



Analysis of socio economic profile of trained agri graduates under agriclincs and agribusiness centres (ACABC"s) scheme in Rajasthan

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Original Research article Received on March 28, 2017 Accepted on May 21, 2017</p> <p>Article Authors Shoji Lal Bairwa, Saket Kushwaha, Chandra Sen, Rakesh Singh</p> <p>Corresponding Author Email smabm.bhu@gmail.com</p>	<p>Agriclincs and agribusiness centres (ACABC"s) scheme is a subsidy based credit linked scheme launched by government of India on 9th April, 2002 for the strengthen technology transfer, public extension system and employment generation in rural areas. The present study was conducted in Rajasthan state during 2011 to 2015 and based on the primary data collected through field survey by pre tested questionnaires from 150 sample agrigraduates. The objective of study was to analyse the profile of agrigraduates on the basis of socio economic characteristics. The socio-economic profile were covered under broad categories such as socioeconomic profile of the trained agripreneurs, status of agriventure taken, status of loans obtained and approached, reasons for refusal of loan application, reasons for willingness and not willingness to take up agriventures under the scheme. The appropriate statistical techniques such as frequencies, scores and percentages were used to analyse the socio economic profile of agrigraduates under agriclincs and agribusiness centres scheme. The study results and previous literature are indicated that the most important factors influencing establishment of agribusiness units are attitude towards self-employment, better livelihood opportunities, entrepreneurial ability, motivation from successful entrepreneurs and self-confidence. Gender-related variations were also significant with regard to attitude towards self-employment, decision-making ability and information seeking behaviour. Thus, there is need to change in the attitude of agrigraduates towards self-employment, develop entrepreneurial ability and enhance self-confidence of the trainees through the training programmes.</p>
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Agriculture is the lifeline of Indian economy and provides the underpinning for our food, livelihood security and support for the economic growth and social transformation of the country. In India, there is need for revitalization of extension system to address farming and extension related issues, providing value added extension services to the farmer through additional qualified main power and adequate infrastructure (Bairwa *et al.* 2017, Shekara *et al.* 2011). (Parimaladevi *et al.* 2006) reported that trained agricultural graduates have positive and favourable attitude towards self-employment and to starting of agribusiness/ agriventure in rural areas. Government of India constituted a steering committee on agriculture and allied sectors under the chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan. The committee suggested creation of agriclincs and agribusiness centers managed by agri-graduates so as to provide consultancy services to the farming community in rural areas (Karjagi *et al.*, 2006). In this background, it has been decided by Government

of India to launch a scheme for establishment of Agriclincs and Agribusiness Centres (ACABCs). Subsequently, the Union finance minister had announced this scheme in the budget speech on February 28, 2001 for the year 2001-02 (Karjagi *et al.*, 2006 and Bairwa *et al.* 2015). Miljkovica and Rimal (2008) stated that socio-economic characteristics play a vital role in resource use, political stability decision making in bringing transformation. These characteristics are expected to throw light on socio-economic causes of progress or non-progress of sample agripreneurs. Parimaladevi *et al.* (2006), Jelenae *et al.* (2010), Kanwat *et al.* (2011) and Vimalraj *et al.* (2012) also reported that most important factors influencing establishment and progress of agribusiness are socio-psychological characteristics of graduates such as education, age, gender, attitude towards self-employment, entrepreneurial ability, self-confidence, decision-making ability and information seeking behaviour. Rao and Rupkumar (2005) also studied the socioagro- economic characteristics of trained

agripreneurs in Maharashtra and found that various variables such as age, education, sex, social group, land holding, and annual income of trained graduates have significant impact on the success of the scheme.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was based on the primary data collected by field survey during the year 2011 - 2013 in Rajasthan state. A wide range of relevant literature was also reviews to understand various issues and aspects of agriclinics and agribusiness centres scheme. Out of 33 districts of Rajasthan, 5 districts were selected purposively based on maximum number of trained candidates, good socio economic condition and maximum success stories of agriclinic and agribusiness centres scheme were reported in these districts. The fifty (50) trained candidates were randomly selected from each Nodal Training Institutes (NTIs) whereby a total of 150 candidates were selected as sample agripreneurs. Primary data were collected through questionnaires which were pre-tested with a sample of 25 agrigraduates in the same study area but other than the sample agrigraduates. Pre-testing of instruments was done to know whether the contents and forms of the questionnaire were valid, reliable and easily understandable by the respondents or not. To study the socio economic profile of trained agripreneurs, the data was collected from 150 agripreneurs and analysed through statistical techniques such as frequencies, scores and percentages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Socio-economic characteristics play a vital role in resource use and decision making in bringing transformation. These profiles are expected to throw light on socio-economic causes of progress or non-progress of sample agripreneurs. To study the socio-economic profile of trained agripreneurs, the data on different socio-economic characteristics like age, education, stream, sex, marital status, social group, means of livelihood, landholding, annual income, family size, states belongs and progress of AC and ABCs was collected from sample trained agripreneurs from the study area. The socio-economic profile of agri graduates were covered under broad categories such as socioeconomic profile of the trained agripreneurs, status of

agriventre taken, status of loans obtained and approached, reasons for refusal of loan application, reasons for willingness and not willingness to take up agriventures under the scheme.

Socio-economic Profile of Trained Agripreneurs

To study the socio-economic profile of trained agripreneurs, the data on different socio-economic characteristics like age, education, stream, sex, marital status, social group, means of livelihood, landholding, annual income, family size, states belongs and progress of AC and ABCs was collected from sample trained agripreneurs in the study area. The data so collected were subjected to analysis based on averages and percentages and presented in Table 1.

Age

It was found that 64 per cent of the respondents belonged to the age group of below 30 years followed by 22 per cent and 11.34 per cent belonged to the age group of 31-40 years and 41-50 years, respectively, whereas a negligible percentage (2.66%) belonged to the age group more than 50 years. Karjagi (2006) also reported in their study in south India that 61.48 per cent, 22.96 per cent and 12.59 per cent of the respondents belonged to the age group of below 30 years, 31-40 years and 41-50 years, respectively, whereas a negligible percentage (2.97%) belonged to the age group more than 50 years.

Education

The results revealed that 63.34 per cent of the respondents were graduates, 26.66 per cent were Post-Graduates and 10.00 per cent were Doctorates in agriculture and allied disciplines. Karjagi (2006) also found the similar results in their study in south India.

Stream

More than 65.34 per cent of the respondents belonged to the stream of agriculture followed by engineering (10.66%) while, 8.66 and 3.34 per cent of the respondents belonged to horticulture and veterinary respectively. only 5.34 per cent of the respondents belong to other stream other like

forestry and soil and water conservation. Higher percentage of agripreneurs belonged to agriculture stream was mainly due to more number of agriculture streams compare to other streams in any agricultural universities. Whereas less percentage of agripreneurs belonged to Agribusiness was mainly

Table 1. Socio-economic profile of trained agripreneurs (N=150)

S. N.	Particulars	No. of Agripreneurs	Percentage (%)
1. Age			
	< 30 years	96	64.00
	31 – 40 years	33	22.00
	41 – 50 years	17	11.34
	>50 years	04	2.66
2. Education			
	Graduate	95	63.34
	Post Graduate	40	26.66
	Doctorate	15	10.00
3. Stream			
	Agriculture	98	65.34
	Horticulture	13	8.66
	Engineering	16	10.66
	Vetenary	10	6.67
	Agribusiness	5	3.33
	Others	8	5.34
4. Sex			
	Male	123	82.00
	Female	27	18.00
5. Marital Status			
	Married	62	41.34
	Unmarried	88	58.66
	Divorce	00	0.00
	Widow	00	0.00
6. Social Group			
	SC	38	25.34
	ST	8	5.34
	OBC	58	38.66
	PH	7	4.66
	General	39	26.00
7. Means of Livelihood			
	Employed	37	24.67
	Self employed	23	15.33
	Depend on parent	70	46.67
	Farming	20	13.33
8. Land Holding			
	Small (< 2 ha.)	95	63.34
	Medium (2 – 8 ha.)	37	24.66
	Large (> 8 ha.)	18	12.00
9. Annual Income			
	< 2 lakh	90	60.00
	2 – 5 lakhs	45	30.00
	> 5 lakhs	15	10.00
10. Family Size			
	< 5 Members	96	64.00
	5 – 8 members	43	28.66
	>8 members	11	7.34
11. District belongs			
	Alwar	35	23.34
	Jaipur	10	6.66
	Tonk	15	10.00
	Udaipur	25	16.66
	Shree Ganganagar	65	43.34
12. Progress of AC and ABCs			
	Male	49	32.66
	Female	09	6.00
	Total	58	38.66

Source: Field survey, 2013

Table 2. Information regarding loans under the scheme of ACABCs (N=150)

S. N.	Status	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Approached for Loan	126	84.00
	Obtained loan	58	38.67
	Loan application rejected	62	41.34
	Pending loan applications	06	4.00
2.	Not approached for loan	24	16.00
Total		150	100.00

Source: Field study, 2013

Table 3. Reasons for refusal of loan applications of sample agripreneurs (N=62)

S. N.	Reasons for Rejection	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
1.	Project is not viable	22	35.48
2.	Project proposal is not prepared properly	35	56.45
3.	Bank has no jurisdiction	19	30.64
4.	Insufficient collateral security	43	69.35
5.	No loans for such projects	26	41.93
6.	No specific orders for such projects	33	53.22
7.	Beyond the sanctioning limit	9	14.51
8.	Big project needs partners	8	12.90
9.	No specific reasons	25	40.32

Source: Field study, 2013

Table 4. Reasons for willingness and not willingness to start of agriventures (N= 56 willingness + 36 not willingness)

S. N.	Reasons for Rejection	No. of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Reasons for willing to start agri venture			
1.	Earning more money, better livelihood and better future	41	73.21
2.	Self-employment is self-pride and self-respect	53	94.64
3.	Creation of employment to jobless youth	23	41.07
4.	Useful technologies and good service to the farmers	42	75.00
5.	Unemployment problems	50	89.28
6.	Process of getting loan was delay	15	26.78
7.	To avoid the farmer being cheated from input dealers	39	69.64
8.	Good technical knowledge and experience in the field	45	80.35
9.	Make use of government facilities	43	76.78
10.	Motivation from successful entrepreneurs	33	58.92
Reasons for not willing to start agriventure			
1.	Got private/govt. Job	11	30.55
2.	Want private or government job	23	63.88
3.	Interested in higher studies	30	83.33
4.	Others (own land management, other non agriventure etc.)	10	27.77

Source: Field study, 2013

due to lack interest in the training as they have wide employment opportunities in private sector. The results obtained by Karjagi (2006) were also similar as present study.

Sex

Majority of the respondents was found to be male (82%) followed by female (18%). High percentage of male agripreneurs was mainly due to risk taking capacity of the male agripreneurs and suitability of business for them rather than female agripreneurs. These results are similar as obtained by Karjagi (2006) in the south India.

Marital Status

Majority of the respondents were unmarried (58.66%) followed by married (41.34) and there is no respondents found divorce and widow status. These results are similar as obtained by Karjagi (2006) in the south India.

Social Group

Majority of the respondents (38.66%) belonged to OBC category followed by General, SC and ST category accounted for 26 per cent, 25.34 per cent and 5.34 per cent respectively because of lack of job opportunities in government sector. Only 4.66 per cent respondent belongs to PH categories. Karjagi (2006) also found the similar results in their study in south India.

Means of Livelihood

It was found that 46.67 per cent of the respondents depended on parents for their livelihood followed by 24.67 per cent employed in private and government sectors and 15.33 cent were self-employed while, 13.33 per cent of the respondents were involved in farming as their livelihood. Karjagi (2006) also found the similar results in their study in south India.

Landholding

The results revealed that 63.34 per cent of the respondents have belonged to small holding (< 2 ha) followed by medium (2 to 8 ha) and large holding (> 8 ha), which accounts for 24.44 per cent and 12 per

cent, respectively. Karjagi (2006) reported that maximum respondents were had small and medium holding in south India.

Annual Income

The annual income of majority of the respondents (60 %) was below ₹ 2 lakh followed by ₹ 2 – 5 lakh groups and above ₹ 5 lakh groups accounted for 30 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. These results are similar as obtained by Karjagi (2006) in the south India.

Family Size

It was found that 64 per cent of the respondents belonged to small family with less than five members followed by 5-8 members and more than eight members accounting to 28.66 per cent and 7.34 per cent, respectively. Karjagi (2006) also reported that maximum respondents were belonging to small family in south India.

Districts

The 43.34 per cent respondents were belonged to Shree Ganganagar followed by Alwar (23.34%), Udaipur (16.66%), Tonk (10.00%) and Jaipur (6.66%).

Progress of AC and ABCs

In Rajasthan as whole, 38.66 per cent (58 out of 150) respondents were started their agriventures, 49 were male and 9 were female which accounted for 32.66 per cent and 6 per cent respectively, in the total sample agripreneurs. This low percentage of progress may be due to huge variation in the socio-economic profile and difference in attitudes of agripreneurs. Rao and Rupkumar (2005) conducted a study in Maharashtra to study the socio-agro-economic characteristics of trained agripreneurs and found similar results. Karjagi (2006) also evaluate the progress of ACABCs scheme in south India and found that Out of total 46 agripreneurs, who have started their agriventures, 41 were male and five were female which accounted for 30.37 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively, in the total sample agripreneurs.

Information Regarding Loans Obtained and Reasons for Refusal of Applications

It was clear from Table 2 that out of 150 agripreneurs, 126 (84.00 %) have approached for loan and 24 (16.00 %) have not approached for loan. Among the respondents who have approached for loan 58 have obtained the loan, 62 were rejected and 6 were pending, which accounted for 38.67, 41.34 and 4.00 per cent, respectively. The rejection of applications was mainly because of insufficient collateral security, non-viability of the project; project proposal might not prepared good, not in banks jurisdiction, no loans for such projects and others. Similar results also found by Karjagi (2006) in their study in south India. It could be seen from Table 3 that insufficient collateral security was the main problem accounted for 69.35 per cent followed by project proposal not prepared properly (56.45%) and no specific orders for such projects (53.22%). This was mainly because of non-clarity about collateral security in the scheme, graduates might have not prepared proposal properly and bankers might have not aware about the details of this scheme. The other important reasons for refusal of loan application were no loans for such projects (41.93%), no specific reason (40.32%), project is not viable (35.48%), bank has no jurisdiction (30.64%), beyond the sanctioning limit (14.51%) and big project needs partners (12.90%). These results are similar as obtained by Rao and Rajkumar (2005) and Karjagi (2006) in their studies.

Reasons for Willingness and Not Willingness to Start Agriventures

The trained agripreneurs who failed to start their agribusiness under the scheme were of two types (a) willing to start their business but not yet started and (b) not willing to start their business. The data, facts and reasons for failure to take up agriventure were collected from 92 agripreneurs who have not started their business, and analysed results are presented in Table 4. It was clear from table 4 that self-employment is a self-pride and self-respect and unemployment problem were the main reasons for willingness to starts agriventure by the 94.64 per cent and 89.28 per cent of the respondents respectively followed by good technical knowledge and experience (80.35 %). The reasons of make use of government facilities and useful technology and

good services to farmers accounted for 76.78 per cent and 75.00 per cent followed by earning more money, better livelihood and better future (73.21%) were the sixth most important reasons for willingness to start agriventure. The other reasons like to avoid farmers being cheated from input dealers (69.64%) followed by motivation from successful entrepreneurs (58.92 %), creation of employment to jobless youth (41.07%) and process of getting loan was delay (26.78%) were the reasons as quoted by the sample respondents. Out of 36 agripreneurs who were not willing to start their agriventure, 83.33 per cent were found to be interested in higher studies followed by 63.88 per cent want government/private jobs, 30.55 per cent got government or private jobs and rest 27.77 per cent of them involved in other activities like own land management and other non agriventures. Hence, they were not willing to start their agri ventures. These results are quite similar as Karjagi (2006) found in their study on economic performance of AC and ABCs in south India.

CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Agriclinics and agribusiness centres scheme become popular among agrigraduates due to specialized training, credit facility, subsidy and handholding support in the establishment of agribusiness/agriventure. Socio-economic characteristics or factors have important role and causes of progress or non-progress of agripreneurs under the scheme. The study results and previous literature are indicated that the most important factors influencing establishment of agribusiness units are attitude towards self-employment, better livelihood opportunities, entrepreneurial ability, motivation from successful entrepreneurs and self-confidence. Gender-related variations were also significant with regard to attitude towards self-employment, decision-making ability, and information seeking behaviour. There is need focus on changes in attitude towards self-employment, develop entrepreneurial ability and enhance self-confidence of the trainees through the training programmes which in turn, will promote successful agribusiness ventures. Women agripreneurship through agriclinics and agribusiness centre scheme should be promote and develop across the country. Thus, it can conclude that the progress of trained agrigraduates depends on several factors including

as age, education, income, land holding size, training, field experience, credit facility and subsidy component.

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