

## **INFLUENCE OF CHANGE IN CROPPING SYSTEM ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITION OF THE FARMERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The study was conducted during the year 2013-14 in Dharwad district situated in Northern Transitional Tract of Karnataka state. A sample of 180 respondents of Dharwad district was selected by using the simple random method of sampling. Structured interview schedule was used to collect the data through personal interview method. The influence of change in cropping system and proportion of change on the socio-economic condition of the farmers was measured. It could be revealed that majority of them purchased T.V. and mobile (85.00%). The drinking water in their home and more number of livestock possessed (65.00%) was the other major changes in socio-economic condition due to change in cropping system. 21.66 per cent of the respondents expressed that 30.00 per cent proportionate change in their socio-economic conditions was due to change in cropping system.*

**Keywords:** *Change in cropping system, socio-economic condition.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Agriculture continues to be the main occupation and way of life for more than half of Indian population even today. Sustainable prosperity of this class- the farmers, the land less agriculture labourers holds the key for improving the overall human resource development scenario in the country. The adoption and decision making behaviour of farmers depend upon their socio-economic situation (Joshi *et al.*,2004).

Cropping system denotes distribution of acreage under different crops expressed in percentage of total cropped area. The change in cropping system occurs periodically depending upon the prevailing market requirements as well as agro-climatic conditions. The change in cropping system brings about a chain of effects on different aspects of farming and its economy along with some changes in the socio-economic aspects of farm families. These consequences are important from the view point of overall rural development. Keeping this in view the study was taken with the following objective: to study the influence of change in cropping system on the socio-economic condition of the farmers.

### **OBJECTIVES :**

To know the Influence of change in cropping system on the socio-economic condition of the respondents.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Dharwad district situated in Northern Transitional Tract of Karnataka during the year 2013-14. Dharwad, Hubli and Kundagol taluks were purposively selected for the study as these taluks have large area under rainfed condition in Northern Transitional Tract of Dharwad district. From each of these selected taluka, three villages were randomly selected. From each of the selected villages 20 respondents were randomly selected to constitute the total population of 180 respondents. The ex-post facto research design was adopted for the study. Structured interview schedule was used to collect the data through personal interview method. Data was analyzed by using suitable statistical tools like frequency and percentage.

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Improvements in living standards due to change in cropping system**

A glance into Table 1 revealed that among home front changes 65.00 per cent of the respondents started getting drinking water in their home followed by modifications on the existing home (35.00%) and access for toilets in their home (35.00%). Due to change in cropping system, the farmers had changed on home front because of high income due to availability of high yielding varieties which leads to gain more profit and changed the socio-economic conditions of farmers.

**Table 1: Improvements in living standards due to change in cropping system**  
n=180

Sr. No.	Improvements	f	%
<b>A</b>	<b>On home front</b>		
a	Drinking water in their home	117	65.00
b	Modifications in the existing home	63	35.00
c	Access for toilets	63	35.00
<b>B</b>	<b>On material changes</b>		
a	Purchase of T.V	153	85.00
b	Purchase of mobile	153	85.00
c	Purchase of vehicles	99	55.00
d	Purchase of jeweleries	90	50.00
e	Purchase of new utensils	18	10.00
<b>C</b>	<b>On health and education changes</b>		
a	Provided higher education to children	108	60.00
b	Had better health care	63	35.00
c	Spent more for food/clothing	27	15.00
d	Had better nutritional food	18	10.00
<b>D</b>	<b>On farm changes</b>		
a	More number of livestock possessed	117	65.00
b	Purchase of new lands	99	55.00
c	Purchase of new farm implements	90	50.00
d	Purchase of tractor	44	24.40
e	Dug new borewell in their farm	35	19.40
f	Improved existing lands	09	05.00
g	Bunding in their farm	09	05.00
<b>E</b>	<b>On economic changes</b>		
a	Repaid old loans	99	55.00
b	Increased saving / deposit	90	50.00
c	Invested money on other enterprises	17	09.40

f – frequency                      % - Percentage

Further, majority of the respondents stated that improved in material possession such as purchase of T.V. (85.00%) and mobile phone (85.00%) followed by purchase of vehicle (55.00%), jeweleries (50.00%) and new utensils (10.00%) due to change in cropping system. The farmers have been shifted from less remunerative to high remunerative crops which lead to earn more profit and improved on material status might be the reasons for these feelings. Availability of T.V. and mobile phones at affordable prices might be the other reason for possession. Easy availability of loan in banks might be the reason for possession of vehicles.

Among health and education changes, 60.00 per cent of the respondents expressed that provided higher education to their children because of high income due to change in crops. Change in crops like bt.cotton, maize, soybean etc., which gives the more yield due to high yielding varieties and gain more profit. Whereas 35.00 per cent of the respondents had better health care means consulted doctors to take care of their health and had drinking water in their home to keep

their health better. Spent more money for purchasing clothes or food (15.00%) and had better nutritional food (10.00%) like fresh vegetables, fruits etc., were the other improvements on health and education changes due to change in cropping system.

It could be observed from the results that majority (65.00%) of the respondents could possess more number of livestock. Availability of more crop residues and assured market for milk might have influence the livestock possession. Purchase of new lands (55.00%) and purchase of new farm implements (50.00%) were the other improvements on farm due to change in cropping system. Due to cultivation of new crops or high yielding varieties might have increased the income of farmers, this might have lead to purchase of land and new farm implements.

Change in cropping system improved the purchase of tractor (24.40%) followed by 19.40 per cent of the respondents dug new borewell in their farm because of high income from the farming. A meager per cent of the respondents improved existing lands (5.00%) and bunding in their farm (5.00%) were the other improvements on farm due to change in cropping system.

Improvements in economic aspects due to change in cropping system were repaid old loan (55.00%) and increased saving/deposits (50.00%). Due to growing of commercial crops like bt.cotton, maize etc., the profit has been increased which lead the farmers to repay the old loans taken from the institutions for cultivation of crops and increase in saving/deposits in the form of cash, current assets like jeweleries and fixed assets like house, land etc. A meager percentage of the respondents invested money on other enterprises (9.40%) was the other improvement on economic aspects due to change in cropping system.

The results are in line with the findings of Ganapathi (1993), Gadge (2003), Wadear (2003), Mangala (2008) Snehalatha (1991) and Vinaya *et al.*, (2013).

#### **Proportion (percentage) of change in socio-economic condition due to change in cropping system**

It can be observed from the Table 2 that as high 21.66 per cent of the farmers expressed that 30.00 per cent proportionate change in socio-economic conditions of farmers was due to change in cropping system followed by 20.55, 15.55, 13.33, 11.11 and 10.00 per cent of the farmers opined 40.00, 50.00, 60.00, 20.00 and 10.00 per cent proportionate change in socio-economic conditions of the farmers was due to change in cropping system, respectively. The reason might be small and marginal farmers has not followed proper cropping system because of illiteracy, small land holding,

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less income, less extension contact and less mass media participation, due to this less and moderate proportionate of change in socio-economic conditions of the farmers.

**Table 2: Proportion (percentage) of change in socio-economic condition due to change in cropping system. n=180**

Sr. No.	Proportion	f	%
1	10	18	10.00
2	20	20	11.11
3	30	39	21.66
4	40	37	20.55
5	50	28	15.55
6	60	24	13.33
7	70	8	4.44
8	80	6	3.33

f – frequency                      % - Percentage

A meager percentage of the respondents (4.44% and 3.33%) expressed that upto 70.00 and 80.00 per cent proportionate change in socio-economic conditions of the farmers was due to change in cropping system. The resource full farmers followed proper cropping system because of literacy, large land holding, high income, more contact with extension agency, more exposure to mass media and more financial support might be the reason for high proportionate of change in socio-economic conditions of the farmers.

The results are in line with the findings of Gopalappa (1996), Singh *et al.*, (1997) Dhyani *et al.*, (2006), Dalvi and Pandya (2016) and Amitkumar *et al.*, (2017).

### CONCLUSION

In general, it can be summarized that the change in cropping system results in additional income, this income channelized for positive development of farm and family. It has been observed that need based and market based change in cropping system as a result of introduction of relatively profitable crops generated better income for the farmers. Even the small farmers who were benefited by the various schemes implemented by the government have improved their income. This additional income enhances the socio-economic condition of the farmers and their families. Therefore extension system and farmers need to change the cropping system looking the market demand and available infrastructure in the area.

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