

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF MAIZE CONTRACT FARMERS

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### ABSTRACT

*The study was conducted to assess the personal characteristics and Socio-economic status of contract farmers in Maize contract farming of Navsari district of South Gujarat, India. The results of the study revealed that most of the respondents were in middle age group and had middle school education. Majority of the respondents belonged to Schedule tribal caste and medium size of land holding. Majority of respondents had animal husbandry along with agriculture as their occupation. Majority of respondents belonged to low annual income and had low material possession. Majority of respondents belonged to nuclear family and had medium size of family. Majority of the respondents had no socio-political participation and had brick wall type house. Medium level of economic motivation and scientific orientation were observed among majority of the respondents. Majority of contract farmers had medium level of socio-economic status.*

**Keywords:** contract farming, socio-economics status

### INTRODUCTION

Contract farming can be defined as an agreement between the farmer and processing marketing firms for the production and supply of agricultural products under agreement and providing the produce with a degree of production support (FAQ, 1999). The basis of such arrangement is commitment on both the parts of producer-farmer and purchaser. In general contract farming is helpful to farmer in getting assured and higher net income per unit area and to increase resource use efficiency through the principle of economics of scale and the availability of package of superior marketing facilities. It is a two-way benefactor in terms of farmer getting assured price and assured market, while, the contracting agency getting assured quality and quantity of raw materials at a preconceived price. Further, it improves the managerial skills of the farmer and inculcates the concept of commercial cultivation. If proper infrastructure in the form of post harvests technology, transportation, storage and processing facilities are available then this can be found to be an added advantage to the farm economy contracts as practiced in India range from relatively loose, one time, oral arrangements between the farmer and the buyer to formal registered contracts, which specify the duties and obligation of the parties to the contracts as also deliverable and penalties

for defaults. The study was conducted with specific objective to know the SES of the contract farmers of Navsari district.

### OBJECTIVE

To know the socio-economics status of maize contract farmers

### METHODOLOGY

“Ex-post facto research design” was used for investigation. The present study was conducted in Navsari district of south Gujarat. Navsari district were purposively selected for the study. From Navsari district Chikhli, Vansda and Khergam talukas were selected randomly in which contract farming being practiced. From the selected talukas, 17 villages were selected simple random sampling method. From 17 villages 100 respondents were selected. The interview schedule was constructed by formulating relevant questions in accordance with objectives of the study. The information from the respondent was collected by personal interview methods and their responses were considered for the purpose of present study. The SES scale developed by Pandya (2010) was used with slight modification for knowing SES. For the analysis of collected data statistical tools like Mean and S.D were used.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Table 1: Personal profile of the respondents**

n=100

Sr. No.	Profile of respondents	Frequ-ency	Perce-nt
<b>1</b>	<b>Age</b>		
	Young(Up to 35 years)	13	13.00
	Middle (Between 35 to 55 years)	59	59.00
	Old(Above 55 years)	28	28.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Education</b>		
	Collage/Post graduation	16	16.00
	High school	14	14.00
	Middle school	32	32.00
	Primary school	15	15.00
	Functionally literate	23	23.00
	Functionally literate	00	00.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Caste</b>		0.00
	General	00	0.00
	Other backward caste	00	93.00
	Schedule Tribal	93	7.00
	Schedule Caste	07	0.00
	Migrate caste	0	
<b>4</b>	<b>Land holding</b>		
	Big(above 10 ha)	0	0.00
	Medium(4.01 to 10 ha)	0	0.00
	Semi medium (2.01 to 4 ha)	24	24.00
	Small(1.01 to 2 ha)	54	54.00
	Marginal(0.01 to 1 ha)	22	22.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Annual income</b>		
	Above Rs. 2,00,000	21	21.00
	Rs. 1,50,001 to 2,00,000	03	3.00
	Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000	05	5.00
	Rs. 50,001 to 1,00,000	20	20.00
	Up to Rs. 50,000	51	51.00
<b>6</b>	<b>Material possession</b>		
	Low material possession	87	87.00
	Medium material possession	13	13.00
<b>7</b>	<b>Family type</b>		
	Joint family	43	43.00
<b>8</b>	<b>Family size</b>		
	Small (up to 4 members)	35	35.00
	Medium (5 to 8 members)	48	48.00
	Large (more than 8)	17	17.00

Sr. No.	Profile of respondents	Frequ-ency	Perce-nt
<b>9</b>	<b>Socio-Political participation</b>		
	No socio- political participation	43	43.00
	Participation in one organization	17	17.00
	Participation in more than one organization	18	18.00
	Official position in one or more social and political organization	02	2.00
	Official position in one social and political organization	04	4.00
	Financial contribution for community	16	16.00
<b>10</b>	<b>House holding</b>		
	Concrete double storied	15	15.00
	Concrete	12	12.00
	Tiled and brick wall	58	58.00
	Mud wall and metal sheet roof	05	5.00
	Thatched shed	00	0.00
<b>11</b>	<b>Occupation</b>		
	Professional/ services in govt.	05	5.00
	Farming with other enterprise	65	65.00
	Skilled occupation	16	16.00
	Service in private	14	14.00
	Unskilled Occupation	00	00.00
<b>12</b>	<b>Scientific orientation</b>		
	Lower level of scientific orientation	14	14.00
	Moderate level of scientific orientation	80	80.00
	Higher level of scientific orientation	06	6.00
<b>13</b>	<b>Economic motivation</b>		
	Lower level of economic motivation	20	20.00
	Moderate level of economic motivation	70	70.00
	Higher level of economic motivation	10	10.00

The data portrayed in Table 1 revealed that more than half (59.00 per cent) of the contract farmers were found under middle age group of 36 to 55 years and 28.00 per cent in age group of above 55 years only 13.00 per cent farmer belongs to the age group of up to 35 years. Nearly one third (32.00 per cent) of contract farmers had education up to middle school, functionally literate (23.00 per cent), Collage/ Post graduated (16.00 per cent); Primary school (15.00 per cent), High school (14.00 per cent). Majority (93.00 Per cent) of farmers were from Schedule tribal while only 7.00 per cent of the contract farmers were from Schedule Caste. More than half of the contract farmers (54.00 per cent) had small size of land holding, Semi medium (24.00 per cent) land holding and

marginal land holding (22.00 per cent). Nearly half (51.00 per cent) of the contract farmers belonged to annual income of up to 50,000, followed by 21.00 per cent of the farmers belonged to income level of above 200,000, followed by 20.00 per cent farmers belonged to income level of 50,001 to 100,000. Majority (87.00 per cent) of contract farmers belonged to low material possession and only 13.00 per cent medium material possession. Majority (57.00 per cent) of farmers belonged to joint family and 43.00 per cent farmers belonged to nuclear family. Nearly half (48.00 per cent) of respondents had medium size of family, whereas 35.00 and 17.00 per cent of respondents had small and large size of family respectively. Majority (18.00 per cent) of farmers are belonged to Participation in more than one organization while 17.00 per cent of the farmers are belonged to Participation in one organization and only 16.00 per cent of the farmers are belonged to financial contribution for community. More than half (58.00 per cent) of contract farmers had tiled and brick wall type house, 15.00 per cent of the farmers had concrete double storied type house and only 12.00 per cent farmers had concrete type house. Main occupation of 65.00 per cent contract farmers Farming with other enterprise. Majority (80.00 per cent) of the contract farmers had medium level of scientific orientation and 70.00 per cent of contract farmers had medium level of economic motivation.

**Table 2: Socio-economic status of respondents**

n=100

Sr. No.	Socio-economic status of respondents		Percent
1	Low socio-economic status	18	18.00
2	Medium socio-economic status	70	70.00
3	High socio-economic status	12	12.00

The data presented in Table 2 indicated that majority (70.00 per cent) of contract farmers had medium level of socio-economic status followed by 18.00 per cent and 12.00 per cent of contract farmers had low and high level socio-economic status respectively.

**CONCLUSION**

From above discussion, it can be concluded that most of the respondents were in middle age group and had middle school education. Majority of the respondents belonged to Schedule tribal caste and medium size of land holding. Majority of respondents had animal husbandry along with agriculture as their main occupation. Majority of respondents belonged to low annual income and had low material possession. Majority of respondents belonged to nuclear family and had medium size of family. Majority of the respondents had no socio-political participation and had brick wall type house. Medium level of economic motivation and scientific orientation were observed among majority of the respondents. Most of the contract farmers had medium level of socio-economic status.

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