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### Socio-economic Status of wheat growers in Hamirpur district, Uttar Pradesh (India)

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#### Abstract

The present study was conducted to identify the socio-economic status of the farmers practicing wheat cultivation based farming in Hamirpur district, Uttar Pradesh, multistage, stratified random sampling method was used for the selection of district, blocks, villages, and respondents. The study was conducted in six village of Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh with the sample size 180 marginal, small, medium and large farmers cultivating wheat crop. The finding of the study revealed that, 34.44% Higher medium age (46-60year) and 79.45% had literate. The respondent main occupation was agriculture. About 75.55% respondent belong OBC and 94.44% respondent belong to Hindu religion. The annual income of wheat growers that about 61.67% were found in the low income category ranging from less than 50 thousand. 56.11% farmers have pucca house and 56.35% have motor cycle, only 1.62% have car which is large farmers. In land holding 34.81% land has large farmers which is average 5.59 ha/ farmers. In the study area, farmers depend on only private tube- well. The main domestic animal was buffalo after that goat. On the basis of the finding it is suggested that socio- economic status of the farmer can be improved by improved technical knowledge about wheat cultivation. Farmers should adopt AI technology for technical knowledge.

**Keywords:** Wheat growers, respondent, farmers, marginal, small, medium, large, percentage

#### Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) belongs to family Graminae (formally Poaceae) and genus *Triticum*. It's called 'King of cereal' because wheat is a world largest producing crop in the world. It is one of the most essential and widely cultivated cereals in the world. Wheat is the leading cereal grain production, consumed and trade in the world today. It has the widest adaptation of all cereal crops and is grown in 100 countries around the world (Bushuk, 1994). Wheat has emerged as the backbone of India food security as it contributed 35.05 per cent of total food grain production of the country (FAO, 2023). The total production area of the world in 2024 is 220 million hectare with a production of 791.21 million tonnes. A slightly increase in both wheat production and total harvested area from 789.89 million tonnes in 2023 to 791.21 million tonnes in 2024 and 220 million hectares in 2024 to 208 million hectares in 2023, respectively (STATA, 2024). The STATA data reveals that approximately 791.21 million tonnes of wheat were produced globally in 2023-24. During the fiscal year 2023-24, wheat produced across India accounted for over 113.29 million tonnes, which was increase of over 2.74 million tonnes from the previous fiscal year as 110.55 million tonnes, wheat harvested area increased 31.83 million hectare (2023) compare to 110.55 million hectare previous year and the total productivity also increased 35.21qt/ha to 35.59

(Source: agricultural statistical at a glance). In 2021-22 Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh had total wheat area, production and productivity approximately 117657 hectares, 3542650 quintal and 32.11 qt/ha, respectively while 2022-23 in area, production and productivity was 143552 hectares, 461807 tonnes and 32.2 qt/ha respectively (Sources: DES Lucknow-2023).

#### Research Methodology

The multistage, stratified random sampling method was used for the selection of district, blocks, villages, and respondents. This present study was designed to know the socio- economic status of wheat growers, with the following specific objective. To study the socio-economic status of sample farmers. And this study was conducted in Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh during 2023-24. The district consists of 4 tehsils and 7 block. Three block i.e. Rath, Gohand and Sarila were purposely selected for the studies. Total six village selected, two village from each block were selected randomly for the study. In all 30 marginal, small, medium and large farmers (respondent) were selected randomly from each village constituting the sample 180 respondents for the purpose of study. Data were collected with the help of personal interview method during the study period. The data were analyzed, tabulated and the result was drawn with the help of appropriate statistical methods.

## Results

### 1. Age of Wheat Grower

It is evident from table- 1 that majority 32.97 per cent marginal farmers belong to Higher medium(46-60year) of age group remaining 28.72,20.21and18.08 per cent marginal farmers belonged to lower medium (31-45), young(18- 30) and old group (above 60 year) age group respectively. In case of small farmers maximum 31.81 percent small farmers belonged to higher medium (46-60years), of age group remaining 29.72, 20.45 and 18.18 per cent small farmers belonged to lower medium(31- 45 years),old group (above 60 years) and young (18-30years) age group respectively. In case of medium farmers maximum 36 per cent medium farmers belonged to higher medium (31-60 years) of age group remaining 28, 20 and 16 percent medium farmers

belonged to lower medium(31-45 years),young (18-30years) and old group (above 60 years) age group, respectively. In case of large farmers maximum 47.05 percent large farmers belonged to higher medium (46 to 60 years) of age group remaining 23.52,23.52 and 5.88 percent large farmers belonged to Old group (Above 60year), Lower medium(31-45year) and young (18-30 years) age group, respectively. Thus, it is clear from table-1 that the overall most of the wheat growers belonged to Higher medium(46-60year) of age group that is 34.44 percent,28.33 percent belonged to Lower medium(31-45year),18.88 percent Old group (Above 60year) and 18.33 young (18-30years) age group, respectively. It can be said that higher medium farmers are very keen to grow

**Table 1:** Distribution of the respondents on the basis of age (N=180)

S. No.	Age group	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large(n=17)	%	Total N=180	%
1	Young (18-30 year)	19	20.21	8	18.18	5	20	1	5.88	33	18.33
2	Lower medium(31-45year)	27	28.72	13	29.54	7	28	4	23.52	51	28.33
3	Higher medium(46-60year)	31	32.97	14	31.81	9	36	8	47.05	62	34.44
4	Old group (Above 60year)	17	18.08	9	20.45	4	16	4	23.52	34	18.88
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 2. Education level

It is apparent from table 26.59 per cent marginal farmers were having education up to junior high school followed by 17.02, 15.95, 10.63 and 7.44 percent marginal farmers were having up to high school, Intermediate, Graduate and post graduate and above level of education, respectively. Only 22.34 per cent marginal farmers were found illiterate.

In case of small farmers 25 percent were having up to up to junior high school followed by 18.18, 15.90, 11.36 and 9.09 percent small farmers having up to high school, intermediate, graduate and post graduate and above level of education, respectively. Only 20.45 percent small farmers were found illiterate. In case of small farmers 24 percent were having up to up to junior high school followed by 20, 16,12 and 8 percent small farmers having up to high school,

graduate, intermediate, and post graduate and above level of education, respectively. Only 20 percent small farmers were found illiterate. In case of large farmers 23.52 percent were having up to up to Intermediate followed by 23.52, 17.64, 17.64 and 5.88 percent large farmers having up to graduate up to junior high school, post graduate, and up to high school and above level of education, respectively. Only 11.76 percent large farmers were found illiterate. Thus it is clear from table 2 that maximum respondent were having up to junior high school, up to high school, intermediate, graduate and post graduate and above of education. Only 20.55 per cent wheat growers were found illiterate. It means most of the educated farmers having interest of wheat cultivation.

**Table 2:** Education level of Wheat growers (N=180)

S. No.	Education Level	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large (n=17)	%	Total N=180	%
1	Illiterate	21	22.34	9	20.45	5	20	2	11.76	37	20.55
2	Up to junior high school	25	26.59	11	25	6	24	3	17.64	45	25
3	Up to high school	16	17.02	8	18.18	5	20	1	5.88	30	16.67
4	Intermediate	15	15.95	7	15.90	3	12	4	23.52	29	16.11
5	Graduate	10	10.63	5	11.36	4	16	4	23.52	23	12.77
6	Post graduate and above	7	7.44	4	9.09	2	8	3	17.64	16	8.89
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 3. Occupation of the wheat growers

It is evident from table 3 that majority of the marginal 74.46 per cent, small 68.18 per cent, medium 60 per cent and large farmers 47.05 per cent were adopting Agriculture as a main occupation whereas 15.96 per cent, small 18.18 per cent, medium 16 per cent and large 29.41 per cent large farmers were adopting agriculture +business, as for the 9.57 per cent

marginal,13.36 per cent, medium 24 per cent and 23.52 per cent large farmers doing Agriculture + Business + Services. Thus, it is clear from the table 3 that the majority (68.33per cent) of the farmers were involved in Agriculture, only17.77 per cent farmers adopting agriculture + business and only 13.88 per cent farmers were adopting Agriculture + Business + Services.

**Table 3:** Occupation of Wheat growers (N=180)

S. No.	Occupation Level	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large (n=17)	%	Total N=180	%
1	Agriculture	70	74.46	30	68.18	15	60	8	47.05	123	68.33
2	Agriculture+Business	15	15.96	8	18.18	4	16	5	29.41	32	17.77
3	Agriculture+Services+business	9	9.57	6	13.36	6	24	4	23.52	25	13.88
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

Sources: Data collected by researcher

#### 4. Caste composition

It is evident from table 4 that the maximum 73.40 per cent marginal farmers belonged to OBC cast followed by 14.89 per cent and 11.70 per cent belonged to General cast and SC cast, respectively. In case of small farmers maximum 79.54 per cent belonged to OBC cast and 13.63 per cent belonged to general cast and 3 per cent belonged to SC cast. In case of medium farmers maximum 72 per cent belonged to OBC cast and 20 per cent belonged to General cast and 8 percent

belonged to SC cast. In case of large farmers 82.35 per cent belonged to OBC cast and 17.64 per cent belonged to General cast and 00 percent belonged to SC cast. Thus, it is clear from table 4 that the most of the wheat growers belonged to OBC cast which is 75.55 percent and 15.55 percent belonged to General cast and 8.89 percent belonged to SC cast. It means OBC cast people were using wheat as a crop, which will be helpful for up-liftment of the socio economic status of wheat growers.

**Table 4:** Casts compositions of Wheat growers (N=180)

S. No.	Cast categories	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large (n=17)	%	Total N=180	%
1	General	14	14.89	6	13.63	5	20	3	17.64	28	15.55
2	OBC	69	73.40	35	79.54	18	72	14	82.35	136	75.55
3	SC	11	11.70	3	6.81	2	8	0	00	16	8.89
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

Sources: Data collected by researcher

#### 5. Religions of wheat growers

It is evident table -5 that the maximum 92.55 per cent marginal farmers belonged to Hindu religions and 7.44 per cent farmers belonged to Muslim religions. In case of small farmers 97.72 per cent farmers belonged to Hindu religion and 2.27 per cent farmer belonged to Muslim religion. In case of medium farmers 92 per cent belong to Hindu

religions and 8 percent belong to Muslim religion. In case of large farmers 100 per cent belong to large farmer 0 percent belonged to Muslim religion. Thus it is clear from table most of the 94.44 per cent wheat growers belong to Hindu religion and 5.55 percent farmers belong to Muslim religions.

**Table 5:** Religions of wheat growers (N=180)

S. No.	Religion	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large (n=17)	%	Total N=180	%
1	Hindu	87	92.55	43	97.72	23	92	17	100	170	94.44
2	Muslim	7	7.44	1	2.27	2	8	0	00	10	5.55
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

Sources: Data collected by researcher

#### 6. Family type of wheat growers

It is evident from table- 6 that maximum 71.27 per cent marginal farmers were belonging to joint family system and 28.72 per cent were belonging to nuclear family system. Similarly, 70.45 per cent small farmers belonged to joint family and 29.54 per cent small farmers belonged to nuclear

family. In case of medium farmers 64 per cent belonged to joint family and 36 per cent belonged to nuclear family. In case of large farmers 76.47 per cent belonged to joint family and 23.52 per cent belongs nuclear family. Thus it is clear from table- 6 that most of the growers belong to joint family.

**Table 6:** Family type of wheat growers (N=180)

S. No.	Family type	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large (n=17)	%	Total N=180	%
1	Joint	67	71.27	31	70.45	16	64	13	76.47	127	70.55
2	Nuclear	27	28.72	13	29.54	9	36	4	23.52	53	29.44
	Total	94	100	44	100	44	100	17	100	180	100

Sources: Data collected by researcher

#### 7. Annual income of wheat growers

It is evident from table -7 that maximum 79.78 per cent marginal farmers belong to lower (<50000) income group

followed by 15.95 percent and 4.25 per cent marginal farmers belong to (50000 to 1 lakh) and (3 to 5 lakh) income group, respectively. In case of small farmers majority 47.72

per cent belong to (<50000) income group followed by 45.45. Per cent and 6.81 per cent belonging to (50000 to 1lakh) and (3 to 5 lakh) income group, respectively. In case of medium farmers majority 48 per cent belonged to <50000 income group followed by 32 per cent belonged to (50000 to 1 lakh) income group and 20 per cent belong to 3 to 5 lakh income group. In case of large farmers majority 47.05

per cent belong to 1 to 3lakh income group followed by 23.52 percent, 17.64 per cent and 11.76 per cent belonging to 50000 to 1lakh, <50000 and 3-5 lakh income groups, respectively. Thus it is clear table-7 that the most of the wheat growers belong to <50000, 50000 to 1lakh, 11.11 and 1.11 per cent income group.

**Table 7:** Annual income of Wheat growers (N=180)

S. No.	Annual Income	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large (n=17)	%	Total N=180	%
1	<50000	75	79.78	21	47.72	12	48	3	17.64	111	61.67
2	50000-1lakh	15	15.95	20	45.45	8	32	4	23.52	47	26.11
3	1 – 3 lakh	4	4.25	3	6.81	5	20	8	47.05	20	11.11
4	3 -5 lakh	00	00	00	00	00	00	2	11.76	2	1.11
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 8. Number of male and female of respondent

It is evident from table-8 that the maximum 53.57 per cent marginal farmer family of male and 46.42 per cent is female. In case of small maximum 53.88 per cent family of male and 46.11 per cent is female. In case of medium farmer maximum 53.04 per cent family of male and 46.95 per cent is female and in case of large farmer maximum 52.20 per

cent family of male and 47.79 per cent is female. Thus it is clear from table-8 that the maximum wheat grower family of male 53.37 per cent and 46.62 per cent is female. Overall family size of marginal, small, medium and large 4.76, 4.68, 4.6 and 8 members respectively and overall respondent family size were 5.02 members.

**Table 8:** Number of Male and female of respondent family (N=180)

S. No.	Gender	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large	%	Total	%
1	Male	240	53.57	111	53.88	61	53.04	71	52.20	483	53.37
2	Female	208	46.42	95	46.11	54	46.95	65	47.79	422	46.62
	Total	448	100	206	100	115	100	136	100	905	100
	Average family size/farm	4.76		4.68		4.6		8		5.02	

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 9. Size of family of respondents

It is evident from table-9 that 44.68 per cent marginal farmers were having 3-4 member family followed by 42.55 and 12.76 percent marginal farmers having 5-6 and above 7 members, respectively. In case of small farmers 36.36 per cent were having 3-4 members family followed by 54.54 and 9.09 percent small farmers having 5-6 and above 7 members, respectively. In case of medium farmers 56 per cent were having 3-4 members family followed 40 and 4

percent medium farmers having 5-6 and above 7 members, respectively. In case of large farmers 00 per cent were having 3-4 members family followed by 23.52 and 76.47 percent large farmers having 5-6 and above 7 members, respectively.

Thus it is clear from table-9 that maximum respondent family were 5-6 members followed by 40 and 16.67 per cent family 3-4 member and above 7 members, respectively.

**Table 9:** Size of family of respondents (N=180)

S. No.	Family size	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large	%	Total	%
1	3-4 members	42	44.68	16	36.36	14	56	00	00	72	40
2	5-6 members	40	42.55	24	54.54	10	40	4	23.52	78	43.33
3	Above 7 members	12	12.76	4	9.09	1	4	13	76.47	30	16.67
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 10. Type of house of respondents

It is evident from table-10 that 44.68 per cent marginal farmers were having kuccha house followed by 46.80 and 8.51 per cent marginal farmers having pucca and kuccha+ pucca house, respectively. In case of small farmers 25 percent were having kuccha house followed by 52.27 and

22.72 per cent pucca and kuccha + pucca house, respectively. In case of medium farmers 00 percent were having kuccha house followed by 80 and 20 per cent pucca and kuccha + pucca house, respectively. In case of large farmers 00 percent were having kuccha house followed by 82.35 and 26 per cent pucca and kuccha + pucca house,

respectively. Thus it is clear from table- 10 that the overall most of the wheat growers having 56.11 per cent pucca

house, only 29.44 per cent having kuccha house and 14.44 per cent kuccha + pucca house.

**Table 10:** Type of house of respondents (N=180)

S. No.	Type of house	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large	%	Total	%
1	Kuccha	42	44.68	11	25	00	00	00	00	53	29.44
2	pucca	44	46.80	23	52.27	20	80	14	82.35	101	56.11
3	Kuccha+pucca	8	8.51	10	22.72	5	20	3	17.64	26	14.44
	Total	94	100	44	100	25	100	17	100	180	100

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 11. Luxuries goods of respondent

It is evident from table-11 that 52.98 per cent marginal farmers were having cycle followed by 47.01 and 00 per cent marginal farmers having motor cycle and car house, respectively. In case of small farmers 40 percent were having cycle followed by 60 and 00 per cent motor cycle and car house, respectively. In case of medium farmers 28.26 percent were having motor cycle followed by 71.73

and 00 per cent motor cycle and car, respectively. In case of large farmers 20 percent were having motor cycle followed by 67.5 and 12.5per cent motor cycle and car house, respectively.

Thus it is clear from table- 10 that the overall most of the wheat growers having 56.11 per cent motor cycle, only 42.01 per cent having cycle and 1.62 per cent car.

**Table 11:** Number of Luxuries goods of respondent (N=180)

S. No.	Luxuries goods	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large	%	Total	%
1	Cycle	80	52.98	28	40	13	28.26	8	20	129	42.01
2	Motor cycle	71	47.01	42	60	33	71.73	27	67.5	173	56.35
3	Car	00	00	00	00	00	00	5	12.5	5	1.62
	Total	151	100	70	100	46	100	40	100	307	100

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 12. Average size holding of land

It is reveals from Table-12 that average size of holding 0.20 hectare land on marginal farmers and followed by 1.38hectare average size of holding on small farmers, 2.57 hectare on medium farmers and 5.59 hectare average size of holding on large farmers. The maximum size of hold on large farmers and minimum size of holding on marginal farmers.

**Table 12:** Average size holding of land of wheat growers (N=180)

S. No.	Type of Farmers	No. of Respondent	Total Area	%	Average
1	Marginal	94	53.24	19.48	0.2072
2	Small	44	60.73	22.21	1.38
3	Medium	25	64.21	23.49	2.57
4	Large	17	95.18	34.81	5.59
5	Total	180	273.36	100	2.43

**Sources:** data collected by researcher

### 13. Sources of irrigation of farmers

It is evident from table-12 that 85.10per cent marginal farmers were having sources of irrigation was private tube well and 14 per cent marginal farmers having both privet tube well and canal respectively. In case of small farmers 90.90 percent were having sources of irrigation was private tube and 26.66 per cent sources of irrigation was private tube and canal, respectively. In case of medium farmers 88 per cent were having sources of irrigation was private tube well and 12 per cent both private tube well and canal, respectively. In case of large farmers 70.58 percent were having sources of irrigation was private tube well and 126 per cent both sources of irrigation private tube well and canal, respectively.

Thus it is clear from table- 12 that the overall most of the wheat growers having 85.55 per cent sources of irrigation was private tube well and 14.44 per cent sources of irrigation was both private tube well and canal.

**Table 13:** Sources of irrigation of respondent in wheat cultivation

S. No.	Sources of irrigation	Marginal (n=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large	%	Total	%
1	Private tube well	80	85.10	40	90.90	22	88	12	70.58	154	85.55
2	Canal	0	0.00	0	0	0	0.00		0.00	00	00
3	Private tube well + canal	14	14.89	4	20.66	3	12	5	29.41	26	14.44

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### 14. Live stock of respondent

It is evident from the table -14 maximum numbers of live stock was buffalo (53.10%) after that goat (35.27%) and cow (11.62%). In case of marginal farmers has live stock more than 50% goat (poor man cow) followed by39.04%

buffalo and 10.11% cow respectively. Small farmers has 53.61%buffalo, 31.32% goat and 15.06% cow. In case of medium farmers 66.67% buffalo, 20.58% goat and 12.74% cow. In caase of large farmers 79.69% buffalo, 110.52% cow and 9.77% goat.

Thus it is clear from table-14 maximum live stock per cent was buffalo and minimum percentage of cow. Farmers are

preferring to raise buffaloes, because they give more production.

**Table 14:** Number of live stock in respondent of wheat growers.

S. No.	Live stock	Marginal (N=94)	%	Small (n=44)	%	Medium (n=25)	%	Large	%	Total	%
1	Cow	36	10.11	25	15.06	13	12.74	14	10.52	88	11.62
2	Buffalo	139	39.04	89	53.61	68	66.67	106	79.69	402	53.10
3	goat	181	50.84	52	31.32	21	20.58	13	9.77	267	35.27
	Total	356	100	166	100	102	100	133	100	757	100

**Sources:** Data collected by researcher

### Conclusion

Result reveals that most of the farmers were found literate and some population found illiterate. It was interesting to see some farmers have a qualification Post- graduation in the study area in wheat production. Age group wise analysis shows that higher numbers of farmers was higher medium. Most of the farmer occupation was agriculture about 70 per cent. Most of the farmers belong from OBC categories with joint family and almost farmers belongs Hinduism. Five to six members in family are common was found in farmers. It is interesting about half of farmers have pucca house. In farmer family members has male which is major role play in wheat production. Main sources of irrigation were tube well in the study area, except that some farmers were having reach up-to canal water for irrigation facility. In live stock most of the farmers have buffalo after that goat.

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