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Socio economic status of beneficiaries of producer company of convergence of agricultural interventions in Maharashtra

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Abstract
The study was carried out on Socio economic status of beneficiaries of producer company of Convergence of Agricultural Interventions in Maharashtra programme during the year 2017-2018. Data of 100 respondent's from 12 villages were collected and the interpretation and analysis was done. The findings of the study revealed that, the majority of the beneficiaries were of above 50 years age group having up to high school level of education and small size of land holding with agriculture and allied as a major occupation. However, the observation also shows most of the respondents were having annual income Rs. 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 and medium size of family. It was also studied that, most of the beneficiaries have above 10 years farming experience and no any facility of irrigation. Majority of the beneficiaries had medium extension contact, economic motivation, scientific orientation and medium innovativeness. Also the beneficiaries are medium duration training receiver and have highly favourable attitude towards CAIM programme. From the correlation analysis the significant was tested at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance and revealed that, 13 out of 14 variables were significant, remaining variables are non-significant. The significant variable includes Education, Land holding, Occupation, Annual income, Source of irrigation, Extension contact, Economic motivation, Scientific orientation, Innovativeness, Attitude and Training received. The non-significant variable includes Age, Size of family and Farming experience. It was found during multiple regression analysis that, these selected variables have 83.90 per cent contribution in socio economic status of beneficiaries.

Keywords: socio economic, beneficiaries, producer company, Maharashtra

Introduction
India has predominantly an agricultural country; hence it is a truth that progress of India is very much dependent on the development of agriculture. Now a day, due to climatic condition, agrarian distress in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra for the last decade has been the key reason for farmer's suicide and various other issues. The Government of Maharashtra initiated a programme "Convergence of Agriculture Interventions In Maharashtra" (CAIM) with the support of IFAD (International Fund for Agriculture Development) and Sir Ratan Tata Trust, The Government of India and Maharashtra Government had asked IFAD to intervene in region, where agricultural distress and farmer suicides are pressing issues. IFAD undertook a detailed analysis of situation and come up with a comprehensive approach for working in the region. This programme is unique in the sense that, it looks for convergence of various government programmes going on in the region. The CAIM programme is a joint partnership between the Government of Maharashtra, IFAD and Sir Ratan Tata Trust towards overcoming the agrarian distress in Vidarbha. The programme titled Convergence of Agriculture Interventions in Maharashtra (CAIM) was developed with the given goals and objectives to facilitate farmers involvement in primary processing, quality enhancing and marketing. To strengthen the farmers confidence, decision making, bargaining power, farmers need to come together so project has focused on farmers producer companies. Project had succeeded to establish 11 registered farmers producer companies.

Methodology
Distress prone district from Vidarbha region viz; Akola and Amravati districts were selected purposively for the study. The study was conducted in two taluka of Aklola and two taluka of Amravati district. Beneficiary respondents in 12 villages were contacted at their places of residence and data were collected by personal interview. From 12 villages 100 beneficiaries of producer company were selected randomly. The interview schedule was constructed by formulating relevant questions in accordance with objectives of the study. The schedule included questions pertaining to age, education, land holding, occupation, annual income, size

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of family, farming experience, source of irrigation, extension contact, economic motivation, scientific orientation, innovativeness, attitude and training received as independent variables and socio economic status as dependent variable.

The information from respondents was collected by personal interview methods and their responses were considered for the purpose of the present study. Data related to the study was analysed by using mean, standard deviation, correlation coefficient, multiple regression and path analysis with 't' test as statistical tools.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of beneficiaries of producer company according to their selected characteristics.

Sr. No.	Independent variables	Frequency (n=100)	Percentage
1	**Age**		
	Young	06	06.00
	Middle	38	38.00
	Old	56	56.00
2	**Education**		
	Illiterate	00	00.00
	Can read and Write	00	00.00
	Primary school	07	07.00
	Middle school	19	19.00
	High school	38	38.00
	College	36	36.00
3	**Land holding**		
	Marginal	15	15.00
	Small	43	43.00
	Semi medium	36	36.00
	Medium	06	06.00
	Large	00	00.00
4	**Occupation**		
	Agri.+Labour	01	01.00
	Agriculture	22	22.00
	Agri+Allied occupation	68	68.00
	Agri.+Bussiness	08	08.00
	Agri+Service	01	01.00
5	**Annual income**		
	Up to 50,000	02	02.00
	50,001-1,00,000	31	31.00
	1,00,001-1,50,000	13	13.00
	1,50,001 - 2,00,000	34	34.00
	above 2,00,000	20	20.00
6	**Family size**		
	Small	22	22.00
	Medium	65	65.00
	High	13	13.00
7	**Farming experience**		
	Low	00	00.00
	Medium	01	01.00
	High	99	99.00
8	**Source of irrigation**		
	No facility	51	51.00
	River	00	00.00
	Well	49	49.00
	Canal	00	00.00
9	**Extension contact**		
	Low	32	32.00
	Medium	49	49.00
	High	19	19.00
10	**Economic motivation**		
	Low	05	05.00
	Medium	56	56.00
	High	39	39.00
11	**Scientific orientation**		
	Low	42	42.00
	Medium	51	51.00
	High	10	10.00
12	**Innovativeness**		
	Low	33	33.00
	Medium	37	37.00
	High	30	30.00
13	**Attitude index**		

	Unfavourable	00	00.00
	Favourable	18	18.00
	Highly favourable	82	82.00
14	**Training received**		
	Low	13	13.00
	Medium	71	71.00
	High	16	16.00

The above table 1 revealed that, maximum 56.00 per cent respondents were of old age group i.e. above 50 years and 38.00 per cent respondents educated up to high school level. 43.00 per cent respondents have small land holding and having 68.00 per cent have agriculture and allied as a major occupation and 34 per cent respondents have Rs. 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 annual income. Also, it was observed that most of the beneficiaries (65.00%) have medium size family and majority (99.00%) have above 10 years farming experience.

51.00 per cent respondents have no any source of irrigation, 49.00 per cent and 56.00 per cent have medium extension contact, economic motivation respectively and also (51.00 %) have medium scientific orientation and (37.00%) medium innovativeness. Also it was observed (82.00%) beneficiaries had highly favourable attitude towards CAIM programme and they (71.00%) received medium duration trainings from functionaries of CAIM programme.

Table 2: Distribution of the beneficiaries of producer company according to before and after score of socio economic status (SES)

Sr. No.	SES	Total (n=100)			
		Before		After	
		Frq.	%	Frq.	%
1	Very low	00	00	00	00
2	Low	24	24	00	00
3	Medium	76	76	66	66
4	Medium High	00	00	23	23
5	High	00	00	11	11
	Total	100	100	100	100

(Frq.= Frequency, %= Percentage)

The data depicted in the Table 2 clearly explain that maximum 76.00 per cent number of the beneficiaries had medium and 24 per cent beneficiaries had low SES before CAIM programme get converted into (66.00%) beneficiaries have medium, (23.00%) beneficiaries have medium high and 11 per cent beneficiaries have high SES after CAIM programme.

Table 3: Correlation coefficient of selected characteristics of beneficiaries of producer company of CAIM programme with dependent variable.

Sr. No.	Name of the variables	'r' values
1	Age	0.0775
2	Education	0.1865*
3	Land holding	0.2661**
4	Occupation	0.2504**
5	Annual income	0.2580**
6	Family size	0.0839
7	Farming experience	0.1409
8	Source of irrigation	0.2010*
9	Extension contact	0.1950*
10	Economic motivation	0.2125**
11	Scientific orientation	0.2301**
12	Innovativeness	0.2898**
13	Attitude	0.1706*
14	Training received	0.1817*

* : Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level.
** : Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level.

From the observation in Table 3, out of 14 variables, land holding, occupation, annual income, economic motivation, scientific orientation, innovativeness shows positive and significant correlation with socio economic status at 0.01 level of probability and variables such as education, source of irrigation, extension contact, attitude and training received also showed positive and significant correlation with socio economic status at 0.05 level of probability.

Table 4: Multiple regression analysis of independent variables of producer company with socio economic status of beneficiary beneficiaries.

Sr. No.	Variables	Partial regression coefficient	S.E.	T-Value
1	Age	-0.006	0.055	-0.108
2	Education	1.294	0.243	5.321**
3	Land holding	0.662	0.172	3.857**
4	Occupation	1.553	0.258	6.012**
5	Annual income	2.517	0.989	2.544*

6	Family size	0.075	0.108	0.688
7	Farming experience	0.016	0.054	0.302
8	Source of irrigation	0.284	0.138	2.057*
9	Extension contact	0.144	0.068	2.117*
10	Economic motivation	0.131	0.046	2.847**
11	Scientific orientation	0.194	0.074	2.628*
12	Innovativeness	1.066	0.510	2.090*
13	Attitude index	1.421	0.710	2.001*
14	Training received	0.117	0.059	1.983*

R^2 = 0.839, F Value = 39.447
** Significant of 0.01 level of probability
* Significant of 0.05 level of probability

The results of relational analysis were fitted in regression equation and regression analysis was undertaken. The result of regression analysis in Table 70 shows that the coefficient of determination R^2 was 0.839 meaning 83.90 per cent of the total contribution in socio economic status of beneficiaries of producer company was explained by the selected variables.

Further it was observed from Table 4 that independent variables namely education, land holding, occupation and economic motivation were positive and highly significant at 0.01 level of probability in socio economic status of beneficiaries of producer company.

Table 5: Direct and Indirect effect of independent variables on dependent variable of the beneficiaries of producer company.

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Direct effect	Total indirect effect	Variable having maximum indirect effect
1	Age (x_1)	0.07309	-0.1597	0.9510 (x_7)
2	Education (x_2)	0.1476	0.1092	0.4223 (x_{14})
3	Land holding (x_3)	0.1573	-0.3168	0.8638 (x_5)
4	Occupation (x_4)	0.2069	0.1384	0.2371 (x_5)
5	Annual income (x_5)	0.2675	0.1848	0.8638 (x_3)
6	Family size (x_6)	0.1498	0.0924	0.2379 (x_1)
7	Farming experience (x_7)	0.1283	0.0649	0.9510 (x_1)
8	Source of irrigation (x_8)	0.4012	0.3937	0.4579 (x_5)
9	Extension contact (x_9)	0.1181	0.1070	0.1805 (x_2)
10	Economic motivation (x_{10})	0.0560	0.1394	0.3029 (x_5)
11	Scientific orientation (x_{11})	0.0294	0.1774	0.1958 (x_5)
12	Innovativeness (x_{12})	0.1937	0.1871	0.5341 (x_5)
13	Attitude (x_{13})	0.0364	0.2490	0.1470 (x_9)
14	Training received (x_{14})	0.09259	0.1819	0.4223 (x_2)

Direct effect
The path coefficients reported in the Table 5 revealed that the variables, source of irrigation (0.4012),annual income (0.2675), occupation (0.2069), innovativeness (0.1937) land holding (0.1573), family size (0.1498), education (0.1276), farming experience (0.1283), extension contact (0.1181),age (0.0730), economic motivation (0.0560), attitude (0.0364), scientific orientation (0.0294), and training received (0.09259) have exerted maximum positive direct effect.

Total indirect effect
It was further revealed by the path coefficients reported in Table 38 that the variable, source of irrigation (0.3937), land holding (-0.3168), attitude (0.2490),innovativeness (0.1871), annual income (0.1848), training received (-0.1819), scientific orientation (0.1774) exerted the maximum total indirect effect, followed by age (-0.1597), economic motivation (0.1394), occupation (0.1384), education (0.1092), extension contact (0.1070) exerting the total indirect effect on impact with respect to socio economic status in descending order of magnitude. The indirect effects of family size (0.0924) and farming experience (0.0649) was found to be comparatively very small.

Maximum indirect effect
The indirect effect of the independent variables on the socio economic status through other variables revealed that out of the 14 variables, maximum variables namely, land holding,

occupation, source of irrigation, economic motivation, scientific orientation and innovativeness had largest indirect effect on the impact with respect to socio economic status through annual income only, also farming experience and family size had largest indirect effect on the impact with respect to socio economic status through age only. Extension contact and training received had largest indirect effect on the impact with respect to socio economic status through education only, Thus annual income, education and age not only has produced the maximum positive direct effect but also indirect effect of maximum number of variables. Hence, majorly annual income and education must be considered important in the impact with respect to socio economic status.

Conclusion
The finding reveals that, majority of the beneficiaries have medium socio economic status as the respondents were educated up to high school level and have medium extension contact, economic motivation, scientific orientation and innovativeness. Beneficiaries received medium duration training and increased their annual income after participation in CAIM programme so they have highly favourable attitude towards CAIM programm. There was significant relationship observed of 11 independent variables except age, size of family and farming experience with socio economic status and these selected variables have 83.90 per cent contribution in socio economic status of beneficiaries.

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