

## An investigation regarding processing practices adopted by the farmers of Punjab

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted on hundred farmers selected randomly from ten villages of Ludhiana District and intended to find out the processing practices adopted by the farmers regarding different agricultural and horticultural crops. Most of the respondents were educated up to +2 level, had land holding up to 20 acres, belonged to joint families and had income ranging from 1-3 lacs per annum. Dairy was the main subsidiary occupation, where as rabbitary and piggery were adopted by none. Vegetable growing and horticulture were adopted by majority of the respondents, while none adopted floriculture. Very few farmers processed wheat, rice, maize, pulses, oilseeds, vegetables and fruit crops, while sugarcane was processed by 38.46% of the respondents in form of *gur* only. The farmers reported lack of knowledge regarding the processing and marketing practices. Hence, institutional and non-institutional training programmes should be organized to educate the farmers regarding processing and marketing practices among the farmers. They should also be motivated to adopt processing practices so that their income is raised and post harvest losses are reduced.

### INTRODUCTION

India is in second largest food producer in the world and has the potential to be number one. Food production is expected to be double in the next 10 years Gopalkrishnan(1997) but post-harvest losses have prevented India from realizing its potential. Studies reveal that India wastes more fruits and vegetables than are consumed in U.K. and the loss is estimated to some 40% of the total production of fruits and vegetables and eight per cent in case of wheat (Bhattacharya, 1997). Processing ensures high price for the producer and also prevents wastage by increasing the shelf-life. In India, it is only seven per cent, compared to as much as 23 per cent in China, 45 per cent in Philippines and 188 per cent in UK (Singh, 2001). Therefore, study has been conducted keeping in view the following objectives to study the socio-personal profile of the farmers, to study the processing practices adopted by the farmers regarding different agricultural and horticultural crops as well as different subsidiary occupations and to invite suggestions from the farmers regarding processing.

### METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in purposively selected Ludhiana district of Punjab State. Ten villages namely, Jangpur, Threke, Kila Raipur,

Burj Hakiman, Siarh, Sahauli, Barundi, Sudhar, Mangat and Ramgarh were selected randomly, and 10 farmers from each village were selected randomly, thus making a sample of 100 respondents. The data were collected with the help of specially designed questionnaire prepared for the purpose and were analyzed by using percentages.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *Socio-economic profile:*

The data in Table 1 indicate that most of the respondents (37.00%) were educated up to high school and +2 level. Only 18.00 and 8.00 per cent of the respondents had education up to graduate and primary level, respectively. Data further indicate that most of the respondents (63.00 %) had land holding up to 20 acres, only 12.00 per cent of the respondents had land holding above 40 acres. Majority (64.00%) of the respondents belonged to joint family and 73.00 per cent were having 3-9 family members followed by 24.00 and 3.00 per cent who had family members ranging from 10-16 and above 16, respectively. As far as income of the respondents was concerned 49.00, 18.00, 17.00 and 16.00 per cent respondents had income of Rs.1-3 lacs, less than one lac, 3-5 lacs and more than five lacs, respectively. Most of the respondents *i.e.* 98.00 per cent used electric motor as a source of

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