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Socioeconomic influence on farmers in seri-business from Tamil Nadu

Sunitha Rani. D¹ and Jayaraju. M^{*1}

¹Department of Economics, Sri Krishnadevaraya University,
Ananthapur - 515055, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

Kannan. M² and Ashok Kumar. K²

²Department of Environmental Biotechnology, Bharathidasan University,
Tiruchirapalli - 620 024, Tamil Nadu, INDIA.

Abstract: Sericulture is one of the potential agro- based industry in India and worldwide. In the present study, the questionnaire based data's has been collected by the interview method from randomly selected 58 sericulture farmers in and around krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu to resolve and explore socioeconomic conditions of sericulture farmers. The primary data has been collected about the sericulture farmers as follows: education qualification, religions and community, family size, occupation, economic level, land coverage and Investment by the method of the questionnaire. Most of the farmers are Hindu (98.3%), involved seri-business has been observed from small size family land holders (89.7%). We found a positive correlation towards seri business with the farmers of OBC due to the less percentage of opportunities in government jobs other than SC whereas more opportunity is existing for SC farmers. Other information about socioeconomic conditions includes land utilization and investments towards sericulture are discussed in details. In conclusion, the sericulture is playing a vital role in the life of a small family holder of farmers to get more benefit out of agriculture. Due to water scarcity resulted the investment amount is increased at initial stage. However, sericulture farmers benefited additional income which generated from agriculture. The results of the present study show that $> 8 \pm 10^{\text{th}}$ standards studied sericulture farmers, approached from small size family holders were showing more interest on seri-business.

Index terms: Seri-business, education, Socio Economic, Development

I. Introduction

India is one of the largest agrarian economies in the world. About 70% of the total population lives in the belts depending on agriculture and its allied activities for their live hood. Although commercialization in agriculture has been picking up well in recent years, the problems like land fragmentation predominance of marginal and small land holders ownership whose share constitutes to the tune of about 90% of total land ownership in the country; diversified social, economical and cultural factors prevailing in the rural segments and demand for higher investment in agricultural, are forcing the peasants and uneconomical landholders to change over minimum investment oriented cropping system in the country (1-3).

Sericulture being an agro-based business plays a predominant role in shaping the economic destiny of the rural people and fits very well in India's rural structure, where agriculture continues to be the main occupation (4-10). The process of sericulture involves rearing of food-plant to feed silkworms for the production of raw silk. In addition, silk cocoons reeling for unwinding the silk filament for value added benefits such as processing and weaving. Sericulture activities are considered to be well suited for marginal and small land holder to bring about economic transformations in the rural areas. It prevents not only rural migration but also has added advantages of low capital requirement of assured remunerative return within a short period. Attempts were made during different periods to estimate the cost and return profile from sericulture in different regions in harkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (10-13).

The periodical income from sericulture is one of the chief features for its existence However, many a time; it is observed that cost of production over run the benefits from cocoon production (14-17). In the present competitive environment, sericulture has to be competed with several agricultural cash crops. Therefore, the studies of economics of mulberry sericulture is not only essential to understand the cost of production and profit from a unit area but also it warrants to convince the farmers of its profitability as compared with other crops in the short period of time. Hence the present study aimed to in-depth analysis of small farm households economic system in mulberry sericulture, besides identified the factors responsible for declining the silk productivity and also the future prospects.

II. Materials and methods

The district of Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu was purposively selected for the study as it has more agricultural farmers who were more trained by sericulture technique due to more awareness about the seri-business offered

by Central Sericultural Germplasm Resources Centre (CSGRC), Hosur. The data's were collected from 2010 to 2013. This study is mainly based on secondary sources of information which are collected from various sources like Directorate of sericulture, research articles, journals and newspapers. The data's were collected include namely education qualification, religions and community, family size, occupation, economic level, land coverage and Investment.

III. Data analysis

All values were expressed as Percentage. The statistical analyses were performed by using Graphpad prism-6 software (Graphpad Software, Inc).

IV. Results and Discussion

In the present study, we surveyed the educational quality of farmers who were involved in agriculture as well as sericulture. The educational qualifications of farmers are as follows: 43.1, 31, 19, 1.7 and 3.4 % for SSLC, 5th, 8th, 9th, B.Sc and uneducated respectively (Fig. 1).

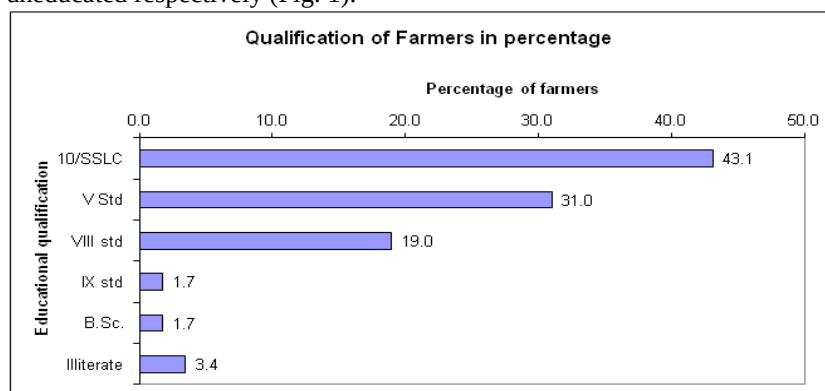


Figure 1. Educational qualifications of farmers both in sericulture and agriculture.

This data revealed that SSLC studied farmers has associated in Sericulture due to the knowledge about seri business. Religion and community were playing a critical role in society to selection of occupation from earlier days onwards. Particularly, 98.3% of farmers observed as Hindu's and only 1.7 % of farmers were Muslims (Fig.2.A). Four major castes have been observed in the study out of two major religions. In this study, 63.8, .9, 8.6, and 1.7 % of farmers are under BC, OC, MBC and SC respectively (Fig. 2.B).

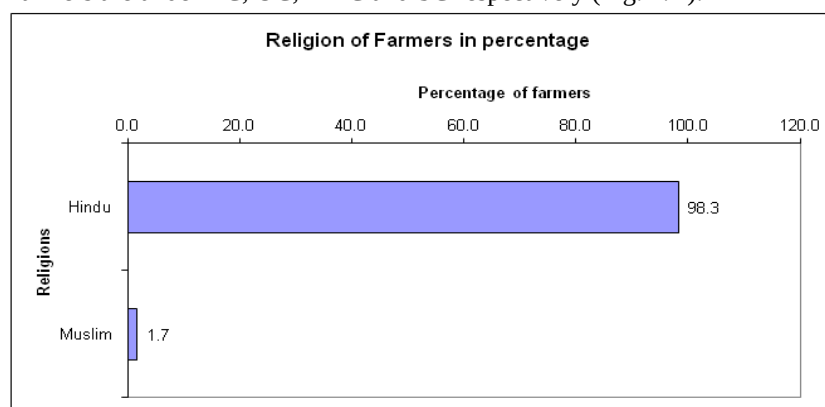


Figure 2. Religions of farmers associated with sericulture and agriculture.

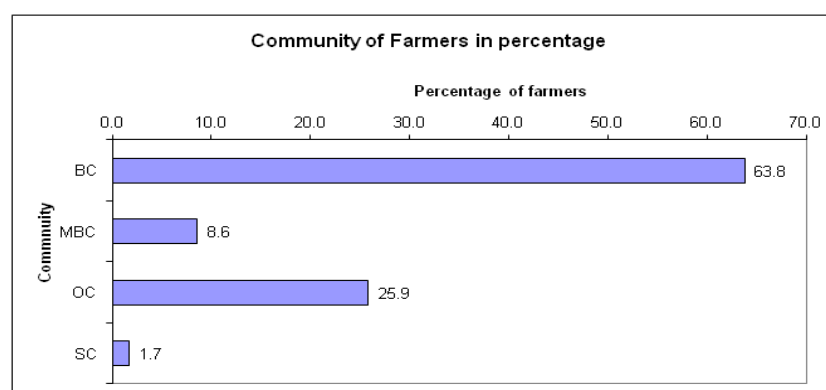


Figure 2. B. different community of farmers associated with sericulture and agriculture.

This study clearly shows that the major factor affecting the socio economic conditions of farmers. Particularly, government jobs opportunity for SC is more, it's indicated that the decrease in the percentage of farmers in sericulture whereas OBC (BC, MBC and OC) farmers are highly involved in seri-business due to the non availability of government jobs. However most of the farmers are highly involved in 65.5% in agriculture and 34.5 % of farmers were involved in Sericulture (Fig. 3).

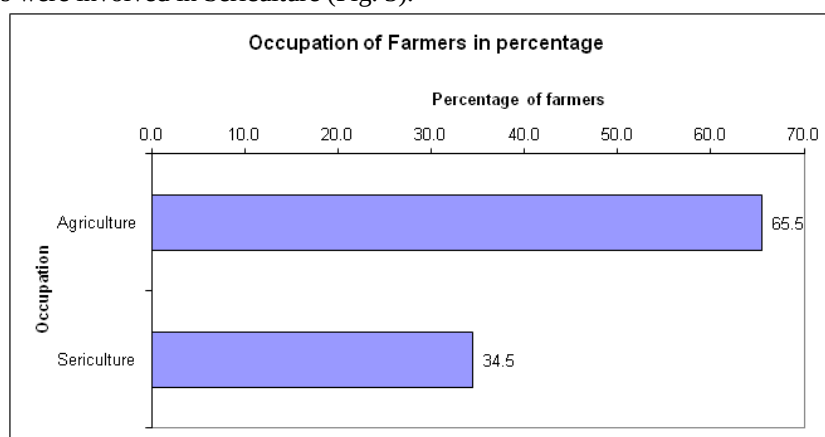


Figure 3. Major occupation of farmers.

In this study, we further observed that most of the small size family holders (89.7%) are involved in agriculture when compared with Big (6.9%) and single family holders (3.4%) (Fig.4.A). Small family holders are acting as economic group when compared with high (6.90%) and marginal (10.3%) economic groups (Fig.4.B). Similarly, Singh and Vasishti (18) reported that the occurrence of more small size sericulture farmers in salem district of Tamilnadu.

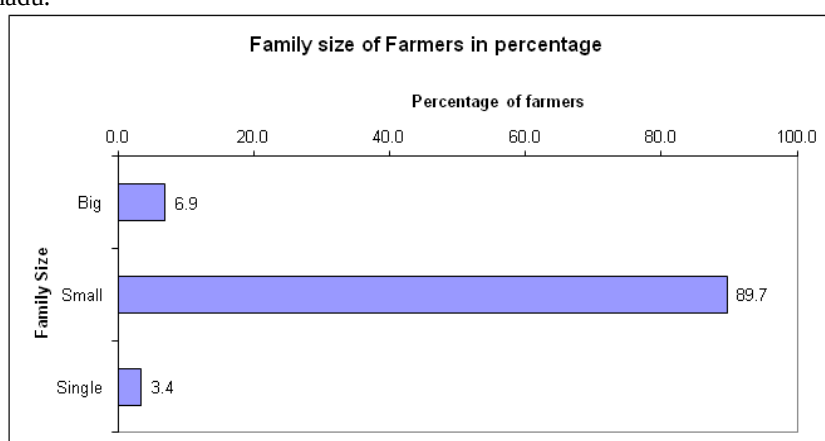


Figure 4. A. Family size of farmers.

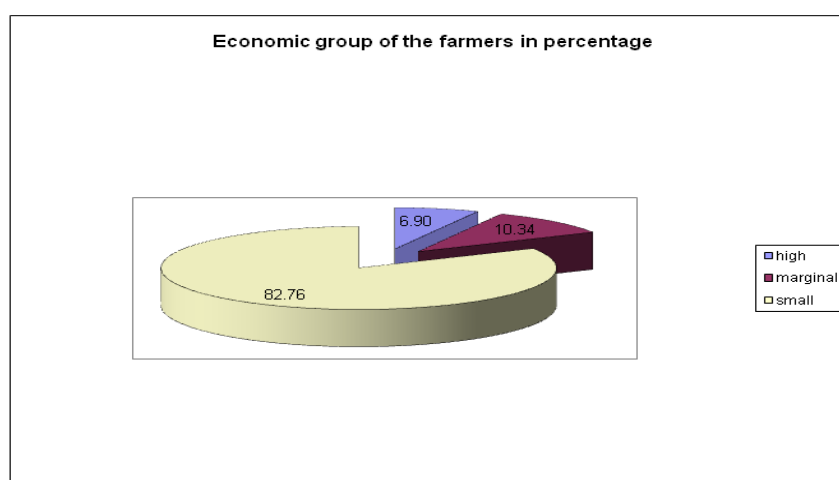


Figure 4. B. Economic level of farmers.

Most of the small holder farmers has 2, 3 and 4 acres were utilized for sericulture by 17.2, 25.9 for both respectively and other are as follows 1, 1.5, 2.5, 3.5, 5 and 9 acres by 5.2, 1.7, 6.9, 3.4, 12.1 and 1.7 % percentage respectively (Fig.5).

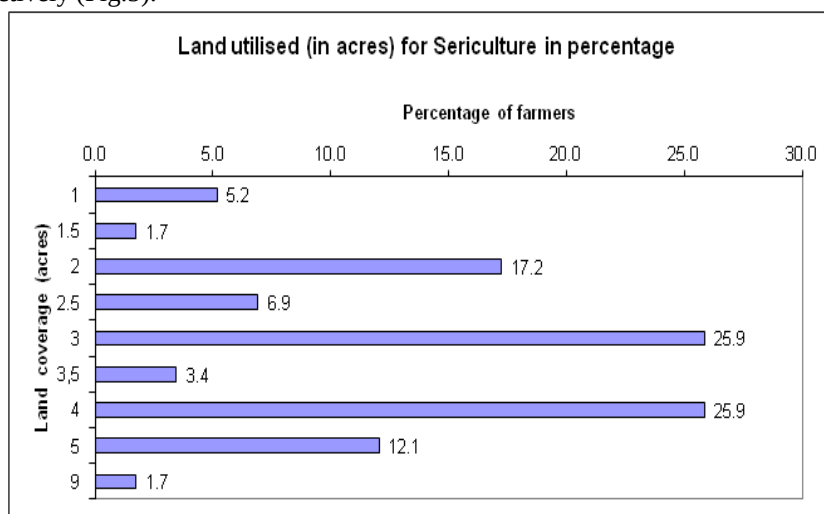


Figure 5. Percentage of farmers in Land utilization for sericulture.

This results shows that the small size family of farmers whoever studied SSLC with predominant economic groups and investing 2-4 acres for the sericulture. Around 3.5 to 9 acres land holders are involved in sericulture in very less might be due to the income from the agriculture, big family size and finally scarcity of waters problem for the entire agriculture. A highest amount investment for sericulture has been noted as 2 and 5 lakhs by 29.31 and 27.59 % of farmers respectively. However, most of the farmers are investing more or less amount other than 2 and 5 lakhs by were shown in figure 6.

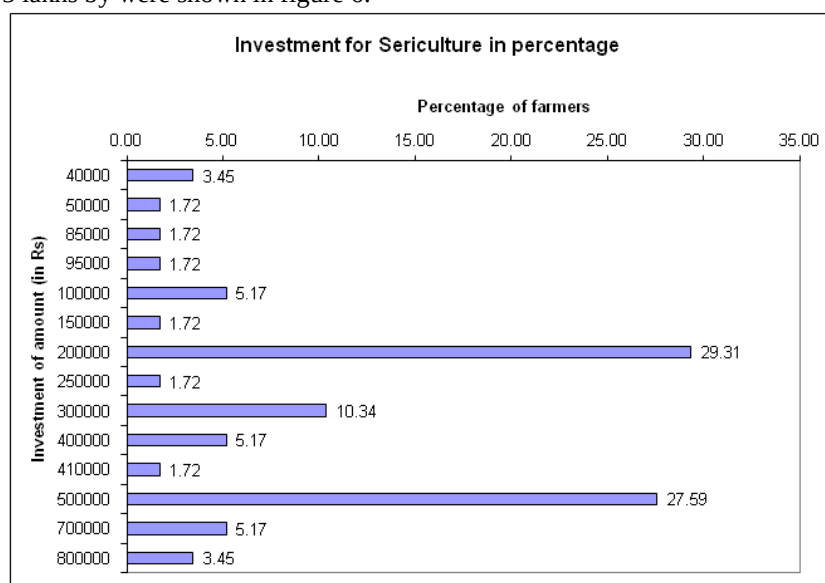


Figure 6. Percentage of farmers in investment for sericulture.

The results of the present study indicated that the profit earned from sericulture was comparatively higher than agriculture. This shows that sericulture has potential role in the development of farmers from Krishnagiri. Similarly, Sakthivel *et al.*, (12) also reported the same criteria for sericulture farmers in Thirunelveli and Virudunagar districts.

V. Conclusion

The results of the present study conclude that sericulture industry is an outstanding opportunity for employment with various entrepreneurial developments to farmers. The proposed studies are much helpful to identify the factors which are responsible for the decline /increase in the percentage of farmers in sericulture. The seri business is especially improved in between the small land holder with several government opportunities such as loan, insurance, high temperature tolerant and high nutrient mulberry varieties, awareness and training programme for silk productivity and protective of silkworms from pest management through

advance technologies. The government should take important steps in easy transportation facility to rural people and educating the farmers in seri-business for reducing the migration of farmers towards attractive salary earn jobs.

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