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SOCIO-ECONOMIC FEATURES OF THE SELECTED HOLDINGS OF CHRYSANTHEMUM CULTIVATION IN NAGAR AND PARNER TAHASIL OF AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

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Abstract:

The present study has attempted to determine the socio-economic feature of the selected holdings of Chrysanthemum cultivation in Nagar and Parner tahasils of Ahmednagar district. For the primary data especially designed questionnaire were used. For the selection of sample cultivators a list of flower growers was obtained from the revenue records of the selected villages. The required number of cultivators from each village was selected randomly. For the purpose of analysis, the farmers were grouped in to three classes on the basis of total holdings, small medium and large holdings. According to the 40 families were selected from the group of small 50 families from the group of medium and 60 families from the group of large farm size. An attempt was made in this study to find out the socio-Economic features of the selected holdings.

KEYWORDS:

Chrysanthemum, Economics, Proportion, Capital assets, Livestock, Holdings.

.INTRODUCTION

While studying the economics of the Chrysanthemum growers it is essential to study the land utilization, irrigation, cropping pattern, transport and communication facilities, marketing facilities, as well as the characteristics of the selected holdings, in terms of family size, capital assets of sample farm, income from various sources of the selected holdings.

STUDY AREA:-

Ahmednagar district is situated in the center part of Maharashtra between 180 2' to 190 9' North latitude and 730 32' to 750 5' East longitude. The district consist 14 tahsils. Nagar and Parner tehsil lying in the south-west part of the district forms the area of present study. There are 117 villages, in the Nagar tehsil and 131 villages, in the Parner tehsil Out of which only five villages in Nagar and five villages in Parner produces Chrysanthemum on a large scale. As these villages are the major producer of the Chrysanthemum they have been selected for the present study.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the landuse pattern, cropping pattern, irrigation system of the selected holdings.
2. To study the socio-economic features of the selected holdings.
3. To know the various sources of income of the selected holdings.

METHODOLOGY:

For the present study some important Chrysanthemum growing villages of Nagar and Parner tahasils of Ahmednagar district was selected purposively. Among the study region of ten villages the data was collected according to the farm size, and was tabulated in term of small, medium and large farm size. According to forty families from small group, fifty families from medium group and sixty families from large group were selected. An attempt has been made to study the family size of the selected cultivation in relation to the size of operation of holdings.

ECONOMICS CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SELECTED HOLDINGS:**1. Family size of the sample farms:-**

Flower cultivation requires relatively more human labour especially for planting, weeding and plucking of flowers. Among the study region ten villages the data was collected accordingly to the farm size and was tabulated in terms of small, medium and large farm size. Accordingly to 40 families from small group, 50 families from medium and 60 families from large group size were selected. An attempt has been made to study the family size of the selected cultivators in relation to the size of operation of holdings. The information about this aspect is presented in table no.1 It can be observed from the table no.1 that the average size of family was 6.77 members of overall level. The average total number of members on small, medium, and large size groups of farm was 6.07, 6.28 and 7.67. The composition of the family of the overall level shows that each family has 2.50 working males, 2.11 working females and 2.16 children. It has been observed that the number of children was relatively more in smaller size group of holdings and less in medium size group of holding. It has been also observed that the number of women was relatively less in smaller size group of holdings, comparatively medium and large size group of holding.

Table no 1 Size of family in relation to size of farm

Sr.No	Category	Size groups of holdings			
		Small N-40	Medium N- 50	Large N-60	Overall N-150
1	Mean (Above 15 Years)	2.02	2.34	2.95	2.50
2	Women (Above 15 years)	1.67	2.10	2.42	2.11
3	Children (Below 15 Years)	2.38	1.84	2.30	2.16
	Total	6.07	6.28	7.67	6.77

Source: - Compiled by the Author (2011-12)

1. Land utilization pattern of the sample farms:-

The land use pattern in different size classes of farms is given in table no.2

Table No-2 Land Utilization Pattern of different size classes of holdings (Area in hect.)

Sr.No	Particulars	Size groups of holdings			
		Small	Medium	Large	Overall
1.	Total owned area	1.35	3.34	8.42	8.84
2	Uncultivable area	0.09	0.24	1.9	0.87
3	Net sown area				
	i. Unirrigated	0.54 (36.48)	2.15 (66.15)	5.15 (71.13)	2.60 (62.35)
	ii. Irrigated	0.72 (48.65)	0.95 (29.23)	1.77 (24.45)	1.37 (32.85)
	Total	1.26 (85.13)	3.10 (95.38)	6.92 (95.58)	3.97 (95.20)
4	Double cropped area	0.22 (14.86)	0.15(4.62)	0.32 (4.41)	0.20 (4.79)
5	Gross cropped area	1.48	3.25	7.24	4.17
	Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: - Data collected during the field work (2011-12)

The average size of holding in the small, medium and large size classes was found to be 1.48, 3.25 and 7.24, hectares respectively. The proportion of net cultivable area was quite high with the selected Chrysanthemum growers. It was interesting to note that the proportion of the irrigated area went on decreasing as the size of holding increased. But the unirrigated area went on increases.

The proportion of the net irrigated area was 32.85%, while the proportion of unirrigated are was 62.35%, however the proportion of double cropped area was hardly 4.79%. Limited water resources is the main reason for this low proportion.

1.Cropping pattern of the sample farms:-

The area under different crops on selected farms by their size class has been presented in the table no-3.

Table No-3 Cropping pattern by the size classes of farms (Area in hect.)

Sr.No	Category	Size classes of holdings			
		Small	Medium	Large	Overall
1	Food grain crops				
	a) Jawar	0.62 (41.89)	1.88 (57.84)	3.80 (52.48)	2.24 (53.71)
	b) Bajara	0.16 (10.81)	0.56 (17.23)	2.11 (29.14)	1.06 (25.41)
	c) Wheat	0.12 (8.10)	0.18 (5.53)	0.31 (4.28)	0.21 (5.03)
	d) Pulses	0.05 (3.37)	0.04 (1.23)	0.10 (1.30)	0.06 (1.43)
	Total	0.95 (64.18)	2.66 (81.84)	6.32 (87.29)	3.57 (85.61)
2	Sugarcane	0.03 (2.02)	0.06 (1.84)	0.12 (1.65)	0.07 (1.67)
3	Chrysanthemum	0.26 (17.56)	0.33 (10.15)	0.45 (6.21)	0.35 (8.39)
4	Vegetables	0.04 (2.70)	0.06 (1.84)	0.09 (1.24)	0.06 (1.43)
5	Oil Seeds	0.09 (6.08)	0.06 (1.84)	0.08 (1.10)	0.07 (1.67)
6	Fruits	0.04 (2.70)	0.02 (0.61)	0.04 (0.55)	0.03 (0.71)
7	Forage Crops	0.06 (4.05)	0.04 (1.023)	0.08 (1.10)	0.06 (1.43)
8	Other Crops	0.01 (0.67)	0.02 (0.61)	0.06 (0.82)	0.03 (0.71)
9	Gross Cropped Area	1.48 (100.00)	3.25 (100.00)	7.24 (100.00)	4.17 (100.00)

Source: Data was collected during field the work (2011-12)

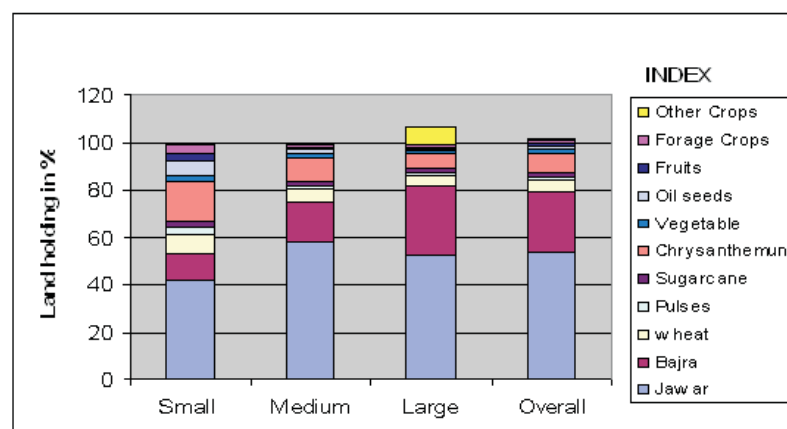


Fig no-1: cropping pattern by the size classes of farms (Area in hect.)

It is clear from the table the average size of holding in the small, medium and large size classes was 1.48, 3.25 and 7.24 hectares respectively. The food grain crops was predominant occupying 85.61% of the gross cropped area.

Amongst rest of the crops Chrysanthemum was important crop occupying 8.39% of the gross cropped area. It can be seen from the table that the proportion of the area under foodgrain increased as the size of holdings increased. However, the areas under Chrysanthemum denote inverse relationship with the size of holding.

There seems to be an association between the well irrigated area and the area under Chrysanthemum. From the study of small farm holder it is found that large area is devoted to food crops and second crop is Chrysanthemum which is a cash crop and give a better economic support to the poor small farm holders. Fig no-1.

1.Capital assets from the sample farms:-

The value of capital assets on the farm indicates the level of capital formation in agriculture. In view of this the average capital assets of the selected holdings are presented in table no-4

Table No- 4 Capital assets in different size classes of farms (in Rs)

Sr.No	Assets	Size classes of holdings			
		Small	Medium	Large	Overall
1.	Land and wells	168500 (68.95)	393500 (81.12)	726833 (85.97)	460833 (82.48)
2	Farm Building	40000 (16.37)	45000 (9.28)	50000 (5.95)	45333 (8.11)
3	Livestock	23875 (9.77)	28450 (5.87)	32545 (3.85)	28868 (5.17)
4	Implements and Machinery	12000 (4.91)	18100 (3.73)	36083 (4.27)	23666 (4.24)
	Total	244375 (100.00)	485050 (100.00)	845461 (100.00)	558700 (100.00)

Source: Data was collected during field the work (2011-12)

It is clear from the table that the most significant items of the capital assets were land and wells. The next items of capital assets in importance was the farm building, contributing 8.11%, livestock 5.17%, implements and machinery 4.24% of the total assets. It is obvious that as the size of holding increased, the value of all assets in absolute terms also increased. It is observed from the table that the percentage of capital assets on land and wells was increasing trend according to size classes, but the percentage of capital assets on farm building and livestock was decreasing trend according to the size classes.

1. Income from various sources of the sample farms:-

Beside returns from crops production the sample cultivators also realized income from other sources like animals, services, wages and business. The information about income from different sources by size classes of farm is presented in the table no-5.

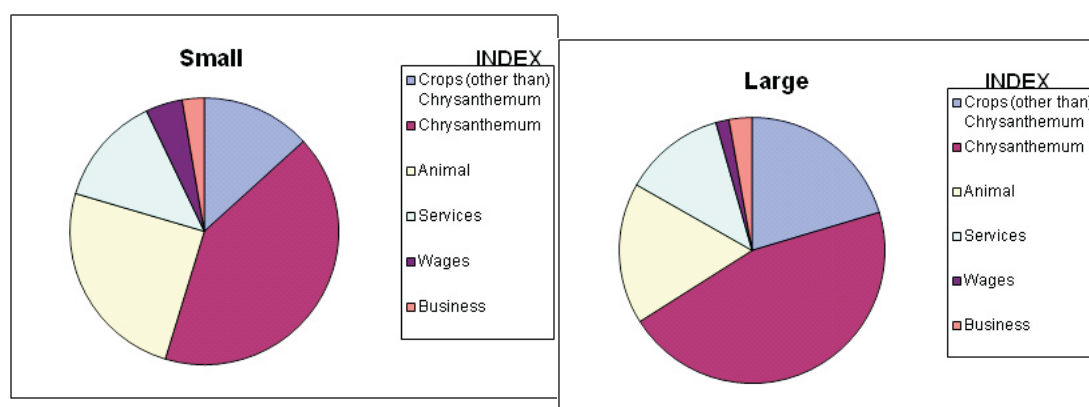
Table No-5 per farm income in Rs. from different sources in different size groups of farms

Sr.No	Particulars	Size groups of farms			
		Small	Medium	Large	Overall
1.	Crops (other than Chrysanthemum)	7000.60 (13.74)	11500.30 (19.21)	15700.70 (20.37)	11980.26 (18.63)
2	Chrysanthemum	21000 (41.23)	26000 (43.42)	35200 (45.60)	28346.66 (44.09)
3	Animals	12575.4 (24.69)	8272.5 (13.82)	13250.20 (17.19)	11411.02 (17.75)
4	Services	6750.40 (13.25)	11250.30 (18.79)	9545.20 (12.38)	9368.31 (14.57)
5	Wages	2250.50 (4.42)	1170.40 (8.95)	1242.80 (1.61)	1404.53 (2.18)
6	Business	1350.40 (2.65)	1680.20 (2.81)	2150.60 (2.70)	1780.41 (2.77)
	Total	50927.40 (100.00)	59873.70 (100.00)	77089.5 (100.00)	64291.19 (100.00)

Source: Data Collected During the Field Work.

The table indicates that Chrysanthemum production appear to be major source of income, it contributed 41, 43 and 46 percent of the total income in respect of small, medium, and large size groups of holdings respectively.

At the overall level, per farm worked out to Rs.64291. Out of this total income, nearly 44 percent contributed by Chrysanthemum alone. While about 19 percent came from the crops other than Chrysanthemum. About 15 percent of the total income from services. Income from the wages contributed to the extent of about two percent and business contributed 3 percent of the total income. Fig no-2.



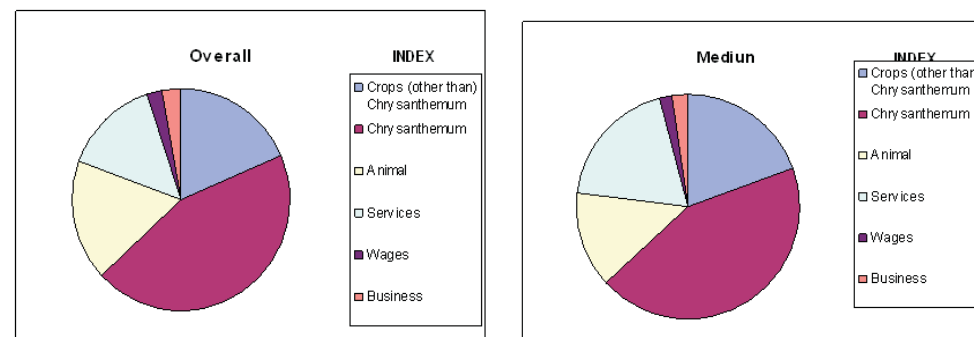


Fig No-2:per farm income in Rs. from different sources in different size groups of farms

It can be noted that the absolute amount as well as the proportion to the in respect of Chrysanthemum crop went on increasing as the size of the holding increased. However the picture was different in respect of other source of income.

The income from animals are relatively high on the small sized holdings. The absolute income from services was the highest in the medium size of the class farms, followed by small farms. There was clear decline trend, both in absolute amount as well as the proportion of the total income, on account of wages as the size of holding increased.

CONCLUSION:

It was observed that the average size of family was 6.77 members overall level. The composition of the family at the overall level shows that each family has 2.50 working males, 2.11 working female and 2.16 children. The average size of holding in the small medium and large size class was found to be 1.48, 3.25 and 7.24 hectares respectively. It was interesting to note that the proportion of the irrigated area went on decreasing as the size of holding increased. But the unirrigated area went on increases. It is observed from the cropping pattern by the size classes of farm that foodgrain crops were predominant. Amongst the rest of crops, Chrysanthemum was the important crop. It is clear that the most significant items at the capital assets was the land and wells. The next important items of capital assets was farm building followed by livestock, implements and machinery.

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