The Pharma Innovation Journal 2023; SP-12(12): 1731-1736

www.ThePharmaJournal.com

The Pharma Innovation

ISSN (E): 2277-7695
ISSN (P): 2349-8242
NAAS Rating: 5.23
TPI 2023; SP-12(12): 1731-1736

www.thepharmajournal.com
Received: 01-09-2023
Accepted: 04-10-2023

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The study on socio profile of farmers in Rupnagar and Fatehgarh Sahib district of Punjab, India

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Abstract
In order to foster the expansion of agricultural profitability, efficiency, ecological responsibility, technical developments, and environmental stability, this study explores the vital role that agricultural education plays. With a focus on Punjabi farmers, mostly in villages Marauli Khurad, Rattangarh, Ramgarh Manda, Badwali, Marauli Kalan, in Tehsil Chamkaur Sahib of Rupnagar district of Punjab and Bhateri village is located in Bassi Pathana tehsil of Fatehgarh Sahib district in Punjab, India. Study uses a questionnaire-based methodology to gather data from 125 farmer interviews. Examining the socioeconomic elements influencing the lifestyles and employment circumstances of the farming population in these areas is the main goal. The goal of the inquiry is to have a thorough grasp of the socioeconomic situations, acknowledging that although some people have experienced improvements in their quality of life, others continue to live in difficult situations. The report highlights the need to investigate socioeconomic status, taking into account the community at large, the occupational environment, academic performance, income of the labor force, residential features, and government initiatives. To evaluate the socio-profile of the farmers, important factors like age, education, landholding, family structure, information source are selected. These observations help to clarify the socioeconomic dynamics of the farming community and have important ramifications for focused developmental and educational initiatives.

Keywords: Socio-economic determinants, quantitative and qualitative data, education, village, survey

Introduction
For most of the world's disadvantaged population, especially those who farm in rural regions, agriculture has the ability to reduce poverty, increase incomes, and enhance food security. With more than 50% of the workforce employed and 17–18% of the GDP of emerging countries like India as of 2018, it serves as a crucial economic stabilizer for these countries. India leads the world in net cultivated area, but as the world economy grows overall, agriculture's share of the economy is progressively decreasing (Kaur *et al.*, 2023) [3]. All areas of the Indian economy have been impacted by the global economic downturn since 2008–2009, with agricultural productivity falling short of industrialized nations. A person's socioeconomic position can reveal information about their well-being and health as well as how well they integrate into society. This is achieved by taking into account characteristics such as income, education, property ownership, and basic utilities. Research on the socio-economic position of farmers both can highlight important issues. In order to effectively solve local difficulties with current agricultural technologies, farmers' education is essential. This highlights the importance of high-quality education, particularly for the impoverished and rural population. Developments in technology for communication and information are helping to close the gap between Indian farmers, extension systems, and research (White 1982) [10]. The necessity for accurate data on the socioeconomic status of the target group is a barrier to the successful implementation of developmental projects. The primary goal of rural development is to raise living standards by increasing agricultural productivity, mostly through better technique. Socio-economic surveys, which include information on population trends, monthly agricultural earnings and expenses, housing patterns, and profiles of agricultural practices, offer crucial data for developing and enhancing policies that cater to the particular requirements of the community (Singh *et al.*, 2023) [9]
This study aimed to assess the socio-economic status of farmers in Marauli Khurad, Rattangarh, Ramgarh Manda, Badwali, Marauli Kalan and Bhateri villages in Rupnagar and Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab. A questionnaire-based approach was employed, utilizing a primary data source. Interviews with 125 farmers were conducted and recorded at the University

Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Chandigarh University, Mohali, Punjab, India. For the study area and village overview, census data for Marauli Khurad, Rattangarh, Ramgarh Manda, Badwali, Marauli Kalan, Bhateri villages were considered. The quantitative approach was used for data collection, primarily through a census conducted in these villages, encompassing 125 households comprising farmers, government employees, and self-employed business holders. Systematic questionnaires and in-person door-to-door interviews were employed, supplemented by direct observation, focus group discussions, and community group interviews as rapid evaluation methods. Qualitative data was collected through personal interviews with senior and nearby villagers (Pandey and Upadhayay, 2012) [6]

RAWE, which stands for Rural Awareness Work Experience, is a program initiated by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). It is a type of training or internship Program that is designed to provide individuals with an opportunity to gain practical experience and knowledge about rural life, agriculture, and community development. RAWE are usually organized by non-profit organizations, government agencies, or private companies that work in rural areas. The goal of these programmers' is to educate and raise awareness among urban and suburban individuals about the challenges faced by rural communities, including poverty, lack of infrastructure, and limited access to services. During a RAWE, participants are typically placed in rural communities where they work alongside local farmers, community leaders, and organizations to learn about agriculture, rural life, and community development. They may be involved in activities such as crop planting and harvesting, livestock management, community outreach, and infrastructure development projects.

Materials and Methods

The present day study was designed to know the socio-economic status of the farmers in Marauli Khurad, Rattangarh, Ramgarh Manda, Badwali, Marauli Kalan, of Chamkaur Sahib tehsil district Rupnagar and Bhateri village of Bassi Pathana tehsil of Fatehgarh Sahib district of Punjab, India. The interviews of 125 farmers were recorded.

In the data's given below percentages are also given for a better understanding where we use the formula:

Percentage (%) = N/ n*100

where,

N- total no. of respondents from all the 6 villages i.e., 125 respondents.

n- the no. of respondents from each village.

Results and Discussion

Various socioeconomic survey topics were examined, and the outcomes will be discussed in the subsequent sections:

Age

Age and qualification are the main parameters which affect the each and every occupation. As per the data collected most of the farmers lies in 36-55 age group category i.e. 43.2%, and overall 9.6% farmers lie in 16-35 age group and 29.6% in 56-75 age group, 17.6% above 76 as shown in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1: Depicts the age of the respondents from all villages

S.No	Parameters	Marauli Khurad N=20	Rattangarh N=24	Ramgarh Manda N=23	Badwali N=24	Marauli Kalan N=16	Bhateri N=18	Overall N=125
1.	16-35	0	8	4	0	0	0	12(9.6%)
2	36-55	12	4	2	16	12	8	54(43.2%)
3	56-75	4	12	5	8	4	4	37(29.6%)
4	Above 76	4	0	12	0	0	6	22(17.6%)

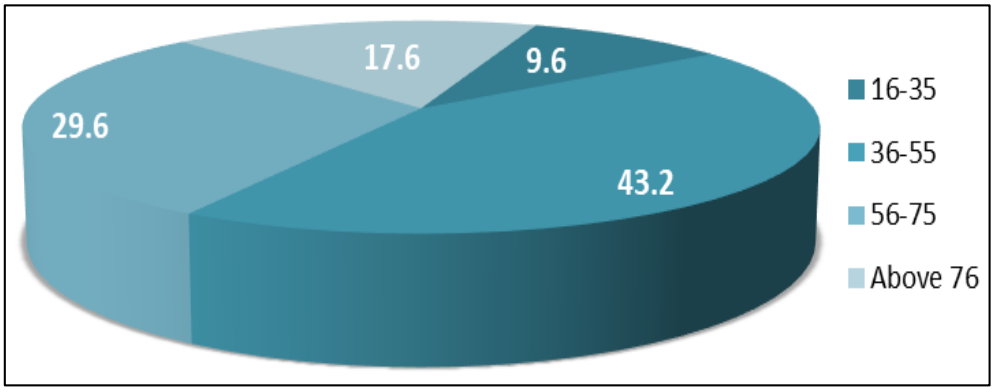

Fig 1: Depicts the age of the 125 farmers

Education

The education of the 125 farmers from all five villages showed that 35.2% had attended primary school, 25.6% had finished Metric, 23.2% had finished high school, 13.6% had graduated and 2.4% has post-gradauted, as shown in figure 2. There were few illiterate farmers among the farmers. They explained that this was because they did not value education as much in the past, but as time and years went by, they began to value it greatly and encouraged their kids to pursue education by enrolling them in schools and colleges. Mentioned below in table 2 and represented in figure 2.

Table 2: Education level of 125 farmers

S.No	Parameters	Marauli Khurad N=20	Rattangarh N=24	Ramgarh Manda N=23	Badwali N=24	Marauli Kalan N=16	Bhateri N=18	Overall N=125
1	Primary	4	12	1	14	7	6	44(35.2%)
2	Metric	10	6	6	3	3	4	32(25.6%)
3	Higher secondary	4	4	9	2	4	6	29(23.2%)
4	Graduate	2	1	7	4	1	2	17(13.6%)
5	Post gradauate	0	1	0	1	1	0	3(2.4%)
6	Doctrate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

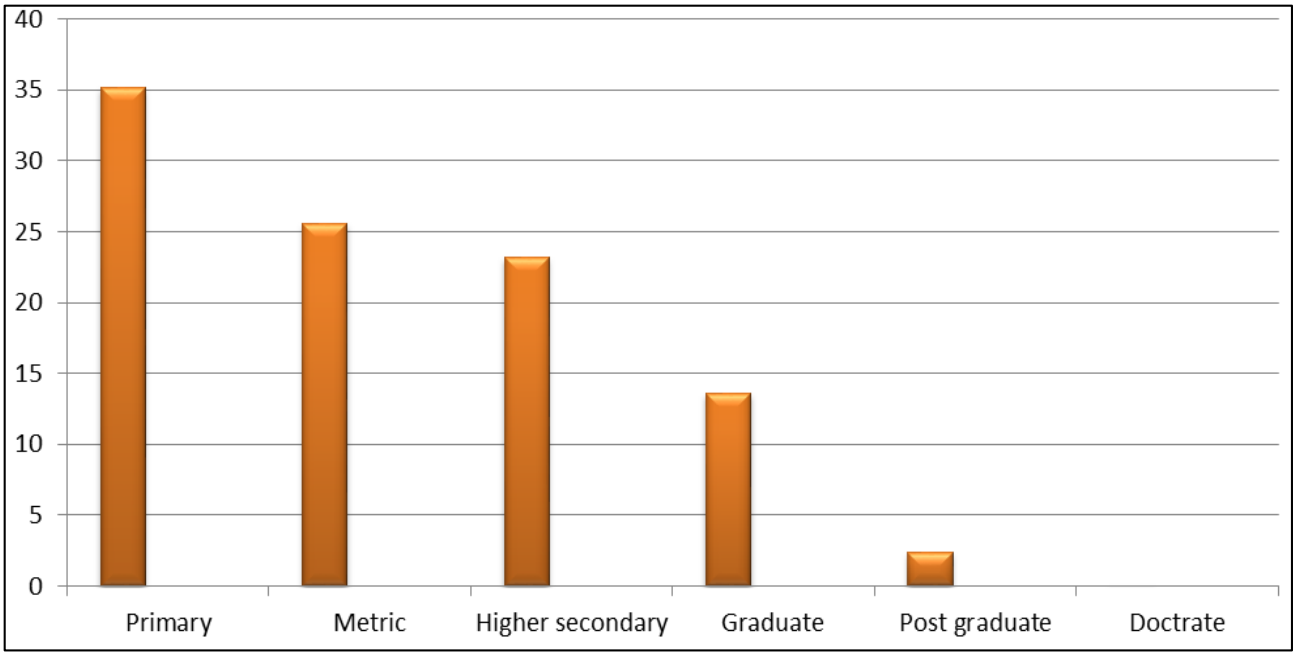

Fig 2: Represents education level of farmers

Land Holdings

In the table 3 mentioned below, we can see that out of 125, 24% of the farmers comes under the category of small farmer who has 1-2 hectare followed by 33.6% of the semi-medium farmers and then comes 23.2% of medium farmer who has 4-10-hectare land. The last large farmers category have 19.2% of farmers who have more than 10-hectare land as shown in fig 3.

Table 3: Demonstrates land holdings

S.No	Parameters	Marauli Khurad N=20	Rattangarh N=24	Ramgarh Manda N=23	Badwali N=24	Marauli Kalan N=16	Bhateri N=18	Overall N=125
1	Small	5	4	3	6	9	3	30(24%)
2	Semi medium	7	5	12	10	2	6	42(33.6%)
3	Medium	3	11	5	4	1	5	29(23.2%)
4	Large	5	4	3	4	4	4	24(19.2%)

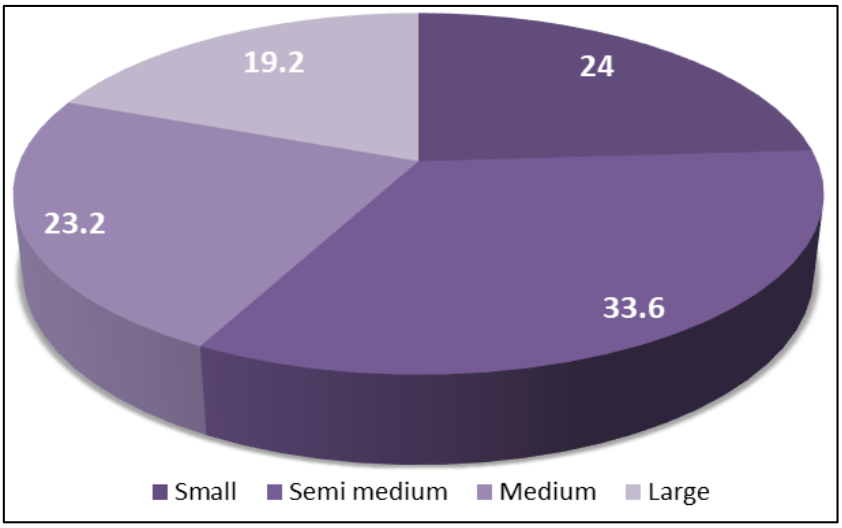

Fig 3: Land holdings of farmers

Type of Mobile Phone, Internet Connectivity and Agricultural Groups on Social Media

Overall 84% of respondents have mobile phones and 68% of them have internet connectivity in their mobile phones. 24% of these farmers are members of agricultural groups on social media (Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Telegram). Only 16% of respondent do not have any type of mobile phone. All the respondent of Village Rattangarh have mobile phones but only half of them have internet facility available in their phones as mentioned in figure 4.

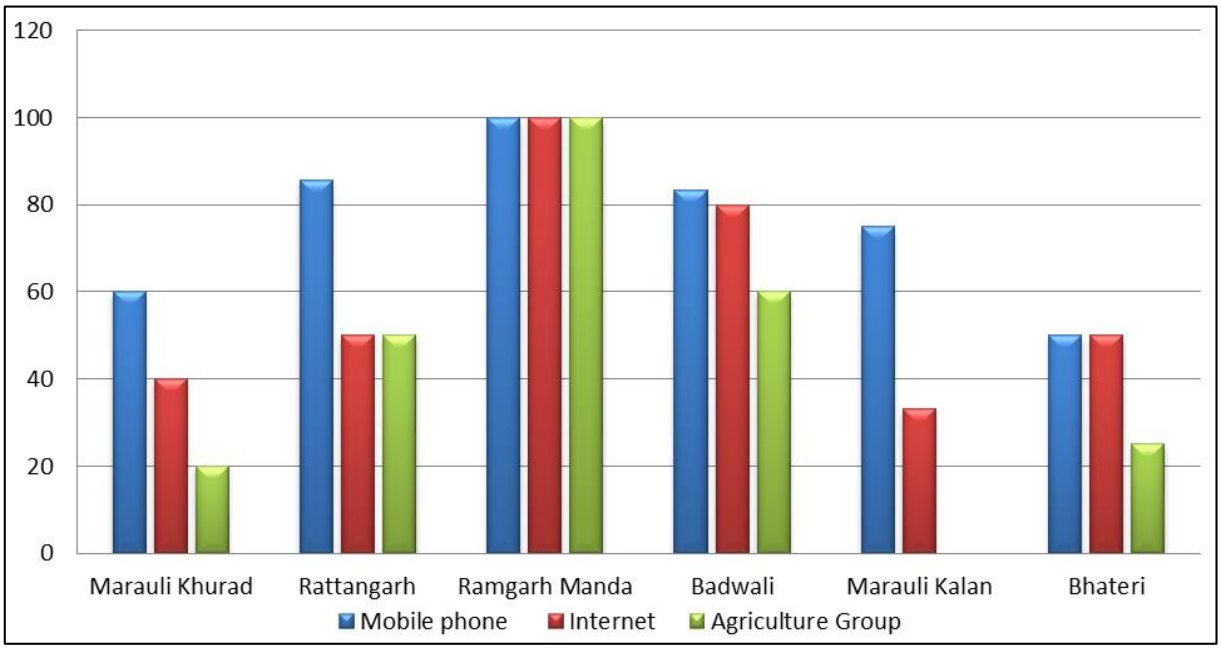

Fig 4: Represents Technical connectivity of the farmers (internet facility)

Family Composition

The survey was conducted according to that most of the respondents belong to the General category i.e., 99% from all selected villages. Though other categories are also existing in these villages but most of them are not landlords or farmers. They were engaged in some other occupations. Most of the farmers are of the general category. All them have pucca houses, none of the farmers have kaccha or even semi kaccha houses. In the table 4 along with figure 5, we have represented the type of family. Most of them live in joint families 64%, and only 36% of farmers live in nuclear families.

Table 4: Depicts Family Composition

S.No	Parameters	Marauli Khurad N=20	Rattangarh N=24	Ramgarh Manda N=23	Badwali N=24	Marauli Kalan N=16	Bhateri N=18	Overall N=125
1	Nuclear	7	8	10	11	5	4	45(36%)
2	Joint	13	16	13	13	11	14	80(64%)

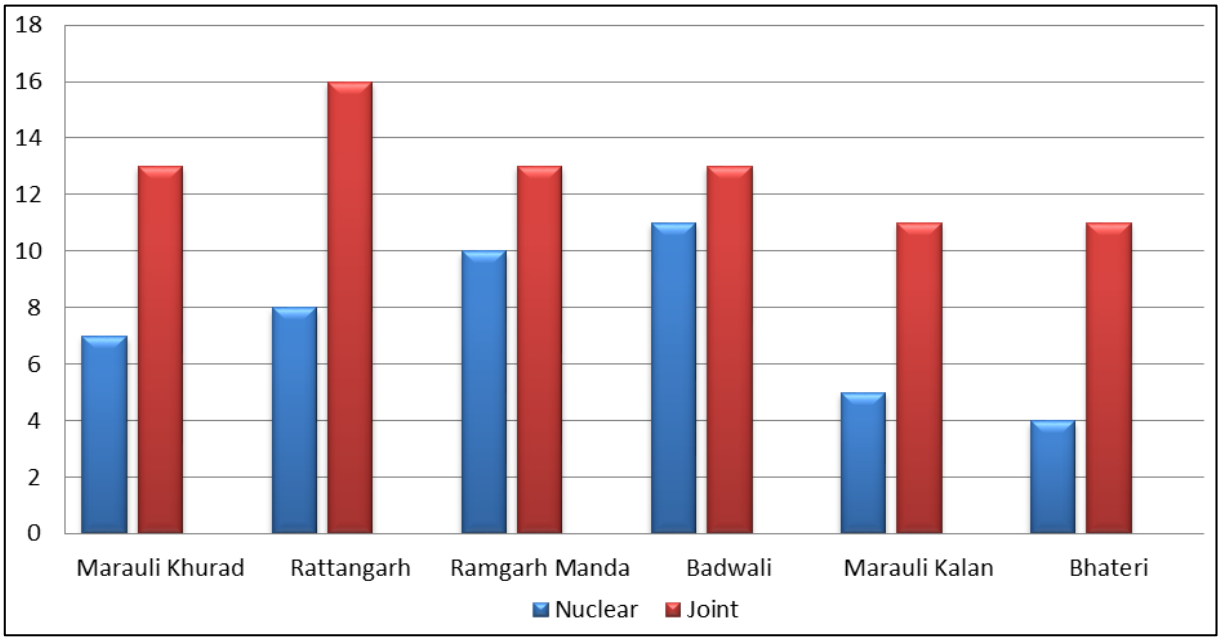

Fig 5: Represents farmer's family composition

Source of Information

Every respondent has different sources of information and extension contacts. 21.6% of overall respondents have contact with progressive farmers which mainly act as good sources of information to the farmers regarding new seeds and agro-chemicals. Apart from this farmers also take information from the newspaper 18.4%, input dealers 15.2% and Kisan melas and field visits also enhanced the skills of the farmers around 16.8% of respondents visit Kissan melas organized in their nearby areas (Rupnagar, Kharar, Ludhiana). 9.6% of young farmers have also installed agriculture apps in their phones to generate information, and by group meetings 18.4% farmers get updates as shown in table 5 and fig 6.

Table 5: Depicts source of Information

S. No	Parameters	Marauli Khurad N=20	Rattangarh N=24	Ramgarh Manda N=23	Badwali N=24	Marauli Kalan N=16	Bhateri N=18	Overall N=125
1	Input dealer	5	3	4	2	5	0	19(15.2%)
2	Progressive Farmer	2	10	5	3	2	5	27(21.6%)
3	Newspaper	1	2	6	9	3	2	23(18.4%)
4	Kisan Mela	8	1	2	4	2	4	21(16.8%)
5	Agriculture app	2	4	1	2	1	2	12(9.6%)
6	Group Meetings	2	4	5	4	3	5	23(18.4%)

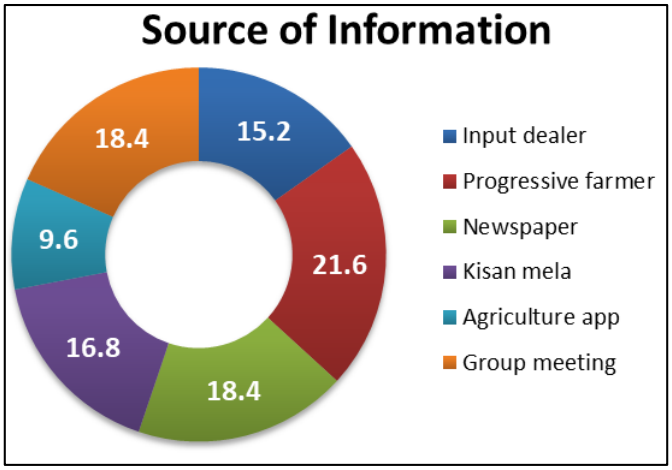

Fig 6: Source of Information

Literacy Rate

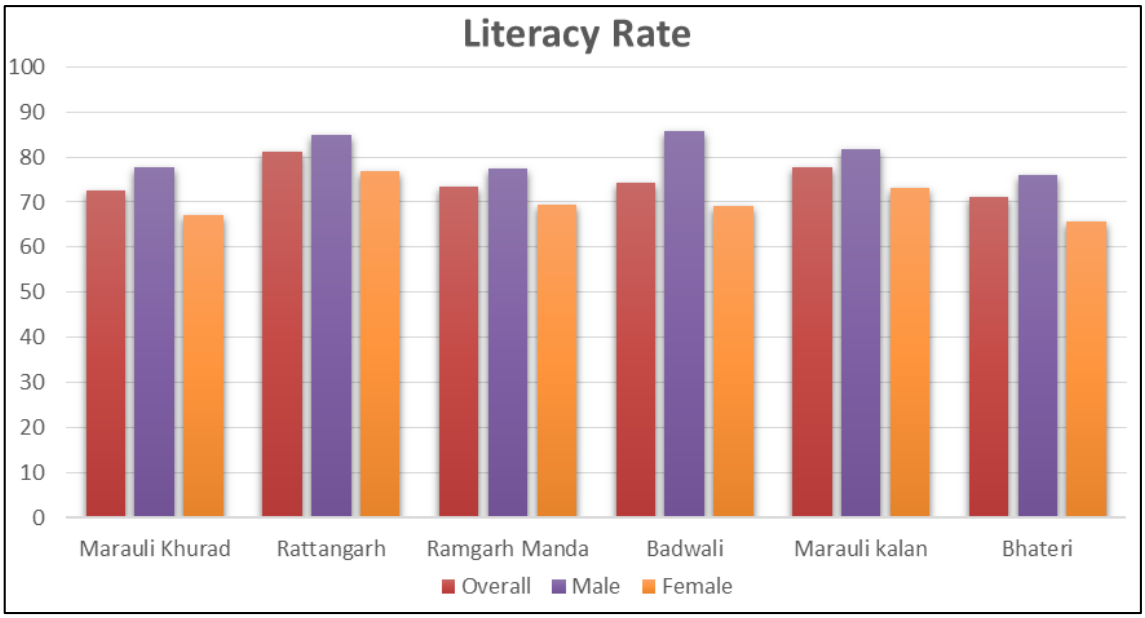

Fig 7: Demonstrates literacy rate of male, female and overall percentage of selected village

Vegetation and Agronomic Practices

As per the data collected wheat crop is cultivated in 315 acres, Paddy in 321 acres. These two crops are the majorly grown crops in this region. Overall 96% farmers grow wheat and about 92% farmers grow paddy crop in their fields. Apart from this Mustard and sugarcane is also grown widely in this area (12 acres) as compared to other crops such as cauliflower and turmeric. Sorghum and berseem are the two major fodder crops of respective season are mainly cultivated in this region.

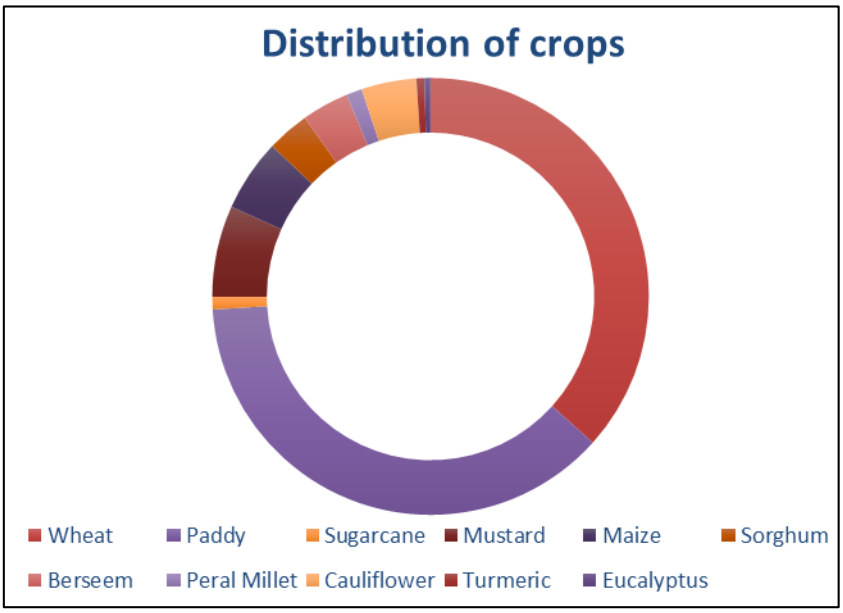

Fig 8: Represents the distribution of crops

Conclusion

In summary, agriculture has enormous potential to reduce poverty, increase incomes, and improve food security, particularly for underprivileged rural populations. Nonetheless, there are still issues, such as the declining GDP contribution of agriculture in developing nations like India and the long-lasting consequences of worldwide recessions. It becomes critical to understand farmers' socioeconomic situation in order to assess their well-being and to successfully solve regional agricultural issues. The study emphasizes how important education is in equipping farmers to use and understand contemporary agricultural technologies. It is emphasized that obtaining high-quality education is crucial for supporting agricultural development, especially for rural underprivileged areas. Furthermore, the gap between farmers, extension services, and research is getting smaller thanks to developments in technology for communications and information. Barriers to the execution of developmental projects include the need for precise socioeconomic data on the target population. Raising living standards through higher agricultural productivity—primarily through better techniques—is the main goal of rural development. Socioeconomic surveys provide vital information for creating policies that are suited to the particular requirements of the community. They include data on farming techniques, housing patterns, agricultural incomes, and population trends. The study's emphasis on assessing the socioeconomic standing of farmers in the villages of Marauli Khurad, Rattangarh, Ramgarh Manda, Badwali, Marauli Kalan and Bhateri highlights how critical it is to recognize and respond to the particular difficulties these people confront. This study's questionnaire-based technique and census data collecting serve as useful tools for understanding the socioeconomic dynamics of these rural villages in Punjab's Rupnagar and Fatehgarh Sahib areas. The conversation on rural development and sustainable agriculture is enhanced by this addition.

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