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## Personal characteristics of beneficiary farmers of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

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**Abstract**

The present study was conducted in two tehsils of Sangli district of Maharashtra state. Data were collected by personally interviewing 120 beneficiary farmers. It was found that, majority (69.16 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers belonged to middle age, educated up to graduation and above level (35.00 per cent) having medium farming experience (64.17 per cent), medium knowledge (63.34 per cent), medium social participation (69.17 per cent), medium sources of information (59.16), small land holding (40.83 per cent), medium annual income (79.16 per cent). It is observed that, independent variables like education, social participation and sources of information had positive and significant relationship with attitude of beneficiary farmers towards Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Also farming experience, knowledge, land holding, annual income, irrigation status and risk orientation had positive and highly significant relationship with attitude of beneficiary farmers towards Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.

**Keywords:** personal characteristics of beneficiary farmers

**Introduction**

Water is the indispensable resource responsible for the sustenance of life on the earth. It is a critical input into agriculture in nearly all its aspects having a determining effect on the eventual yield. The growing need for food security and increased population has resulted in higher demand for irrigation water which could only met by judicious use of available water resources.

The government of India has been implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro irrigation with an objective to enhance water use efficiency in the agriculture sector by promoting appropriate technological interventions like drip and sprinkler irrigation technologies and encourage the farmers to use water saving and conservation technologies. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, Micro irrigation component of On Farm Water Management has been subsumed under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and launched on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 with the motto of "Har Khet Ko Pani".

**Methodology**

The study was conducted in two tehsils of Sangli district of Maharashtra state. Six villages from each tehsil were selected based on highest and moderate total net irrigated area respectively. Ten beneficiary farmers were selected from each village randomly. Data were collected by personally interviewing 120 beneficiary farmers with the help of interview schedule. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation were used for grouping the data.

**Result and Discussion**

**Table 1:** Distribution of the beneficiary farmers according to their age

Sr. No.	Age	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Young (Up to 35 years)	19	15.84
2	Middle (36 to 55 years)	83	69.16
3	Old (56 and above years)	18	15.00
	Total	120	100.00

It was observed from table 1 that, majority (69.16 per cent) of beneficiary farmers belonged to middle age category followed by (15.84 per cent) of those who belonged to young age category and (15.00 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers belonged to old age

category. The middle age group of beneficiary farmers are more interested in adopting new technologies. Similar findings by Patel (2015), Devkule (2017)<sup>[3]</sup> and Karki (2019)<sup>[5]</sup>.

**Table 2:** Distribution of the beneficiary farmers according to their education

Sr. No.	Education	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Illiterate	2	01.67
2	Primary education (I to VII standard)	16	13.34
3	Secondary education (VII to X standard)	37	30.83
4	Higher Secondary education (XI to XII standard)	23	19.16
5	Graduation and above	42	35.00
	Total	120	100.00

It was observed from table 2 that more than one third (35.00 per cent) of beneficiary farmers completed graduation and above followed by secondary education (30.83 per cent), higher secondary education (19.16 per cent), primary education (13.34 per cent) and only (01.67 per cent)

beneficiary farmers were found illiterate. It was inferred that majority of the beneficiary farmers were educated up to graduation and above level. The findings are in line with Darandale (2020)<sup>[2]</sup>.

**Table 3:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their farming experience

Sr. No.	Farming Experience	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Up to 7 years)	24	20.00
2	Medium (8 to 33 years)	77	64.17
3	High (34 years and above)	19	15.83
	Total	120	100.00

It is observed from table 3 that majority (64.17 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium farming experience followed by low (20.00 per cent) and high (15.83 per cent) farming experience respectively. It was inferred that majority of the beneficiary farmers had medium farming experience. Similar findings are reported by Mankar (2013).

It was observed from table 5 that, majority (69.17 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium social participation followed by (16.67 per cent) had low social participation. Only (14.16 per cent) beneficiary farmers had high social participation. Thus, it is concluded that majority of the beneficiary farmers possessed medium level of social participation. These findings are in line with the findings of Tawade (2016)<sup>[7]</sup>.

**Table 4:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their knowledge

Sr. No.	Knowledge	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Up to 8 score)	27	22.50
2	Medium (9 to 17 score)	76	63.34
3	High (18 and above score)	17	14.16
	Total	120	100.00

It is observed from table 4 that, the majority (63.34 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium level of knowledge followed by (22.50 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had low level of knowledge and only (14.16 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had high level of knowledge regarding Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. The medium level of knowledge might be due to factors like ignorance in getting sufficient information, lack of knowledge about different components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Similar findings are reported by Bunkar (2011).

**Table 6:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their sources of information

Sr. No.	Sources of Information	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Up to 5 score)	26	21.67
2	Medium (6 to 10 score)	71	59.16
3	High (11 score and above)	23	19.17
	Total	120	100.00

It is observed from table 6 that, more than half (59.16 per cent) of beneficiary farmers had medium sources of information whereas (21.67 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had low sources of information and (19.17 per cent) beneficiary farmers had high sources of information. This might be due to availability of less sources of information about Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. The findings are similar to the findings of Raut (2018)<sup>[6]</sup>.

**Table 5:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their social participation

Sr. No.	Social Participation	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Up to 5 score)	20	16.67
2	Medium (6 to 11 score)	83	69.17
3	High (12 score and above)	17	14.16
	Total	120	100.00

**Table 7:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their land holding

Sr. No.	Land Holding	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Marginal (Up to 1.00 ha.)	41	34.17
2	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha.)	49	40.83
3	Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha.)	23	19.17
4	Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha.)	7	05.83
5	Big (10.01 ha. and above)	0	00.00
	Total	120	100.00

It is evident from table 7 that, more than one third (40.83 per cent) of beneficiary farmers had small size land holding, while (34.17 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had marginal size of land holding followed by semi-medium size of land holding (19.17 per cent) and (05.83 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium size of land holding. No beneficiary farmer found in big size of land holding. Due to more population the piece of land was fragmented into the next generation. So, 40.83 per cent of beneficiary farmers had small size of land holding. Similar findings are reported by Dhande (2017) [4].

**Table 8:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their annual income

Sr. No.	Annual Income	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Up to Rs. 176627)	10	08.34
2	Medium (Rs. 176628 to Rs. 772739)	95	79.16
3	High (Rs. 772740 and above)	15	12.50
	Total	120	100.00

It was observed from table 8 that, majority (79.16 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium annual income whereas (12.50 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had high annual income and only (08.34 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had low annual income. The data revealed that maximum beneficiary farmers had medium level of income. This is because of majority of beneficiary farmers had small size of land holding. The findings are in line with the findings of Dhande (2017) [4].

**Table 9:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to number of irrigation sources available with them

Sr. No.	Number of Irrigation Sources	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Single source	39	32.50
2	Two sources	51	42.50
3	Three or more sources	30	25.00
	Total	120	100.00

The data presented in the table 9 shows that more than one third (42.50 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had two sources of irrigation followed by (32.50 per cent) having single source of irrigation and (25.00 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers with three or more sources of irrigation. Thus, it is inferred that majority of the farmers had two sources of irrigation available with them.

**Table 10:** Distribution of respondents according to utilization of different sources of irrigation available in the selected locale

Sr. No.	Sources of Irrigation	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	River	51	42.50
2	Canal	29	24.16
3	Farm pond	19	15.83
4	Tube well / Bore well	57	47.50
5	Well	78	65.00

It is evident from the table 10 that majority (65.00 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had well as a source of irrigation, followed by (47.50 per cent), (42.50 per cent) and (24.16 per cent) beneficiary farmers having tube well / bore well, river and canal as an irrigation source, respectively. Only (15.83 per cent) beneficiary farmers had farm pond as an irrigation

source. The findings are contradictory to the findings of Saad (2012). Thus, it is concluded that (65.00 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had well as a source of irrigation.

**Table 11:** Distribution of beneficiary farmers according to their risk orientation

Sr. No.	Risk Orientation	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Up to 10 score)	18	15.00
2	Medium (11 to 17 score)	83	69.17
3	High (18 score and above)	19	15.83
	Total	120	100.00

It was observed from the table 11 that, majority (69.17 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium risk orientation followed by high (15.83 per cent) and low (15.00 per cent) risk orientation respectively. It is concluded that majority of the beneficiary farmers had medium risk-taking ability. Majority of the beneficiary farmers are young to middle age and highly educated, so they are aware about new technologies and its benefits so they come forward for adoption of new technologies. Similar findings are reported by Karki (2019) [5].

**Table 12:** Correlation coefficient between characteristics of the beneficiary farmers and their attitude towards Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient
1	Age	-0.0561 NS
2	Education	0.191*
3	Farming Experience	0.276**
4	Knowledge	0.318**
5	Social Participation	0.232*
6	Sources of Information	0.229*
7	Land Holding	0.274**
8	Annual Income	0.259**
9	Irrigation Status	0.258**
10	Risk Orientation	0.313**

\* = Significant at 0.05 level of probability

\*\* = Significant at 0.01 level of probability

NS = Non-significant

It is observed from table 12 that, independent variables like education, social participation and sources of information had positive and significant relationship with attitude of beneficiary farmers towards Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Also farming experience, knowledge, land holding, annual income, irrigation status and risk orientation had positive and highly significant relationship with attitude of beneficiary farmers towards Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.

## Conclusion

Majority (63.34 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium level of knowledge while majority (69.17 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium social participation. More than half (59.16 per cent) of beneficiary farmers had medium sources of information whereas majority (69.17 per cent) of the beneficiary farmers had medium risk orientation.

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