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Profile characteristics of the farmer about e-Peek Pahani in Latur district

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Abstract
The present study was undertaken in Latur district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. Two tehsils namely Latur and Renapur were selected. From each tehsil six villages were selected. The data were collected from 120 respondents from selected villages. It was observed that in case of age, family size, annual income, extension contact, social participation, source of information, technosaviness and innovativeness maximum respondents were fall in medium category while in case of education, land holding maximum respondents were educated up to High School level and hold of 1.01 to 2.00 ha Small land.

Keywords: Profile, e-Peek Pahani, Latur

Introduction
It is not possible to do physical visit to survey the crop during the three agriculture season. This method was labor intensive and time-consuming, this method runs the risk of inaccuracy in data, and doesn't allow real-time assessment of crop sown data. Tata Trusts Data Driven Governance team developed a mobile app for Department of Revenue, Government of Maharashtra called e-Peek Pahani, that allows farmers to self-report crops sown across different stages in real time. Purpose of e-Peek Pahani collecting information on Crop Survey in a quickly and accurately with real time photographs of crops showing latitude and longitude. It assists for fixing the taxes according to crop area and reduces the workload of revenue department. The e-Peek Pahani is a web based application. Through this application farmers can register their crop survey on this application and take benefit which is more easy and flexible than the earlier crop survey registration process. The information in the e-crop survey project is very useful for the direct benefit of any scheme payable to the farmers. Accurate statistics of area under crop by village, taluka, district and division is easily available. The study was conducted with aim to get profile information of farmer in Latur district.

Methodology
The research study was carried randomly selected Latur district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. In Latur district there are 10 tehsils; Out of these two tehsils namely Latur and Renapur were selected randomly. From each selected tehsils six villages were selected randomly. Thus twelve villages from two tehsils were selected for this study. From each of the selected village ten farmers were selected randomly. Thus a total 120 farmers were selected as respondent for the present study. This selection was done by using simple random sampling method. An ex-post facto research design was used to carry out the research. Collected data were classified, tabulated and analyzed by using statistical methods like frequency and percentage.

Result and Discussion
The data in table 1 indicated that, about 63.33 percent of the farmers were from middle age category. Followed by 21.67 percent of the farmer from young age category and 17.50 percent of the farmers were from old age category. The findings of the study are in line with Raghuwanshi (2015) [9], Giridhar (2017) [6], Varsha Sable (2019) [11] and Swarna (2019) [13]. The data in the table 1 revealed that, 60.83 percent of the farmers were educated up to higher school followed by graduation (13.33%) and secondary school (12.50%). While 8.33 percent of the farmers had educated up to post-graduation, 3.33 percent of the farmers had completed primary school and 1.67 percent of them were illiterate.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents socio-economic and psychological characteristics of farmer

Sl. No.	Category	Respondents (n=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
	Age		
1.	Young (Up to 24)	26	21.67
2.	Middle (25 to 48)	76	63.33
3.	Old (49 and above)	18	15.00
	Education		
1.	Illiterate	2	1.67
2.	Primary School (1st to 4th)	4	3.33
3.	Secondary School (5th to 10th)	15	12.50
4.	Higher School (11th to 12th)	73	60.83
5.	Graduation	16	13.33
	Family size		
1.	Small (Up to 3)	14	11.67
2.	Medium (4 and 5)	89	74.17
3.	Large (6 and above)	17	14.17
	Annual income		
1.	Low (Up to 65000 Rs.)	21	17.50
2.	Medium (65001 Rs. to 170,000 Rs.)	80	66.67
3.	High (170,001 Rs. and above)	19	15.83
	Land holding		
1.	Marginal (up to 1.00 ha)	30	25.00
2.	Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	56	46.67
3.	Medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	28	23.33
4.	Semi medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha)	6	5.00
5.	Large (above 10.00 ha)	0	0
	Extension contact		
1.	Low (Up to 29)	18	15.00
2.	Medium (30 to 41)	78	63.33
3.	High (41 and above)	26	21.67
	Social participation		
1	Low (Up to 21)	27	22.50
2	Medium (22 to 32)	69	57.50
3	High (33 and above)	24	20.00
	Sources of information		
1.	Low (Up to 38)	18	15.00
2.	Medium (39 to 55)	81	67.50
3.	High (56 and above)	21	17.50
	Technosaviness		
1.	Low (Up to 21)	21	17.50
2.	Medium (25 to 34)	76	63.33
3.	High (35 and above)	23	19.17
	Innovativeness		
1.	Low (Up to 19)	17	14.17
2.	Medium (20 to 27)	82	68.33
3.	High (28 and above)	21	17.50

The data presented the table 1 it is observed that, many educated people are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. They acquire latest and useful information from government and non-government organizations or from training programme related to agriculture. The findings are similar with the findings of Sabale (2019) [10, 11]. 74.17 percent of the farmers were belonged to medium size family followed by 14.17 percent were from large size family and 16.67 percent of them were found in small size family. The probable reason of medium family size is the fragmentation of the joint families. The people are preferring nuclear families over joint families. Another reason is family planning which results in lesser members in the family. The findings are in line with the study of Giridhar (2017) [6], Dhavale (2020) [4], Rachana (2020) [8]. The data in table 1 indicated that, majority (66.67 %) of farmers had medium annual income between Rs. 65,001 to 170,000, while 17.50 percent had the low annual income up to Rs. 65,000. About 15.83 percent had high income above Rs. 170,001. The findings of the study are in line with findings of Devaraja (2011) [2], Sihare (2015) [12] and Varsha Sabale (2019) [11].

The data from table 1 revealed that, 46.67 percent of the farmers were having 1.01 to 2.00 ha. of land and belonged to small land holding category, while 25.00 percent of the farmers were having land up to 1.00 ha and belonged to marginal category. 23.33 percent of the farmers had 2.01 ha to 4.00 ha of land and belonged to medium category and 5.00 percent of farmers had 4.01 to 10.00 ha land and belonged to semi-medium category and nobody belongs to large land holding category (above 10 ha). The outcome showed that the most of the farmers belong to small farmers category (1.01 ha to 2.00 ha). It could be due to fragmentation of the land in family and an increase in population. Due to fragmentation the number of small and marginal farmers is increasing. Fragmentation reduces the size of the farms. The findings of the study were in line with Tawde (2016) [14]. Study that 63.33 percent of farmers had medium level of extension contact, followed by 21.67 percent of them had high extension contact and only 15.00 percent of them had low level of extension contact. Majority of farmers belong to medium category of extension contact, the reason might be that, respondents have frequently contact extension officers, agricultural officers for solving their agriculture related problem and good exposures with extension agencies. The findings of the study are in line with the Dhavale (2020) [4].

From the Table 1. It can be comprehended that 57.50 percent of the farmers had medium social participation followed by low (22.50%) and high (20.00%) social participation. The probable reason for this trend might be due to the fact that many farmers were having membership in more than one organization like Farmers club, Panchayat samiti, Zilla Parishad etc. and regularly participating in the meetings held by those organizations. As most of the farmers were middle aged with high secondary school education their zeal for recognition in the society is satisfied through social participation. One the other side, lower social participation might be due to their higher age, illiteracy and lack of interest towards social activities. The findings are consistent with those reported by Devraja (2011) [2] and Tawade (2016) [14, 15].

Table 1 indicated that, 67.50 percent of the farmers had medium of sources of information followed by 17.50 percent had high of sources of information. 15.00 percent of farmers had low sources of information. According to above findings, majority of the farmers had medium source of information. Due to the use of information communication technologies and globalization world has come closer. It became easy to access information about latest technologies now-a-days. Most of the farmers were connected with agriculture assistants, demonstrations, agricultural WhatsApp groups, etc. to get recent information about agriculture. Few use agricultural literature, newspaper, internet as a source to increase their information level. This might be probable reason of medium source of information. The findings of the study are similar with the findings of and Varsha Sable (2019) [11]. In the study 63.33 percent of the farmers belonged to medium category of technosaviness. This was followed by 19.17 percent who were observed under high category of technosaviness and 17.50 percent of farmers in low category of technosaviness.

According to above findings, more than half of the farmers have medium technosaviness. The increased use of new technology in day-to-day life has increased farmers

technosaviness. Higher the technosaviness of farmer higher his awareness level about new technology. The findings of study were in line with studies done by Devkule (2017) [3] and Varsha Sable (2019) [11]. Majority of farmers (68.33%) had medium level of innovativeness, followed by 17.50 percent of the farmers who had high level of innovativeness and 14.17 percent of the farmers who had low level of innovativeness. The respondents having more innovativeness would obviously have more interest and desire to adopt new technology. This leads to more awareness among farmers about new technology. The findings of study were in line with studies done by Sihare (2015) [12], Mukati (2016) [7], Birle (2019) [1] and Gaur (2022) [5].

Conclusion

From the above findings of the study it could be concluded that majority of farmers were from middle age, majority of farmers had education level up to higher school, belonged to medium family size, majority of farmers had medium annual income, more than one third of farmers belonged to small land holding category, majority of farmers had medium level of extension contact, medium social participation, medium sources of information, medium level of technosaviness and medium level of innovativeness.

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