

Socio-Economic Profile of Farmers Practising Agroforestry in the Eastern Region of West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand, India

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Abstract: Agroforestry helps to provide farmers with an effective and efficient land management system that would bring about high farm yields and revenue in a balanced ecological environment. The agroforestry is defined as “Agroforestry is a collective name for land-use systems and practices where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, bamboos, vines etc.) are deliberately integrated to create an agro-ecosystem with crops and /or animals on the same land management unit. The integration can either be in spatial mixture or in time sequence. There must be both ecological and economic interactions between the woody and non-woody components to qualify it as agroforestry” (Kumar, and Nair, 2004). Socio-economic and Economic growth status are growing very rapidly with the help of various models given by planners. In spite of these, there are number of areas, region, village etc. are having unbelievable socio-economic status and not avail minimum basic needs for their living. The study areas are located in the Eastern region of West Singhbhum district. The Chaibasa is the district headquarter and 100 per cent population are living below standard conditions of living. The paper try to find out the socio- economic profile and possible measures to overcome the problem in the village. However, at the same time there is a realization that certain parts of the rural area have been left behind in development and the authority is currently promoting rural area in order to sustain local economies and to enhance employment and growth.

Keywords: Agroforestry, education, income, land holding, socio-economic.

1. Introduction

The socio-economic conditions reflect the quality of life of the society as a whole as well as that of its constituents. The major components of socio-economic life of the people in any

society are the level of per capita income, income pattern, consumption and saving pattern, housing conditions, level of literacy, attitude towards marriage, sex ratio and position of women. The socio-economic status is evaluated as a combination of factors including income, level of education, size of landholding, pattern of food consumption, occupational structure, and other basic amenities and infrastructure facilities. It is a way of looking at how individuals or families fit into society using economic and social measures that have been shown to impact individuals health and wellbeing. Socio-economic status and health condition are closely related, and Socio-economic status can often have profound effects on a person's health due to differences in ability to access health care as well as dietary and other lifestyle choices that are associated with both finances and education. A country which is failed to develop the knowledge and skill of its people and to make their best use is likely to be lag behind.

Socio-economic status can be developed in many ways, one of the developments would be handicapped as long as village population remain less important, illiterate, powerless, and deprived the just and equitable status most important being education. Now days, literacy and education among rural population has come to mean a more efficient fulfillment of the changing role and status, better quality of life, freedom from ignorance, diseases, poverty, malnutrition etc. Lastly healthy and balanced growth of the nation depends on the proper socio-economic development of a nation. Development is a whole process; its ecological, cultural, social, economic and institutional must be understood and interrelated. A number of

researches and planning have expressed that population should be integrated into ongoing socio-cultural process so as to improve the existing poor conditions of rural population. Agroforestry has both protective and social-economic benefit as Kang (1993) reported that besides direct agricultural benefit, trees exhibit social-economic values. The benefit of the tree components derived by farmers from agroforestry was evaluated from a social-economic and ecological perspective (Anderson and Sinclair, 1993). The social-economic benefits of agroforestry can be evaluated in terms of productivity, stability and sustainability.

A. Objective

- i. To find out the socio- economic profile of the study area
- ii. To find out possible measures to overcome the problem.

2. Materials and Methods

A. Study area

According to the 2011 census, West Singhbhum district has a population of 1,502,338. The district has a population density of 209 inhabitants per square kilometre (540/sq.m). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 21.69%. The West Singhbhum has a sex ratio of 1004 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 59.54%. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes make up 3.8% and 67.3% of the population respectively.

Table 1
List of selected Blocks and Villages in the Eastern region of West Singhbhum district, Jharkhand

S. No.	Name of selected blocks	Name of selected villages
1	Khuntpani	Matkobeda
		Pandrasali
		Uparlota
		Kendulota
2	Jagganathpur	Badananda
		Jintugara
		Mongra
		Todanghatu
3	Manjhari	Roladih
		Gitilpi
		Dokata
		Lomjori
4	Tonto	Nimdih
		Sankuchiya
		Rampusi
		Chalgi

According to the 2011 census, 28.22% of the population was made up of Hindus, 5.83% Christians and 2.54% Muslims. Other religions (mainly Sarna) made up 62.96% of the population. At the time of the 2011 Census of India, the population in the district spoke Ho (54.37%), Odia (18.74%), Mundari (9.16%), Hindi (4.64%), Santhali (3.35%), Sadhri (2.53%), Urdu (1.96%), Bengali (1.80%) and Kurukh (1.15%) as their first language. The majority of the population of West Singhbhum consists of Ho tribals. The district is covered with hills alternating with valleys, steep mountains, and deep forests on the mountain slopes. It contains some of the best Sal tree

forests and the famous Saranda Forest. There are plenty of waterfalls and a large variety of wild life like elephants, tigers, leopard, wild dogs and wild boars.

B. The map of the study area is shown below



Fig. 1. India



Fig. 2. Jharkhand



Fig. 3. West Singhbhum district

C. Data Collection

The present study is based on primary data and secondary data. The Multistage Random sampling has been used for the study. Out of 320 household, 80 households have been considered from each block for the study. The total 20 households have been randomly taken from each village. The secondary data is used for the study of general profile of the village and primary data is used for knowing unknown fact of the village. All the data were converted into relative number such as percentage; for observed the overall situation of the villages.

$$1 \text{ District} \times 4 \text{ Block} \times 4 \text{ Village} \times 20 \text{ Household} = 320 \text{ Total no. of respondents}$$

The study is based on survey of 20 randomly selected household practicing agroforestry from each village with the help of a questionnaire specially designed and pretested for the interviewing the socio-economic survey. Multi-stage random sampling technique was used to select four blocks namely Khuntpani, Jagganathpur, Manjhari and Tonto and from each block four villages and from each village 20 respondents or households were selected for the observation. The data related to agroforestry practices were derived from 20 farmers.

D. Statistical analysis

The data collected from the respective respondents were edited to correct any missing information on the questionnaires and to ensure accurate results. The descriptive statistics and correlations were used to analyze the data collected. The descriptive statistics which include frequency distribution and percentage were used to summarize the respondents' socioeconomic characteristics. The Pearson correlation coefficient was used to determine the association between agroforestry practices and household food security. Based on the results, some deductions were made and appropriate recommendations for policy action provided.

Table 2
Demographic and socio-economic characteristics of respondents

Variables	Description	f	%
Age	Young (upto 35 years)	54	16.87
	Middle (35 to 50 years)	195	60.93
	Old (above 50 years)	71	22.18
Education	Illiterate	57	17.81
	Pre-matric	85	26.56
	Matric	119	37.18
	Intermediate	52	16.25
	Graduate & above	7	2.18
Caste	Schedule Tribe	256	80
	Schedule Caste	30	9.37
	Other Backward Class	17	5.31
	General	17	5.31
Family type	Nuclear	281	88.75
	Joint	36	11.25
Family size	Large (9-12 members)	22	6.87
	Medium (5-8 members)	219	68.43
	Small (below 5 members)	79	24.68
Participation in social activities	Gram panchayat	142	44.37
	Co-operatives	43	13.43
	Mahila mandal	61	19.06
	Youth clubs	26	8.12
	Watching agricultural & agroforestry related videos	32	10
	Reading newspaper or agricultural & agroforestry bulletin	16	5
Land holding	Large (above 10 acres)	11	3.43
	Medium (5-10 acres)	30	9.37
	Small (below 5 acres)	279	87.18
Annual income & their source	Agriculture	265	82.81
	Agroforestry	176	55
	Collection of forest produces	160	50
	Government services / labour	21	6.56
	Fish culture	55	17.18
	Growing of vegetables, flowers & fruits	142	44.37
	Handicraft & Bee keeping	13	4.06

3. Conclusion

This paper presented an overview of Socio-Economic Profile of Farmers Practicing Agroforestry in the Eastern Region of West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand, India.

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