

A study of socio-personal, socio-economic and socio-psychological attributes of respondent paddy growers of Sitamarhi district of Bihar state and their constraints

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ABSTRACT

Paddy is India's most important food crop being grown on 43 million hectares of land with an annual production of 95 million tonnes. The study was conducted in Sitamarhi district of Bihar State. Use of exploratory design of social research was made in the present investigation. Sonbarse, Bazpatti, Riga, Runnisaidpur and Nanpur blocks from Sitamarhi district were randomly selected on the basis of maximum area under paddy cultivation. The study revealed that a majority (64.29 per cent) of the respondent paddy growers were in middle age group (36 to 50 years) category. About one-third (33.81 per cent) of the respondents were educated upto secondary school level. A majority of the respondent paddy growers (67.14 per cent) had medium size of family (6 to 8 members). More than half (55.71 per cent) of the respondent paddy growers had medium level of social participation. Majority (76.67 per cent) of respondent paddy growers face high labour wages as constraint in carrying out agricultural operations. The respondent paddy growers expressed that high wage-rate of labour was major constraint faced by 81.43 per cent.

Key words : Socio-personal, Socio-economic, Socio-psychological, Paddy growers, Constraints.

Paddy is a staple crop and main source of income for millions of people in the world, and is grown in all the seven continents. It is India's most important food crop being grown on 43 million hectares of land with an annual production of 95 million tonnes.

Rice is grown as major staple food crop. Similarly, it is also grown for the other products like parched rice (*Murmura*), beaten rice (*Poha*) and parched paddy (*Lahi*). Paddy is consumed by human beings after cooking as whole rice and by preparing product like Bhakari, Idli, Dosa, Uttapa, etc. The paddy straw is used as cattle-feed and as packaging material. It is also useful in manufacturing of cement as it contains silica. The by-products after milling *i.e.* bran and husk are used for extracting edible oil and cattle-feed, respectively. Rice grain is useful in rituals and important ceremonies connected with birth, marriages and funeral from very ancient times whereas broken rice of inferior quality is used as poultry feed. In other words, rice is a major source of food and income of the farmers. The statistical data of area and production for the year 2004-05 shows that the average yield of rice per hectare in Sitamarhi district was observed 0.461 tones per hectares as against 0.811 tonnes per hectare in Bihar. In Bihar state total area under paddy during the year 2004-05 was 3.167 million hectares and the total production was 2.569 million tonnes. In Sitamarhi the total area under paddy was 0.72 million hectares with

total production of 0.332 million tonnes. This indicates that, the average per hectare yield of paddy in Sitamarhi district is much less than the average yields of paddy in Bihar and India. At present, the efforts are also being made for transfer of scientific information to potential users as quickly as possible. But there exist gap between scientific information involved and its utilization by ultimate users and this may one of the reasons for low yield in paddy. The extent of yield gap is very high under Indian condition compared to the global productivity. In view of the study the specific objectives of the present study is as below;

- To study the socio-personal, socio-economic and socio-psychological attributes of respondents paddy growers from Sitamarhi district of Bihar state.
- To obtain the constraints faced by the paddy growers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Sitamarhi district of Bihar State. Use of exploratory design of social research was made in the present investigation. Sonbarse, Bazpatti, Riga, Runnisaidpur and Nanpur blocks from Sitamarhi district were randomly selected on the basis of maximum area under paddy cultivation. The list of paddy growing villages was obtained from Agricultural assistant of BDO Offices. From the list, 21 villages were selected by proportionate sampling procedure. A list of paddy growers was prepared from each village with the help of