

Knowledge and attitude of the respondents towards sugarcane cultivation practices in Khumbi Block of Lakhimpur Kheri District of Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract: Sugarcane is an important commercial crop of the world and is cultivated in about seventy five countries. Among leading countries such as Brazil, India, China, Thailand etc. Today sugarcane cultivation and sugar industry stand as supporting pillars of Indian Economy. The study was conducted in Khumbi block of Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh which was selected purposively. The study covered six villages, and 120 respondents which was selected randomly. Data were collected by pre structured interview schedule through personal interview method. The collected data were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted with the help of appropriate statistical tools. Majority of the farmer were found to have medium level of knowledge towards sugarcane cultivation practices. It was also found that the Attitude level of the respondents were also moderately favourable level. The study revealed that age, education, family size, extension activity, source of information, innovativeness, knowledge and attitude were found statistically significant in influencing adoption behaviour of the sugarcane growers.

Key Words: Knowledge, attitude, Sugarcane Growers.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Agriculture is the predominant sector of Indian economy that meets the basic requirements such as food, clothing and shelter of the people, which contributes nearly 17.9 per cent to the national income (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Planning commission, Government of India). The role of agriculture in the economy of India may be considered in the light of contribution it makes in three important aspects i.e., national income, employment generation and foreign exchange. India has a wide diversity of crops, among them food grains occupy a major portion of the land area, while sugarcane and fibre crops occupy relatively lesser acreage.

Sugarcane is a most important cash crop of India. It involves less risk and farmers are assured up to some extent about return even in adverse condition. Now a day's sugarcane cultivation and industry became one of the decisive pillars of Indian economy. Besides sugar, the industry also produces alcohol, bagasse, Press mud, molasses and electricity as it's by products which are also of economic value through foreign exchange earnings.

2. METHODOLOGY:

The present study was conducted to determine the knowledge and attitude of sugarcane growers about sugarcane cultivation practices in Khumbi Block of Lakhimpur Kheri District of Uttar Pradesh. The study was confined in six villages of Khumbi block in Lakhimpur Kheri district which selected purposively. A total of 120 respondents were selected randomly and pre-tested interview schedule was used for the collection of data. Appropriate statistical tools were used to interpret the data.

The independent variables were measured by using suitable scale and procedure adopted by various researcher in past with due modification. The dependent variables were extent of adoption of the sugarcane production practices which is measured by developed structured schedule.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

Socio – economic characteristics of the respondents: Socio-economic status is an economic and sociological combined total measure of a person's work experience and of an individual's or family's socio-economic position in relation to others, based on income, education, and occupation.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their socio – economic status (n=120)

Sl. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age		
	Young (20 - 35 years)	29	24.17

	Middle (36-50 years)	64	53.33
	Old (51 years & Above)	27	22.50
2.	Education		
	Illiterate	24	20.00
	Literate(can read& write only)	20	16.67
	Primary School	16	13.33
	Middle School	24	20.00
	High School	15	12.50
	Intermediate	11	9.17
	Graduate and above	10	8.33
3.	Family size		
	Up to 5 members	86	71.67
	More than 5 members	34	28.33
4.	Land Holding		
	Marginal farmer (less than 1 hac.)	54	45.00
	Small farmer (1-2hac.)	41	34.17
	Big farmer (above 2 hac.)	25	20.83
5.	Annual Income		
	Low (Up to Rs.50,000)	51	42.50
	Medium (Rs.50,001 - 1,00,000)	42	35.00
	High (Above Rs.1,00,000)	27	22.50
6.	Overall socio – economic status		
	Low (less than 6)	18	15.00
	Medium (7 to 11)	82	68.33
	High (above 11)	20	16.67
7.	Extension Activities		
	Low (Less than 1)	17	14.17
	Medium (2 to 5)	93	77.50
	High (Above 5)	10	8.33
8.	Sources of Information		
	Low (less than 6)	16	13.34
	Medium (7 to 11)	89	74.16
	High (above 11)	15	12.50
9.	Social Participation		
	Low (less than 3)	70	58.33
	Medium (4 to 8)	39	32.50
	High (above 8)	11	9.17
10.	Innovativeness		
	Low (less than 2)	15	12.50
	Medium (3 to 6)	94	78.33
	High (above 6)	11	9.17

It was evident from the table 2 that 53.33 per cent of the respondents were in the middle age group followed by young age group 24.17 per cent and old age group 22.5 per cent respectively. In case of education 63.33 per cent of the respondents were literate followed by 16.67 per cent can read and write only, whereas 20 per cent respondents were illiterate in different level. It was found that 71.67 per cent of respondents had up to 5 members whereas 28.33 per cent respondents had more than 5 members in the family, maximum 79.17 per cent respondents having land holding between 1-2 hac regarding the annual income 42.50 per cent had income up to Rs. 50,000. It was observed that 68.33 per cent of the respondents were having medium socio- economic status and 16.67 per cent 15 per cent respondents had high and low socio economic status respectively. It was observed the table that 77.50 per cent of the respondents had medium level of extension participation, 74.16 per cent of the respondent belonged to the medium level followed by low level 13.34 per cent whereas 12.50 per cent belonged to the high level of innovativeness. It was found that 58.33 per cent were in low level of social participation category 78.33 per cent of the respondents were belong to the medium level of innovativeness. The findings is in the line of *Supriya et al.*(2014), and *Chouhan et al.*(2013).

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge towards sugarcane cultivation practices (n=120)

Sl. No.	Knowledge Level			
	Level of Knowledge	Score	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low	(Less than 20)	20	16.67
2.	Medium	(21 to 25)	83	69.16
3.	High	(above 25)	17	14.17
Total			120	100.00

The table 2. indicated that majority (69.16%) respondents having medium level of knowledge about sugarcane production practices whereas 14.17 per cent and 16.67 per cent respondents have high and low level of knowledge. The similar findings is also reported by **Pillegowda et al.** (2010).

Attitude of the respondents about sugarcane production practices.

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge towards sugarcane production practices (n=120)

Sl. No.	Attitude Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Less Favourable attitude (less than 14)	24	20.00
2.	Moderately Favourable attitude (15 to 19)	77	64.17
3.	Highly Favourable attitude (above 19)	19	15.83
Total		120	100.00

Mean-16.85, S.D.-2.71

The data in table 3 showed that most of the respondents (64.17%) were found to moderately favourable attitude followed by 15.83 per cent highly favourable attitude and 20 per cent found to less favourable attitude category. Similar findings was also reported by **Badodiya et al.** (2011).

Relationship between socio-economic characteristics and adoption behaviour of sugarcane growers

Table 3. Relationship between socio-economic characteristics and cultivation practices of sugarcane:

Sl. No.	Socio-economic Characteristics	“r” value
1.	Age	0.163
2.	Education	0.295*
3.	Family size	0.154
4.	Land holding	0.035NS
5.	Annul income	0.062NS
6.	Extension activities	0.321*
7.	Source of Information	0.264*
8.	Social Participation	0.012NS
9.	Innovativeness	0.494*
10.	Knowledge	0.232*
11.	Attitude	0.442*

* = Significant at p = 0.005

NS= Non-Significant

Table 3 revealed that characteristics namely age, education, family size, extension activities, source of information, innovativeness, level of knowledge, attitude were positively and significantly related to cultivation practices of sugarcane. It means improvement of these characteristics there will be better adoption of cultivation practices among the respondents. Similar findings is also reported by **Kadam et al.** (2010), **Chouhan et al.**(2013).

4. CONCLUSION:

It was concluded from the present study the socio-economic status of the respondents were medium level. The knowledge and attitude of the respondents were also in were medium level it may be due to their socio-economic back ground. Education, extension activities, innovativeness, knowledge, attitude were positively related with the

cultivation practices of the sugarcane. It shows that improvement of these variables will be promote greater adoption of cultivation practices of sugarcane. Technical advice, proper training and critical inputs should be provided for better adoption of cultivation practices which will lead sugarcane cultivation more profitable.

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