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Economic analysis of socio-economic characteristics and land use pattern of large farmers in Yavatmal district, Maharashtra

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Abstract
The study deals with the economic analysis and efficiency of farms having different levels of resource base. Land is a square resource and it must be used intensively in farming business. Social economic characteristics are influencing the farming business. In Socio economic characteristics studies different aspects like family size, age, occupational levels, types of soil and educational levels of large farmers. For analysis of land use patterns and socioeconomic characteristics of large farms multistage sampling design was adopted. Yavatmal district was selected for study because it has a large farm area. From Yavatmal district two tehsils were selected from each tehsils five villages were selected from each village 10 farmers were selected, with a total sample size of 60. It was observed that land holding of large farmers was found to be 8.51 hectares.

Keywords: Socio economics, land utilisation, area, percentage, frequency, aspects

Introduction
Land is the major productive asset for agricultural development. The land holding pattern is of a relatively large number of small units. The structure and distribution of land holding patterns normally determine the level of productivity. Farm size is also a crucial developmental issue. Agricultural policies are affecting sizes of farm as well as important economic resource use and progress in improving resource productivity. Generally, operational holdings have been grouped into five classes Viz., marginal (<1ha) small (>1to < 2ha), semi-medium (> 2 to < 4 ha), medium (>4to<6 ha) and above large (< 6 and above).The farm business analysis is the process of retrieving, organizing, processing and analysing information used in farm business decision making. It is a critical ingredient in farms. The analysis process should begin with consideration of the business as a whole. Farm business analysis may involve either the whole farm or a single enterprise. Whole farm analysis considers business features that affect the entire business. It includes a balance sheet which shows changes in total assets, liabilities and resulting net worth. The income statement analysis which shows changes in business receipt expense. Farm management deals with the organisation and operation of a farm with the objective of maximizing the profits from the farm business on a continuing basis. It deals with the analysis of the farming resources, alternative choice and opportunity within the framework of resources. It is a decision making science. It helps to decide about the basic course of action of the farming business. India has geographical area of 328.73 million hectares which is 2.7 percent surface of the world. The net sown area is 141.10 million hectares. According to Agricultural census (2000-2001), the area operated by large holding is 14.18 percent, the number of large farmers to total farmers is 1.21 percent. The geographical area of Maharashtra is 30.37 million hectares, out of which net sown area is 22.25 million hectares. The area operated by large holding is 12.32 percent and the number of large farmers to total farmers is 1.79 percent. Geographical area of Eastern Vidarbha zone includes entire Bhandara and Gadchiroli district and parts of Chandrapur and Nagpur district is32.7 Lakhs/ha and with almost 50% under forest, Gross crop area 10.8 lakhs/ha. Main cash crops cultivated in Vidarbha region such as cotton, oranges and soybean.

Materials and Methods
Multistage sampling design was adapted for selection of zone, tehsils, villages and farms in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra. In the first stage, the Yavatmal district was selected because this district has a large farming area.

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In the second stage, 2 tehsils were selected from the district on the basis of maximum area under a large farm. In third stage, from selected tehsils five villages were selected from each of tehsil on the basis of large farm area. In fourth stage, from each cluster villages, six farmers were selected. Thus the total sample size was 60. The concept like socioeconomic, land utilisation pattern, area, percentage, frequency, aspects are used.

Results and Discussion
Land use pattern
Land holding, uncultivated land and cultivated lands were calculated and presented in Table 1. It was observed that land holding of large farmers was found to 8.51 hectares. Land holding was split into two parts as uncultivated land and net cultivated land. Proportion of net cultivated land and uncultivated land to total land holding was 98.17 percent and 1.8 percent, respectively.

Table 1: Land use pattern of large farmers

SN	Aspects	Area (ha.)	Percentage
1	Total land holdings	8.51	100.00
2	Uncultivated land	0.15	1.8
3	Net cultivated land	0.36	98.17
I)	Irrigated land	5.16	60.59
II)	Rainfed land	3.2	37.58

It is also important to note that net cultivated land (8.36 ha) was also divided into irrigated and rain fed areas with proportion of 60.59 percent and 37.58 percent, respectively. It implied that the higher proportionate area was under irrigated condition.

Socio-economic characteristics of large farmers
Absolute mean with respect to socio-economic characteristics of large farmers were studied and presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Socio-economic characteristics of large farmers.

S.N	Aspects	Frequency	Percentage
	Family size		
1.	I) small (1 to 5 years)		25.00
	II) medium (5 to 7 yrs)	15.00	50.00
	III) Large (8 and above)	30.00	25.00
	Total	15.00	100.00
	Age		
2.	I) Young (upto 25-35 yrs)		30.00
	II) Middle (upto 35 to 45 yrs)	18.00	50.00
	III) Old (above 45 yrs)	30.00	20.00
	Total	12.00	100.00
	Educational levels		
3.	I) Primary		58.34
	II) High school	35.00	25.00
	III) College	15.00	16.66
	Total	10.00	100.00
	Types of soil		
4.	I) Shallow		25.00
	II) Medium	15.00	58.34
	III) Heavy	35.00	16.66
	Total	10.00	100.00
	Occupational levels		
5.	I) Agriculture		63.34
	II) Business	38.00	16.66
	III) Service+ farmers	10.00	20.00
	Total	12.00	100.00

In socio-economic characteristics of large farmers, age, family size, type of soil and occupation level was also calculated in the form of frequency and percentage is presented in Table 2. Regarding family size 50 percent large farmers having medium family size followed by 25 percent as large and 25 percent as small. Regarding the age of the farmer, it was observed that the majority of farmers (50 percent) were found in the middle followed by young (30 percent) and old age (20 percent). In regard to education, 58.34 percent of farmers were found in education standard up to primary school, secondary school was 25 percent and only 16.66 percent farmers were up to college level. Regarding soil type, 58.34 percent of farmers had medium type of soil followed by shallow (25 percent) and heavy (16.66 percent). In relation to occupation level 63.34 percent farmers had agriculture as a main occupation followed by 20 percent as service plus farmer and 16.66 percent as business. It could be inferred that the owners of the family were middle age group with primary school education and medium size of family. Land under agriculture was with medium type of soil with main occupation as agriculture.

Conclusions
1. From the results of present investigation land holdings of large farmers were found to be 8.51 hectares.
2. Regarding the age of farmers it was observed that the majority of farmers were in the middle age group.
3. In regards to education 58.34 percent of farmers were the primary group.
4. In relation to occupation 63.34 percent farmers had agriculture as a main occupation.

Conflict of interest: None

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