International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Profile of cashewnut growers in Konkan region

[1]SU Jagdale, [2]JR Kadam, [3]Parvathy Sasidharan and [4]PV Phadte

[1] Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

[2]Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

[3]Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

[4]Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Economics, College of Agriculture, Dapoli, Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India

Corresponding Author: SU Jagdale

Abstract

The present study was undertaken with the main objective to study the profile of the cashewnut growers. The study was conducted in two major cashewnut growing district of Konkan region of Maharashtra namely Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg district. 240 respondents were selected by using multi stage sampling techniques. Ex-Post-Facto research design was used for conducting the study. The data were collected through the personal interview. The data collected was analyzed using frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation. The analysis of data revealed that majority of the respondents (66.66 percent) belonged to middle age group while 57.92 percent of the cashewnut growers belonged to medium level of family education status. In case of experience in cashewnut cultivation, 78.34 percent of the respondents belonged to medium experience category while 74.16 percent of them had medium area under cashewnut cultivation. The average annual income of the cashewnut growers was Rs. 4.80 lakh and 49.16 per cent of respondents were not receiving any training. There was fair accessibility to cashewnut orchard.42.50 per cent of the cashewnut growers had medium use of social media the majority of the cashewnut growers were having medium level of economic motivation and self-confidence.

Keywords: Profile, cashewnut growers, multi stage sampling

Introduction

Cashewnut is an important horticultural plantation crop. It has gained status of commercial crop from that of a forest component due to technological advancements with respect to propagation, production and management. This has been possible as a result of increasing demand for raw cashew nuts and enhanced interest for its commercialization. According to data published by the National Horticulture Board (NHB), Maharashtra stands first in annual cashew nut production during 2021-22 at 0.20 million tonnes (MT), growing from 0.19 million tonnes cashew nut produced in 2020-21. The cashewnut production in Maharashtra is mainly concentrated in Konkan region particularly, in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts. In Maharashtra, the area under cashewnut was 1.91 lakh ha. (Source: Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development, 2018) [1].

A farmer managing a cashewnut crop plays the role of manager, handling various multifaceted responsibilities. He is in charge of carrying out a variety of operations from labourers and family members in order to successfully reach the maximum production targets. This involves satisfying the needs of a diverse range of populations. He has the power to significantly alter the course of events and impact other people's lives and livelihoods. Such task may call for a great deal of initiative, careful planning, skills etc. The major objective of this study is to assess the profile characteristics of cashewnut growers in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.

Materials and Methods

A multistage sampling technique was used for the selection of districts and tahsils. At the first stage, two leading districts in cashewnut cultivation i.e. Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg from the Konkan region were selected. In the second stage, three tahsils were selected from each district. The selection of tahsils was done on the basis highest area under cashewnut cultivation. Accordingly, the tahsils namely Dapoli, Khed and Sangmeshwar from Ratnagiri district and Kudal, Kankawali and Sawantwadi from Sindhudurg district were selected. Thus total six tahsils were selected for present study. Four villages were selected from each tahsil. Total 24 villages constituted the sample.40 respondents were selected from each tahsils, making an overall sample size of 240 respondents. The data were collected through personal interview. with the help of interview schedule prepared based on the objectives of the

study. The collected data were scored, tabulated and analyzed by using frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

Results and Discussion
1. Age

Age plays a crucial role in the behaviour of every individual. The information was collected regarding the age of the respondents and they were then grouped into three categories as presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the cashewnut growers according to their Age

Sl. No.	Age(years)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Young(upto48)	35	14.58
2	Middle(49 to63)	160	66.66
3	Old(64andabove)	45	18.76
	Total	240	100.00
Mean=56 years S.D.=8			

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority (66.66 percent) of the respondents was belonged to 'middle' age group, followed by (18.76 percent) old age and rest 14.58 per cent of the cashewnut growers in young age group. The average age of the respondent was 56 years.

The probable reason might be that middle-aged farmers might have accumulated more experience with respect to the traditional agriculture practiced by their forefathers.

The findings are in line with the findings of Chorge and dissimilar with the findings Sajeev and Saroj (2016) [6].

2. Family Education Status

Table 2: Distribution of the Cashewnut growers according to their Family Education Status

Sl. No.	Family Educaton status (Standard)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (upto 6)	52	21.66
2	Medium (7 to 9)	139	57.92
3	High(10 and above)	49	20.42
	Total	240	100.00
Mean=8 S.D.=2			

From the table 2, it can be concluded that more than fifty (57.92 per cent) of the respondents had medium level of family education status, followed by 21.66 per cent of the respondents had low level of family education status and 20.42 per cent of the respondents had high level of family education status. The average family educational level of the respondents was 8th standard.

Education opens new horizons for a person. It improves knowledge, skills, ability to think. As such, respondents might have come across some external sources in search of new crops, improved agriculture and in getting more returns from their farm. Choosing crop like cashewnut might be the result of this fact.

These findings are in agreement with the findings of Venkattakumar R, Sajeev (2015) [6] and Raykar (2023) [5] and disagreement with the findings of Durga.

3. Experience in Cashewnut cultivation

Table 3: Distribution of the Cashewnut growers according to their Experience in cashewnut cultivation:

Sl. No.	Experience (Years)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (upto 7)	20	8.33
2	Medium (8 to 21)	188	78.34
3	High (22 and above)	32	13.33
	Total	240	100.00
Mean=15 S.D.=7			

It is evident from the data showed in Table 3, that large majority (78.34 per cent) of the cashewnut growers were belonged to 'medium' experience category, while 13.33 per cent and 8.33 per cent of the respondents belonged to 'high' and 'low' experience in cashewnut cultivation category.

'Learning by doing' is one of the ways to acquire skills, improve upon the practice and find out solutions to overcome present situation. In this case also, medium farming experience might have helped or impelled respondents to completely or partly shift to the crop like Cashewnut.

The findings are in harmony with the findings of Zala, and dissimilar with the findings of Dongardive.

4. Area under Cashewnut Cultivation

Table 4: Distribution of the cashewnut growers according to their Area under Cashewnut Cultivation

Sl. No.	Area (ha.)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Small (upto 0.41)	40	16.67
2	Medium (0.42 to 3.24)	178	74.16
3	Large (3.25 and above)	22	9.17
	Total	240	100.00
Mean= 1.83 ha. S.D.= 1.42			

The data presented in table 4 revealed that majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents had medium area under cashewnut cultivation and 16.67 per cent of the respondents had small area while 9.17 per cent of the respondents had large area under cashewnut cultivation.

The result concluded that majority (74.16 per cent) of the respondents were having 'medium' area under cashewnut cultivation. It is obvious that once convinced or realised benefits of a practice, it is the tendency of everyone to go for replications and hence, the results.

Similar findings are reported by Adejo and the findings are dissimilar with the findings of Jaiswal 2011.

5. Annual income

Table 5: Distribution of the cashewnut growers according to their Annual income

Sl. No.	Annual income (Rs. in lakhs)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (upto 1.53)	13	5.41
2	Medium (1.54 to 8.06)	196	81.67
3	High (8.07 and above)	31	12.92
	Total	240	100.00
Mean= 4.80 lakhs S.D.=3.27			

A perusal of Table 5 revealed that, large majority (81.67 per cent) of the cashewnut growers were from the 'medium' annual income group, while12.92 per cent and 5.41 per cent of the cashewnut growers were from 'high' and 'low' annual income group, respectively. The average annual income of the respondents was Rs.4.80 lakhs.

The concentration of cashewnut growers in the "medium" income (81.67 per cent) group reflects the overall structure of the industry, characterized by moderate farm sizes, limited access to advanced resources, and market constraints.

This findings are in agreement with the finding of Dhenge (2018) [3].

6. Training received

Table 6: Distribution of the cashewnut growers according to their trainings received:

Sl. No.	Training received (numbers)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	No Training	118	49.16
2	One Training	102	42.50
3	Two trainings	20	8.34
	Total	240	100.00

From the above table 6 it is revealed that nearly half (49.16 per cent) of the respondents had not received any training followed by 42.50 per cent of the respondents with only one training and 8.34 per cent of the respondents had two.

Major reason for the large percentage (49.16 per cent) of cashewnut growers who have not received any training could be attributed to limited access to agricultural extension services and formal training programs.

This findings are in concurrence with the findings of Birajdar (2012) [8] and Dhenge (2018) [3] and dissimilar with the findings of (Patel).

7. Use of Social Media

Table 7: Distribution of the cashewnut growers according to their Use of Social Media:

Sl. No.	Use of Social Media (Score)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (upto 1)	86	35.83
2	Medium (2 to 4)	102	42.50
3	High (5 and Above)	52	21.67
	Total	240	100.00
Mean=3 Score S.D.=2			

From the Table 7 revealed that majority (42.50 per cent) of the cashewnut growers had medium use of social media while 35.83 and 21.67 of the respondents had low and high use of social media, respectively.

Social contact brings together various stakeholders and farmers to produce and share locally relevant information. The interpersonal communication with farmers increases the utilization of information. This information helps farmers to gain the knowledge and use during crop management and cultivation.

This finding gets support from the finding of Sajeev (2015) [6].

8. Accessibility to orchard

Table 8: Distribution of respondents according to their overall accessibility to orchard

Sl. No.	Accessibility to orchards (Score)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Poor (Upto16)	43	17.92
2.	Fair (17 to 22)	176	73.33
3.	Good (23 and above)	21	8.75
	Total	240	100.00
Mean=19 S.D.=3			

A perusal of data displayed in Table 8 clearly indicate that, majority (73.33 percent) of the respondents were in 'fair' category of overall accessibility to orchard, while 17.92 per cent and 8.75 per cent were in 'poor' and 'good' category, respectively.

This finding is covenant with the finding of reported by Dhenge (2018) [3] and Raykar (2023) [5].

9. Economic Motivation

Table 9: Distribution of the cashewnut growers according to their Economic Motivation

Sl. No.	Economic Motivation (score)	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (upto 21)	39	16.25
2	Medium (22 to 24)	136	56.67
3	High (25 and above)	65	27.08
	Total	240	100.00
Mean=23 S.D.=2			

From the Table 9, it is revealed that, the data regarding economic motivation indicated that more than one half (56.67 per cent) of the respondents were in the 'medium' category, while 27.08 per cent and 16.25 per cent of the respondents were in 'high' and 'low' category, respectively. On an average, the score of all cashewnut growers was 23 indicating the medium level of economic motivation. It is quite logical that a person with a strong desire to earn more and more will definitely take all possible steps that lead to higher returns from enterprise.

This finding gets support from the finding of Makwan and dissimilar with the findings of Birajdar (2012) [8].

10. Self Confidence

Table 10: Distribution of the cashewnut growers according to their Self Confidence

Sl. No.	Self Confidence	Respondents(N=240)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (upto 30)	43	17.92
2	Medium (31 to 33)	139	57.92
3	High (34 and above)	58	24.16
	Total	240	100.00
Mean= 32 S.D.=2			

As regards the self confidence, it could be observed from Table 10 that, more than half (57.92 per cent) of the respondents were having 'medium' self confidence, while 24.16 per cent and 17.92 per cent of the respondents had 'high' and 'low' self confidence, respectively.

The findings are in line with the findings of Patel (2006), Patel and dissimilar with the findings of Jyoti Mande (2015) [4].

Conclusion

Education opens new horizons for a person. It improves knowledge, skills and ability to think. As such, respondents might have come across some external sources in search of new crops, 'Learning by doing' is one of the ways to acquire skills, improve upon the practice and find out solutions to overcome present situation. Many rural areas where cashews were grown had inadequate infrastructure, poor connectivity or lack of institutions providing agricultural training, which might have prevented farmers from gaining knowledge on modern farming techniques or new technologies. The interpersonal communication with farmers increases the utilization of information. This information helped farmers to gain knowledge and use during crop management and cultivation. If a person is confident about his decision, capacity management and ability to face ups and downs will definitely become successful in the act.

The extension agencies like agricultural universities, KVK, State Department of Agriculture, etc. may use these findings for improving the profile of cashew growers wherever possible. Further, they may consider these characteristics while planning and executing the programmes for development of cashew in the Konkan region.

Conflict of Interest

All authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

References

1. Anonymous. Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development [Internet]. 2018. Available from: www.dccd.nic.in
2. Anonymous. National Horticulture Board, India [Internet]. 2022-2023. Available from: www.nhb.gov.in
3. Dhenge SM. Management orientation of commercial mango growers in Konkan region of Maharashtra. PhD (Agri) thesis. Dr B.S.K.K.V. Dapoli; 2018.
4. Mande JV. Management efficiency of grape growers. MSc (Agri) thesis. MPKV Rahuri; 2015.
5. Raykar SS, Kadam JR, Sawant PA, Warwadekar SC. Profile of the cashewnut growers. Pharma Innov J. 2023;12(1):2392-2395.
6. Sajeev MV, Saroj PL. Social and economic benefits of cashew (*Anacardium occidentale*) cultivation in Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka: An analysis of the impact, its determinants and constraints. Indian J Agric Sci. 2015;85(6):821-826.
7. Salvi SP, Sawant BN, Haldavnekar PC. Perception of recommended crop protection practices of cashew in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra. Asian J Ext Educ. 2016;34:43-44.
8. Birajdar VM. A study on management efficiency of cut flower growers. Ph.D. (Agri) thesis. University of Agriculture Science, Dharwad; 2012.
9. Chaudhary MV, Khodifad PB. Management efficiency of banana growers and its determinants in Navsari district of South Gujarat. Gujrat J Ext Educ. 2017;91-93.