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Demographic and economic profiles of agricultural technology information centre beneficiaries

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Abstract
The present investigation was undertaken in Agricultural Technology Information Centre in Kanpur region of Uttar Pradesh. For the study, a sample of 300 ATIC beneficiaries was collected. The study was carried out by descriptive type of survey method. The analysis of profile of the ATIC beneficiaries indicates that majority of them belonged to middle age (62%), male category (83.3%), high school (33.7%), general category (56.3%), hindu (74.7%), nuclear family (77.7%), family up to 5 members (71%), pucca house (44%), main occupation as agriculture (46.2%), medium annual income (14.33%), medium land size (24.3%), no social participation (43.3%) and medium level of material possession (53.33%).

Introduction
Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) are crucial institutions dedicated to advancing agricultural practices through the dissemination of technology and knowledge. Their primary objective is to bridge the gap between agricultural research and practical application, ensuring that innovative technologies and methodologies reach the farmers and stakeholders who can benefit from them. As agriculture faces increasing challenges such as climate change, population growth, and resource constraints, ATICs provide an essential platform for supporting sustainable and productive farming practices. The role of ATICs extends beyond mere information dissemination. They are designed to serve as comprehensive hubs where farmers can access a wide range of services and resources tailored to their specific needs. These services typically include technical advice, training programs, and access to the latest research findings. By offering these resources, ATICs empower farmers with the knowledge and skills required to implement advanced agricultural techniques, thereby enhancing productivity and sustainability in agriculture.

Objective
The current study aims to assess the socio – economic profile of the respondents under the Agricultural Technology Information Centre.

Materials and Methods
To meet the study's objectives, a descriptive survey method was used. Out of 44 Agricultural Technology Information Centres (ATICs) under the National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP), one ATIC from Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology in Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, was selected. The study surveyed 300 randomly chosen farmers visiting this ATIC. Key variables analyzed included age, gender, caste, education, family type, annual income, and respondents' roles and opinions. Data were gathered through personal interviews and analyzed using percentage, mean score, weighted mean, correlation coefficient, and regression.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the ATIC beneficiary's profile

S. No.	Age (Years)	frequency	Percentage
1.	Young (Below 24)	49	16.33
2.	Middle Age (24 – 53)	186	62.00
3.	Old Age (Above 53)	65	21.66
	Gender		
1.	Male	250	83.3
2.	Female	50	16.7
	Caste		
1.	General Caste	169	56.3
2.	Other Backward Caste	70	23.3
3.	Scheduled Caste	21	7.0
4.	Scheduled Tribe Caste	40	13.3
	Religion		
1.	Hindu	224	74.7
2.	Muslim	35	11.7
3.	Christian	24	8.0
4.	Sikh	17	5.7
	Type of family		
1.	Nuclear Family	233	77.7
2.	Joint Family	67	22.3
	Size of family		
1.	Up to 5 members	213	71.0
2.	6-8 members	21	7.0
3.	Above 8 members	66	22.0
	Type of house		
1.	Kuchcha House	75	25.0
2.	Mixed House	93	31.0
3.	Pucca House	132	44.0
	Material possession		
1.	Low (below 15.1821)	28	9.33
2.	Medium (15.821 – 18.4839)	160	53.33
3.	High (above 18.4839)	112	37.33

Age
As per as age concern 62 percent of respondents belonged to middle age group, followed by 21.66 percent of old age group and 16.33 percent of young age group respectively. The mean age of participation is 38 years old and the above trend was caused by young people moving to urban areas for education and business opportunities, which was further backed up in the study by the fact that over half of the participants were engaged in agriculture or other secondary occupations such as business, services, and other caste-based jobs.
These findings were similar to the findings of B. Neethi (2013) [2].

Gender
As per gender concern 83.3 percent of respondents belonged to male category in the research study area followed by only 16.7 percent of female category. The results indicated that female farmers lacked knowledge about ATIC when compared to male farmers. This could be explained by societal traditions and culture. It is necessary to change this as most farm women are involved in various agricultural tasks.
These findings were similar to the findings of M. Khan (2019) [3].

Caste
As per caste concern 56.3 percent of respondents belonged to general category, followed by 23.3 percent of respondents

belonged to other backward caste, while 13.3 percent of respondents belonged to schedule tribe caste category and remaining 7.0 percent of respondents belonged to scheduled caste.
From the above data we can state that majority of respondents were from general category which is similar to the findings of M. Pandey (2013) [4].

Religion
The distribution of respondents by religion was shown in table 1. A maximum of 74.7 percent of respondents were identified as Hindu, 11.7 percent as Muslim. And 8.0 percent as Christian. A minimum of 5.7 percent of respondents identified as Sikh. Therefore, it can be assumed that the majority of respondents practiced Hinduism.

Type of Family
The table no. 1 reveals that the majority 77.7 percent of respondents belonged to nuclear family and the remaining 22.3 percent of respondents belonged to joint family.

Size of Family
It is observed from table 1, maximum 71.0 percent of respondents belonged to the family which had up to 5 members, followed by 22.0 percent of respondents who had 8 members and above in their family leading to only 7.0 percent of respondents had 6-8 members.

Type of House
As per the type of house is concern a maximum 44.0 percent of respondents lived in the pucca type of houses, followed by 31.0 percent of respondents lived in mixed type of houses, and remaining 25.0 percent of farmers lived in kuchha house. The most likely reason was developmental scheme of government that provide subsidy for making pucca house directly into beneficiary's account leading the majority to live in well-developed pucca house.

Material Possession
Table 1 indicates the distribution of respondents according to their overall material possession where majority 53.33 percent of the respondents had medium level of material possession, followed 37.33 percent of respondents who had high level of material possession and the remaining 9.33 percent respondents had low level of material possession. Hence, it is concluded on the basis of above data that majority of respondents had medium level of material possession included household material and farm power.

Conclusion
Beneficiaries of Agricultural Technology Information Centres come from varied socio-economic backgrounds, benefiting significantly in productivity and income. Tailored support enhances these gains, promoting broader economic and agricultural advancement. Majority of the respondents in the study area had belonged to middle age group and were belonged to male category. The most of the respondents were belonged to general category and respondents were Hindu from religion which were staying in nuclear family with a family size of up 5 members. Staying in pucca houses was prominent between the respondents with having medium level of material

possession.

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