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Socio-Economic profile of vegetable growers in Western Uttar Pradesh, India

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Meerut and Hapur district of Western Uttar Pradesh to know the socio economic profile of vegetable growers and it was found that majority of the growers 61.88 percent belongs to age group of the above 45 years. Most of the respondents 41.88 percent in study area were 12th passed. Majority of vegetable growers 53.75 percent belonged to other backward caste category. The vegetable growers living in joint family system was found 63.75 percent, majority of vegetable growers 55.00 percent were having above 04 members in the family, vegetable growers 80.00 percent were having pucca house, 57.50 per cent vegetable growers were having up to 1 ha. of land and belongs to marginal farmers category, 76.25 percent vegetable growers were depending upon agriculture, 98.75 percent were having mobile phone, 98.11 per cent vegetable growers were having motor cycle as a means of transport facility, growers 70.62 per cent were not participate in any organization activity, majority 68.75 percent vegetable growers having annual income of more than 300,001-500,000, 35.00 percent vegetable growers were having 10 years of experience of vegetable cultivation.

Keywords: Socioeconomic profile, vegetable growers

Introduction

India has been bestowed with wide range of climate and physic-geographical conditions and as such is most suitable for growing various kinds of vegetables. Vegetables are important constituents of Indian agriculture and nutritional security due to their short duration, higher production, nutritional richness, economic viability and ability to generate on-farm and off-farm employment. India has witnessed voluminous increase in horticulture production over the last few years. Significant progress has been made in area expansion resulting in higher production. During 2017-18, the total area under horticulture crops was also up by 3.26 per cent at 25.66 million hectares (mha) from 24.85 million hectares (mha) in 2016-17. Horticulture production of the country is estimated to be 306.82 million tonnes during 2017-18, which is 2.05 per cent higher than the previous year's 300.64 million tonnes, and 8.5% higher than the past five years average production according to the third advance estimates of horticultural production released by the Agriculture Ministry. Vegetables are good source of income and employment. The contribution of vegetables (59–61%) in horticulture crop production over the last five years. During 2017-18, the area under vegetables is estimated at 10.3 million hectares with a production of 179.7 million tonnes in India. In this period the total vegetable production was highest in case of Uttar Pradesh i.e. 28.22 Million Tonnes from 14.38 million hectares area followed by West Bengal i.e. 25.90 Million Tonnes from 13.93 million hectares area. This has placed India among the foremost countries in vegetable production, just behind China.

Research Methodology

For the investigation two district Meerut and Hapur were selected from the Western Uttar Pradesh randomly. From each district two blocks were selected *i.e.* Daurala and Kharkhonda from Meerut and Hapur block and Dhaulana block from Hapur district. From each block four villages were selected purposively. Thus the total 16 villages were selected. The total sample size was of 160 vegetable growers for the investigation. The survey work was conducted through personal interview with the help of interview schedule. After analysis of the data find out frequency and percentage.

Results and Discussion

Table-1. Showed that age structure of the vegetable growers revealed that majority of the growers 61.88 percent belongs to age group of the above 45 years followed by 23.75 percent

growers belongs to age between 30-45 years and the remaining 14.37 percent vegetable growers were belonging age up to 30 years. The results of this study are in line with the observations carried out by Adeola (2012), Abubakar *et al.* (2015) [2, 1].

Table 1: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their age

S. No.	Age	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age up to 30 years	23	14.37
2.	Age between 30-45 years	38	23.75
3.	Age of above 45 years	99	61.88
	Total	160	100

Results depicted in the Table-2 clearly indicates that the most of the respondents (41.88 percent) in study area were 12th passed followed by illiterate and 10th passed (15 percent), 13.12 per cent of growers were 8th passed and 8.76 percent were 5th passed and 4.37 were graduate and rest of 1.87 percent vegetable growers were post graduate. These findings are close conformity with Verma *et al.* (2018) [12], Saini *et al.* (2017) [10], Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7].

Table 2: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their level of education

S. No.	Level of education	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Illiterate	24	15.00
2.	5 th Passed	14	8.76
3.	8 th Passed	21	13.12
4.	10 th Passed	24	15.00
5.	12 th Passed	67	41.88
6.	Graduate	07	4.37
7.	Post Graduate and above	03	1.87
	Total	160	100

Table-3 indicated that majority of vegetable growers (53.75 percent) belonged to other backward caste category, followed by General (31.87 percent) and the remaining Schedule cast/Schedule tribe (14.38 percent). It may be concluded that other back ward category vegetable growers were having more vegetable cultivation area and also take interest in vegetable cultivation. The finding is similar to the work of Barodia (2005) [5], Singh *et al.* (2007) [11], Ananthnag *et al.* (2014) [3]

Table 3: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their caste

S. No.	Caste	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	General caste	51	31.87
2.	Other Backward caste	86	53.75
3.	Schedule Caste/ Scheduled Tribe	23	14.38
	Total	160	100

The data presented in Table-4 reveals that the joint family system is breaking down. The percentage of vegetable growers in joint family system was found 63.75 percent and the remaining nuclear family system was 36.25 percent. These findings are in agreement with the findings of Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7].

Table 4: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their type of family

S. No.	Type of family	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Joint Family	102	63.75
2.	Nuclear Family	58	36.25
	Total	160	100

The data presented in the Table -5 shows that majority of vegetable growers 55.00 percent were having above 04 members in a family, while 30.00 per cent vegetable growers belonged to 02-04 members in the family and the remaining 15.00 percent vegetable growers had up to 02 members in the family. These results are in similar with the results of Saini and Saini (2015) [9], Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7], Rajasree *et al.* (2017) [8].

Table 5: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their size of family

S. No.	Family size	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Up to 02 member	24	15.00
2.	02- 04 member	48	30.00
3.	Above- 04 member	88	55.00
	Total	160	100

The data presented in Table-6 reveals that the vegetable growers 80.00 percent were having pucca house followed by 18.13 percent mixed type house and the remaining 1.87 percent had kachcha house. So it can be concluded that vegetable growers are having better quality house. This may be due to good to socio-economic condition of the vegetable growers, which is due to good vegetable production. It also indicates the status of vegetable growers in the society of the study area. The result is supported by the study of Ananthnag *et al.* (2014) [3], Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7].

Table 6: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their housing pattern

S. No.	Houses	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Kacchha	03	1.87
2.	Mixed	29	18.13
3.	Pucca	128	80.00
	Total	160	100

Table-7 depicted that 57.50 per cent vegetable growers were having up to 01-02 ha. Of land and belongs to small farmers category followed by 22.50 percent vegetable growers were having 02-04 ha. Of land, 12.50 percent vegetable growers having up to 01 ha of land and the remaining 7.50 percent vegetable growers had above 4 ha of land. A similar finding was also reported by Ananthnag *et al.* (2014) [3], Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7].

Table 7: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their land holding (in ha)

S. No.	Land holding (in ha)	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Marginal (up to 01 ha)	20	12.50
2.	Small (01- 02 ha)	92	57.50
3.	Medium (02- 04 ha)	36	22.50
4.	Large (Above 04 ha)	12	7.50
	Total	160	100

The data presented in Table-8 indicates that 76.25 percent vegetable growers were depending upon agriculture followed by 12.50 percent vegetables growers were engaged in agriculture and business as their occupation, 5.63 percent vegetable growers were engaged in category of agriculture, business and service, and the remaining 5.62 engaged in agribusiness. The results of the study are in line with the findings given by Ananthnag *et al.* (2014) [3], Rajasree *et al.* (2017) [8], Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7].

Table 8: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their occupation

S. No.	Occupation	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Agriculture	122	76.25
2.	Agriculture + Business	20	12.50
3.	Agriculture + Business + Service	09	5.63
4.	Agribusiness	09	5.62
	Total	160	100

The data presented in the Table-9 that majority of the vegetable growers 98.75 percent were having mobile phone followed by T.V., fan and furniture 96.25 percent, gas connection 92.50 percent, cooler 68.12 percent, radio 57.50 percent, 18.13 percent computer and the remaining telephone and freeze 55.00 percent. Similar results were found by, Ananthnag *et al.* (2014) [3], Govinda *et al.* (2015) [6].

Table 9: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their House material

S. No.	General	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Radio	92	57.50
2.	T.V	154	96.25
3.	Mobile phone	158	98.75
4.	Telephone (Land line)	88	55.00
5.	Fan	154	96.25
6.	Cooler	109	68.12
7.	Freeze	88	55.00
8.	Gas connection	148	92.50
9.	Computer	29	18.13
10.	Furniture (Chair, sofa, dining table etc)	154	96.25

Table-10 clearly indicated that 98.11 per cent vegetable growers were having motor cycle as a means of transport facility followed by 86.25 per cent tractor and trolley, 70.00 per cent bullock cart, 60.62 percent cycle and 55.62 percent had car. Therefore, motor cycle was found to be most important means for transportation and loading purpose in the study area.

Table 10: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their Transportation facility

S. No.	Type	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Cycle	97	60.62
2.	Motorcycle/scooter	157	98.11
3.	Car/Jeep	89	55.62
4.	Bullock cart	112	70.00
5.	Tractor and trolley	138	86.25

The data of table-11 revealed that majority of the vegetable growers 100 percent were having khurpi, fawra, pruning kaichy followed by 76.87 percent duster/sprayer, 53.12 percent tiller/cultivator, 51.25 percent thrasher, 48.75 percent

harrow and leveller, 48.12 percent rotavator, 41.87 percent bund maker, 26.25 percent disk plough and 8.75 percent had lesser leveller. Ananthnag *et al.* (2014) [3], Govinda *et al.* (2015) [6], Saini *et al.* (2017) [10].

Table 11: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their implements

S. No.	Type	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	P
1.	Tiller/cultivator	85	53.12
2.	Harrow	78	48.75
3.	Disk plough	42	26.25
4.	Bund maker	67	41.87
5.	Leveller	78	48.75
6.	Duster/sprayer	123	76.87
7.	Seed drill	08	5.00
8.	Thrasher	82	51.25
9.	Rotavator	77	48.12
10.	Khurpi, fawara, pruning kaichy	160	100

The data presented in the Table-12 about irrigation facilities majority of the vegetable growers 57.50 percent were using tube well with electronic power followed by 13.75 percent were using both tube well with electronic power and tube well with diesel power, 10.62 percent were paid rent for irrigation, 10.00 percent tube well with diesel power and the remaining 8.13 percent were using canal as source of irrigation. Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7], Saini *et al.* (2017) [10].

Table 12: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their irrigation facilities

S. No.	Sources	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Tube well (electronic power)-(A)	92	57.50
2.	Tube well (diesel power) (B)	16	10.00
3.	A & B both	22	13.75
4.	Canal	13	8.13
5.	Rent	17	10.62
	Total	160	100.00

The data presented in Table-13 shows that the vegetable growers 70.62 per cent were not participating in any organization activity, while 18.75 percent were the member of one organization and the remaining 10.63 percent were the member of more than one social organization. Maurya *et al.* (2017) [7], Saini *et al.* (2017) [10].

Table 13: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their Social Participation

S. No.	Participation	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	No participation	113	70.62
2.	Membership of one social organization	30	18.75
3.	Membership of more than one social organization	17	10.63
	Total	160	100.00

Table-14 revealed that the majority 68.75 percent vegetable growers having annual income of more than 100,001-200,000 followed by 13.12 per cent vegetable growers annual income of Rs. More than 200,001-300,000, 7.50 per cent vegetable growers income of Rs. 300,001 - 500,000, 5.62 percent vegetable growers income of Rs. 5,0001-1,00,000 and remaining 5.00 percent vegetable growers income of Rs. above 5,00,000 respectively. Rajasree *et al.* (2017) [8], Saini *et al.* (2017) [10], Verma *et al.* (2018) [12].

Table 14: Distribution of vegetable growers according to their annual income

S. No.	Annual income	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Rs. 50000-100,000	09	5.62
2.	Rs. 100,001-200,000	110	68.75
3	Rs. 200,001 - 300,000	21	13.12
4.	Rs. 300,001 - 500,000	12	7.50
5.	More than Rs. 500,000	08	5.00
	Total	160	100

It is clearly obvious from the table 15 that 35.00 percent vegetable growers were having 11-20 years of experience of vegetable cultivation followed by 30.00 percent vegetable growers were having 21-30 year experience regarding vegetable cultivation, 20.00 percent vegetable growers were having 31-40 years' experience about vegetable cultivation, 10.00 percent vegetable growers were having up to 10 years' experience of vegetable cultivation and the remaining 5.00 per cent of vegetable growers had above 40 years of experience of vegetable cultivation. Memon *et al.* (2014)

Table 15: Distribution of vegetable growers according to Farming experience in vegetable cultivation

S. No.	Farming experience (in years)	Vegetable growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Up to 10	16	10.00
2.	11 – 20	56	35.00
3.	21 – 30	48	30.00
4.	31 – 40	32	20.00
5.	Above 40	08	05.00
	Total	160	100

Conclusion

On the basis of findings it may be concluded that most of the respondents belongs to higher age group, living in joint family system, having more than four members in the family, most of them having pucca house belongs to small group of farmers and their main occupation was agriculture, mostly respondents having mobile phones and using motor cycle/scooter as transport facility, the majority of vegetable growers having sprayers and duster, their annual income is good and they have long experience regarding vegetable cultivation.

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