SHORT COMMUNICATION

# PROFILE CHARACTERISTICS OF TOMATO GROWING FARMERS OF JASPUR DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH STATE

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**Abstract:** The present investigation was carried out in the six purposively selected villages of Pathalogon Block of Jashpur district. Seventy two respondents were selected randomly and personally interviewed with the help of the structured interview schedule. The study revealed that the majority of the respondents were in the young age group (up to 35 years) with high school level of education. Majority of the respondents belongs to medium size families and they had maximum experience 11 to 20 years in tomato cultivation and most of the respondents were belonging to schedule tribe category of caste. Regarding the socio-economic characteristics, the study revealed that majority of tomato growers (47.22%) had big size of land holding and only 12.5 percent belonged to small farmer category. The majority of them (34.72%) belonged to annual income category of up to Rs. 25,000 while only few had more than Rs 75,000 income per year. Majority of respondents i.e. 52.77 percent had high level of economic motivation and only 8.33 percent respondents had low level of economic motivation about tomato production technology.

**Keywords:** Tomato Cultivation, Socio-economic, Characteristics

## INTRODUCTION

Vegetables not only provide maximum output but also give more income per unit area of land. Vegetable cultivation among small land holders has always been source of supplementary income and provides gainful employment through intensive cultivation and thus vegetable growers are normally more prosperous than those who grow cereals, because of higher return. The Jashpur district in Chhattisgarh State is famous for tomato production, in spite of having totally rainfed area. The tomato crop covers an area of 2577 hectare and production is 51560 tones as recorded by the Horticulture department of Raigarh (1996-1997). In order to increase the production of tomato crop, several improved varieties have been released during the recent years. Concentrated work has been undertaken by the govt. officials / extension personnel to promote adoption of improved cultivation practices of tomato crop. Scientist / Researcher advocate the use of package of tomato production technology with which the farmers have to be convinced, so that they can adopt the improved technologies in their farming system. If scientific methods are followed it gives almost 300-q/ha yield in open pollinated varieties and upto 880 qui/ha in case of hybrids (www.cgagridept.in).

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

### Location of the study

The study was conducted in the Jaspur district of the Chhattisgarh state. The Chhattisgarh state consists of 27 districts, out of which Jaspur district was selected because the maximum area of tomato cultivation quite high among all the districts of Chhattisgarh state. Out of 8 blocks of Jashpur district, only Pathalgaon block was selected purposively for the study because it has the largest area under tomato cultivation in comparison to other blocks in the district. The Pathalgaon block has a total number of 110 villages, out of which thirty villages having highest area and production under tomato crop. Out of these villages, six villages namely Bildegi, Bandhanpur, Birindega, Ludig, Mudapara, Saraitola selected using SRSWOR (Simple Random Sampling without Replacement) technique for the study.

### Method of data collection

A list of the tomato growers of the selected villages was prepared. The name of the tomato growers were arranged alphabetically and twelve tomato growers from each selected village were selected on random basis. Thus, seventy-two respondents were finally selected for the purpose of conducting this study. The data were collected with the help of well structured and pre-tested and well structured interview schedule.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-personal characteristics of the

The independent variables i.e. age, education, caste, size of family and experience of tomato cultivation were considered as socio personal characteristics of the respondents and the results are presented in Table 1.

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**Table 1.** Distribution of the respondents according to their socio-personal characteristics of the tomato growing farmers

| Characteristics | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| **Age (years)** | | |
| • Young (upto 35) | 33 | 45.83 |
| • Middle (35-50) | 32 | 44.44 |
| • Old(>50) | 7 | 9.72 |
| **Education** | | |
| • Illitrate | 16 | 22.22 |
| • Primary | 16 | 22.22 |
| • Middle | 14 | 19.45 |
| • High school | 23 | 31.94 |
| • Higher secondary | 2 | 2.78 |
| • Undergraduate | 1 | 1.39 |
| **Caste** | | |
| • Schedule caste (SC) | 10 | 13.89 |
| • Schedule tribe (ST) | 39 | 54.17 |
| • Other Backward class (OBC) | 13 | 18.05 |
| • General (G) | 10 | 13.89 |
| **Size of family** | | |
| • Small (upto 4 members) | 27 | 37.5 |
| • Medium (5-8 members) | 33 | 45.83 |
| • Big (> 8 members) | 12 | 16.66 |
| **Experience of tomato cultivation** | | |
| • Low Upto 10 years | 30 | 41.66 |
| • Medium 11 to 20 years | 37 | 51.38 |
| • High Above 20 years | 5 | 6.44 |

Data as shown in table 1 revealed that the majority of the respondents i.e. 45.83 per cent were belonging to young age group, 44.44 per cent were of middle age and 9.72 per cent belonged to old age group. This indicates that most of the farmers, (young and middle age group) were having more interest to learn and adopt tomato production technology, as compared old age group of the tomato growers. Similar findings were also reported by Kushwaha (1996) that the young age group of tomato growers adopted modern tomato production technology. Among the 72 tomato growers, about 31.94 per cent farmers had education up to high school level and 22.22 per cent farmers educated up to primary school level and same per cent of the tomato growers also belonged to illiterate category whereas 19.45, 2.78 and 1.39 per cent farmers were educated up to middle school, higher secondary and under graduate level respectively. Such reflection was a good sign of spreading the knowledge of tomato production technology to boost the tomato production. Kushwaha (1996) studied that education of the respondents had a greater role in the adoption of tomato production technology. Majority of the tomato growing farmers belonged to the scheduled tribe caste i.e. 54.17 per cent whereas, 18.05 per cent farmers were belonged to other backward class followed by 13.89 per cent in both the category under schedule caste and general caste respectively. The results also indicated that majority of the tomato growing farmers were having medium size of family (45.83 %) whereas 37.5 and 16.66 per cent belonged to small and big size of family respectively. Further, the data also indicate that majority of the respondents (51.38%) were having 11 to 20 years of tomato farming experience, whereas 41.66 per cent of the respondents were having upto 10 years of tomato farming experience and only 6.94 per cent of the respondents were having more than 20 years of tomato farming experience as low and high category of experience. Gopalakrishna (1972) and Shrivastava (2001) noted similar findings.

**Socio-economic characteristics of the respondents**

The data presented in table 2 reveal that majority of the tomato growing farmers (47.22%) belonged to big and medium (40.27%) category, whereas about 12.5 per cent of tomato growing farmers belonged to small category of land holding.

**Table 2.** Distribution of the respondents according to their land holding

| Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| • Small (1-5 acres) | 9 | 12.5 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Medium (5.1-10 acres) | 29 | 40.27 |
| • Big (> 10 acres) | 34 | 47.22 |

**Annual income**

Annual income of the respondents as given in Table 3.Indicates that 34.72 per cent of tomato growing farmers reported their annual income to be up to Rs. 25000, whereas 31.94 per cent respondents had their annual income higher than Rs. 75000. 22.22 And 11.11 per cent of respondent had their annual income between Rs. 25001 to 50000 and Rs. 50001 to 75000 respectively. The data also show that majority of the tomato growing farmers were getting high level of income from the tomato production.

**Table 3.** Distribution of the respondent according to their annual income

| Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| • Up to Rs. 25000 | 25 | 34.72 |
| • Rs. 25001 to 50000 | 16 | 22.22 |
| • Rs. 50001 to 75000 | 8 | 11.11 |
| • Rs. > 75000 | 23 | 31.94 |

**Economic Motivation**

Majority of the respondents i.e. 52.77 per cent had high level of economic motivation, whereas 38.88 per cent respondents had medium level of economic motivation and only 8.33 per cent respondents had low level of economic motivation. It might be due to the awareness about profitable cultivation among the tomato growing farmers which reflects a good sign for improvement in socio-economic status of the farmers. Aswathaiah (1972) and Rajgopal (1975) also found similar finding.

**Table 4.** Distribution of the respondent according to their annual income

| Category | Frequency | Percentage |
|---|---|---|
| • Low economic motivation | 6 | 8.33 |
| • Medium economic motivation | 28 | 38.88 |
| • High economic motivation | 38 | 52.77 |

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