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Profile of FRAs beneficial tribal farmers of South Gujarat

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Abstract

India is the home to large number of indigenous people, who are still untouched by the lifestyle of the modern world. In India tribal constitute 8.61 per cent of the total population of the country, numbering 104.28 million (Anon., 2011) and cover about 15 per cent of the country's area. These were also known as the Adivasi's in the country, which are still dependent on hunting, agriculture and fishing. The majority of the majority of the beneficial tribal farmers belonged to middle to old age groups, had illiterate to primary level of education, medium to big level of family size, small to medium size of land holding, medium to high level of farming experience, farming alone or farming alone with animal husbandry as the main occupation, low to medium level of annual income, were frequently to rarely asses the source of information, membership in one organization to membership in more than one organization, moderate to lower level of risk orientation and had medium to low level of economic motivation. Further, they had moderate to lower level of scientific orientation, acquired training on agriculture and animal husbandry aspects, medium to lower level of innovativeness, moderate to lower level of management orientation, moderate to higher level of cohesiveness, fair to poor cropping pattern, medium to low level of material possession, had medium to low level of credit seeking behavior and moderate to short distance from market.

Keywords: Profile, FRAs beneficial tribal farmers

Introduction

India is the home to large number of indigenous people, who are still untouched by the lifestyle of the modern world. Tribes, also known as aboriginal communities/indigenous people/Adivasis/Janjatis/Scheduled Tribes, are residing in forests since time immemorial. In India tribes constitute around 8.61 per cent of the total population of the country, numbering 104.28 million (Anon., 2011) ^[1] and cover about 15 per cent of the country's area. They were also known as the Adivasi's in India, which are still dependent on hunting, agriculture and fishing. Tribals have been living in the forest ecology and that has shaped their life and the society they presently have. Most of them live in close proximity of forest and depend on the forest for their livelihood and sustenance. Their entire existence evolves around the forest as they evolve in these woodlands and extract prerequisites like clean water, air, food, medicines, shelter and even recreational retreats from these forests. The tribals get food from the forests by shifting or settled cultivation, apart from picking varieties of edible and herbal roots, tubers, creepers, fruits, leaves. Along with that, tribals extract varieties of minor forest produce (MFP), which includes fodder and grasses, raw materials like bamboo canes and leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and several forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, and honey.

Methodology

The present research work was carried out on Forest Right Act (FRA) tribal beneficiaries of South Gujarat during 2019-2021. An ex-post facto research design was used in the present investigation. The present study was conducted in seven districts of South Gujarat purposively, a list of all beneficial tribal farmers of Forest Right Act (FRA), 2006 were collected from the District Forest Office of respective forest divisions of South Gujarat. The proportionate random sampling method was used for selection of 315 beneficial tribal farmers from 65 villages of 21 talukas of three districts of South Gujarat for the present investigation. A questionnaire were prepared and informations collected and analysis the data by using slandered statistical tools

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Results and Discussion

The data regarding profile of beneficial tribal farmers were analyzed and presented below.

Table 1: Distribution of Profile of FRAs beneficial tribal farmers.

(n=315)				
Sr.	Independent variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age	Young	16	05.08
		Middle	169	53.65
		Old	130	41.27
2.	Education	Illiterate	136	43.17
		Primary education	108	34.29
		Secondary education	55	17.46
		College and above education	16	05.08
3.	Family size	Small	41	13.02
		Medium	175	55.55
		Big	99	31.43
4.	Land holding	Small	161	51.11
		Medium	120	38.10
		Large	34	10.79
5.	Farming experience	Lower	30	09.52
		Medium	189	60.00
		Higher	96	30.48
6.	Occupation	Farming	198	62.85
		Farming + Animal Husbandry	100	31.75
		Farming + Animal Husbandry + Service	17	05.40
7.	Annual income	Low	155	49.21
		Medium	104	33.01
		High	56	17.78
8.	Source of information	Rarely	101	32.06
		Frequently	161	51.11
		Regularly	53	16.83
9.	Social participation	No membership / participation	23	07.30
		Membership in one organization	182	57.78
		Membership in more than one organization	88	27.94
		Holding position in an organization	22	06.98
10.	Risk orientation	Lower	123	39.05
		Moderate	179	56.83
		Higher	13	4.12
11.	Economic motivation	Lower	118	37.46
		Moderate	174	55.24
		Higher	23	07.30
12.	Scientific orientation	Lower	107	33.97
		Moderate	180	57.14
		Higher	28	08.89
13.	Training acquired	Agriculture	197	62.54
		Animal husbandry	112	35.56
		Home science	04	01.27
		Others	02	00.63
14.	Innovativeness	Lower	116	36.83
		Moderate	177	56.19
		Higher	22	06.98
15.	Management orientation	Lower	98	31.11
		Moderate	170	53.97
		Higher	47	14.92
16.	Cohesiveness	Lower	67	21.27
		Moderate	178	56.51
		Higher	70	22.22
17.	Cropping pattern	Poor	114	36.19
		Fair	158	50.16
		Best	43	13.65
18.	Material possession	Low	101	32.06
		Medium	190	60.32
		High	24	07.62
19.	Credit seeking behavior	Low	74	23.49
		Medium	235	74.61
		High	06	01.90
20.	Distance from market	Short	57	18.10
		Moderate	220	69.84
		Far away	38	12.06

The data of table 1 revealed that majority of the tribal beneficiaries (94.92 per cent) were in middle to old age group. Majority (77.48 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had illiterate to primary level of education. Majority (94.92 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers were in middle to old age group. Majority (86.98 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers in between the medium to big level of family size. Majority (89.21 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had small to medium size of land holding. Majority (90.48 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had medium to high level of farming experience. Majority (94.60 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had farming alone or farming with animal husbandry as their main occupation. Majority (82.22 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers were in low to medium level of annual income. Majority (83.17 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers found in frequently to rarely assess the source of information categories. Majority (85.72 per cent) of beneficial tribal farmers found membership in one organization to membership in more than one organization. Majority (95.88 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had moderate to lower level of risk orientation. Majority (92.70 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had medium to low level of economic motivation. Majority (91.11 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had moderate level to lower level of scientific orientation. Majority (98.10 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers were acquired training on agriculture and animal husbandry. Majority (93.02 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers possessed medium to lower level of innovativeness. Majority (85.08 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had moderate to lower level management orientation. Majority (78.73 per cent) of the beneficial tribal farmers had moderate to higher level of cohesiveness.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that majority of the beneficial tribal farmers belonged to middle to old age groups, had illiterate to primary level of education, medium to big level of family size, small to medium size of land holding, medium to high level of farming experience, farming alone or farming alone with animal husbandry as the main occupation, low to medium level of annual income, were frequently to rarely assess the source of information, membership in one organization to membership in more than one organization, moderate to lower level of risk orientation and had medium to low level of economic motivation. Further, they had moderate to lower level of scientific orientation, acquired training on agriculture and animal husbandry aspects, medium to lower level of innovativeness, moderate to lower level of management orientation, moderate to higher level of cohesiveness, fair to poor cropping pattern, medium to low level of material possession, had medium to low level of credit seeking behavior and moderate to short distance from market.

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