extension efforts of ICAR and State Department of Agriculture. In order to bring groundnut production to the forefront and to achieve even higher level of production, frontline demonstrations play the most pivotal role in terms of providing viable technological inputs.

Methodology

The study was conducted with purposively selected Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state. The Ahmednagar district was selected as it has the largest area among the districts of Maharashtra state. In Ahmednagar district, there are a total of 14 tahsils.

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In regard to the geographical situation of Ahmednagar district, it is observed that the following six tahsils have better irrigation facilities as compared to the rest of the tahsils. Hence these six tahsils, namely Rahuri, Sangamner, Akole, Rahata, Newasa and Shrirampur were purposively selected for the study. The list of summer groundnut growing villages includes Rahuri, Sangamner, Akole, Rahata, Newasa and Shrirampur tehsils were obtained from Taluka Krishi Adhikari (Taluka Agriculture Officer). Two villages from each tehsil that is total 12 villages were selected for the study on the basis of area under summer groundnut crop. A total of 10 summer groundnut growers from each village were selected randomly on the basis of the summer groundnut crop's area. Hence, in 6 tehsils, 12 villages and 120 respondents were selected for the study. The data from the respondents was personally collected by interviewing them with the help of a well-structured interview schedule. Thus, data was collected and appropriated for statistical analysis.

Results and Discussions

Age

Age denotes the chronologically completed calendar years by the summer groundnut growers. It influences behavior of an individual by exposing to varied situation number of times. Thus, it becomes an essential aspect to consider age of the respondents in this study. The information pertaining to the age of the summer groundnut growers was collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented in Table 1.

The Table 1 reveal that 60.00 percent of the respondent summer groundnut growers belonged to the middle age group (36 to 55 years), followed by 29.16 percent of them in young age group (up to 35 years). Only 10.84 percent respondent summer groundnut growers were belonged to old age group (56 years and above) category.

Thus, it is concluded that, a majority of the respondent summer groundnut growers were belonged to middle age group (i.e. 36 to 55 years). These findings are in line with the finding of Wane (2000) and Anonymous (2008) wherein they found that 60.00 percent of the respondents were in middle age group respectively.

Education

The level of formal education attained by an individual tends to influence the extent to which they are exposed to new ideas and information. It plays an important role in problem solving capacity of summer groundnut growers. The information pertaining to the education of the summer groundnut growers was collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented in Table 1.

The Table 1 reveal that 46.67 percent of the respondent summer groundnut growers were educated up to secondary school level, while 17.5 percent respondents had received college education, remaining 17.5 percent of respondents were educated upto primary education and 14.17 percent respondents had received higher secondary education and only 4.16 percent of respondents were illiterate.

Thus, it is concluded that, a majority of the summer groundnut growers had received secondary, primary education and college education, followed by higher secondary.

These findings are in line with the findings of Katkar (2000) [5] and Patil (2002) [9] wherein they found that 40.00 percent and 49.00 percent of the respondents were secondary educated.

Size of family

The Size of family refers to the total number of members living together under a common roof, having blood relation and are directly dependent on the head of the family. It was, therefore, thought that the size of family might influence the adoption behavior of the respondent summer groundnut growers.

The information pertaining to the size of family of the respondents was collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented in table 1.

The Table 1 reveal that 72.5 percent of the respondents had medium size of family (4 to 7 members), while 15.83 percent of them had big size family (8 members and above) and only 11.67 percent of the respondent summer groundnut growers belonged to small size family (up to 3 members).

Thus, it is concluded that more than half (72.50%) of the respondents were belonged to medium size of family (4 to 7 members), followed by big (8 members and above) and small (up to 3 members) size of family.

These findings are in line with the findings of Sawant (2002) [11] and Khaire (2005) [6] wherein they found that 75.00 percent and 74.50 percent of the respondents were in medium size of family.

Size of land holding

The information related to the size of land possessed by the respondents was collected and analyzed. The results are presented in Table 1.

It is observed from the Table 1 reveal that, 49.16 percent of the respondents had size of land holding between 2.01 to 4.00 hectares, while 29.16 percent of them had size of land holding more than 4.01 ha and only 15.84 percent of them had size of land holding between 1.01 to 2.00 ha and 5.84 percent of the respondent had size of land holding up to 1 ha. and there were no landless (i.e. 0.00%) farmers observed Hence it is concluded that, substantial proportion of the summer groundnut growers (49.16%) had size of land holding between 2.01 to 4.00 ha.

These findings are in line with the findings of Shinde *et al.*, (2000) [12] and Mate (2006) [8] wherein they found that 51.30 percent and 55.00 percent of the respondents were in medium size of land holding.

Area under summer groundnut

The data regarding area under summer groundnut crop from respondents were obtained and they were grouped into following three categories. The distribution is given in Table 1.

From the Table 1 reveal that, a maximum number (65.00%) of the respondent summer groundnut growers had medium area (0.36 to 0.96 ha) under summer groundnut crop, while 25.00 percent of them had large area (0.97 ha and above) under summer groundnut crop and 10.00 percent had small area (up to 0.35 ha) under summer groundnut crop.

These findings are in line with the findings of Anjani Kumar and Jha (2001) [1]; Mane (2005) [5] where in they found that 62.00 percent and 64.00 percent of the respondents respectively were in medium area under rice and soybean.

Annual income

The information about annual income of the respondents was collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented in Table 1.

From Table 1, it is observed that, 57.50 percent of the respondents had annual income between Rs. 1,49,017.9 to 3,42,482.1 /-, while 27.50 percent of them had annual income of Rs. 3,42,482.2 and above. Only 15.00 percent of them had annual income up to Rs. 1,49,017.8 /-.

From the above data, it is concluded that a majority (57.50%) of respondent summer groundnut growers had annual income between Rs. 1,49,017.9 to 3,42,482.2 /-.

These findings are in line with the findings of Dhakane (2005)^[4] wherein he found that 58.67 percent of the respondents were in medium annual income.

Social participation

Social participation refers to membership or holding of an official position in any of the formal and informal organization. It was hypothesized that the respondents who participated in more number of formal and informal organizations would tend to adopt the practice more. In view of this the data pertaining to the level of social participation of the respondents were collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are given in Table 1.

It is found from Table 1 reveal that, a majority (62.50%) of the respondents were in medium social participation category, while 25.00 percent of them were in low social participation and 12.50 percent of the respondents were in high social participation category.

Thus, it is concluded that, a majority of the respondent summer groundnut growers were in medium social participation category.

These findings are in line with the findings of Prakash (2007)^[10] wherein he found that 60.00 percent of the respondents were in medium social participation.

Sources of information

The information regarding the different sources of information used by the respondents were collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented in Table 1.

From the Table 1, it is observed that about 61.66 percent of the respondents were using medium sources of information, whereas 20.00 and 18.34 percent of them had used low and high sources of information, respectively.

Thus, it is concluded that, more than half of the respondent had used medium sources of information.

These findings are in line with the findings of Sawant (2002)^[11] wherein he found that 57.00 percent of the respondents were in medium sources of information.

Risk orientation

Risk orientation is the degree to which respondents are oriented towards risks and uncertainty and have courage to face the problems in farming.

The information of summer groundnut growers by their degree of risk orientation was collected, tabulated and analyzed. The results are presented in Table 1.

From Table 1, it is observed that 65.84 percent respondents had medium degree of risk orientation followed by 17.50 and 16.66 percent of the respondents with low and high degree of risk orientation, respectively.

Thus, it was concluded that, more than half (65.84%) of the respondent summer groundnut growers belonged to medium degree of risk orientation.

These findings are in line with the findings of Bhosale (2003)^[3] and Dhakane (2005)^[4] wherein they found that 65.00 percent and 64.67 percent of the respondents were in medium risk orientation.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on components of Profile of Dryland farmers

Sr. No.	Components of profile of Agriculture Assistant	Respondents (n = 120)		
		Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Age	Young (Up to 35)	35	29.16
		Middle (36 to 55)	72	60.00
		Old (56 and above)	13	10.84
2	Educational qualification	Illiterate	05	04.16
		Primary Education (Up to 4 th Standard)	21	17.50
		Secondary Education (5 th to 10 th Standard)	56	46.67
		Higher Secondary Education (11 th to 12 th Standard)	17	14.17
		College (Above 12 th Std.)	21	17.50
3	Size of family	Small (Up to 3)	14	11.67
		Medium (4 to 7)	87	72.50
		Big (8 and above)	19	15.83
4	Size of land holding (ha)	Landless (No land)	0	00.00
		Marginal (up to 1.00 ha)	7	05.84
		Small (1.01ha to 2.00 ha)	19	15.84
		Medium (2.01 ha to 4.00 ha)	59	49.16
		Large (4.01 ha and above)	35	29.16
5	Area under summer groundnut (ha)	Small (up to 0.35 ha)	12	10.00
		Medium (0.36 to 0.96 ha)	78	65.00
		Large (0.97 ha and above)	30	25.00
6	Annual income	Low (Up to Rs. 1,49,017.8/-)	18	15.00
		Medium (Rs.1,49,017.9/- to 3,42,482.1/-)	69	57.50
		High (Rs.3,42,482.2/- and above)	33	27.50
7	Social participation	Low (Up to 1)	30	25.00
		Medium (2 to 4)	75	62.50
		High (5 and above)	15	12.50
8	Source of information	Low (Up to 5)	24	20.00
		Medium (6 to 10)	74	61.66
		High (11 and above)	22	18.34
9	Risk orientation	Low (Up to 7.37)	21	17.50
		Medium (7.38 to 16.94)	79	65.84
		High (16.95 and above)	20	16.66

Conclusion

The finding concluded that 60.00 percent of respondents belonged to the middle age group. It was found that 46.67 percent of the respondents were educated up to secondary school level. About 72.50 percent of respondents had a medium size of family. It was observed that, about 49.16 percent of the respondents had medium-sized land holdings. It was observed that the majority of the summer groundnut growers (65.00 percent) had medium areas under summer groundnut. More than half (57.50 percent) of summer groundnut growers had annual incomes ranging from Rs 1,49,017.9 to Rs 3,42,182.1/-. It was observed that more than half (62.50 percent) of the respondents had medium social participation. It was observed that, a majority (61.66 percent) of the respondents had a medium-level source of information. It was found that, about 65.84 percent of the respondents had a medium level of risk orientation.

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