A STUDY ON FARM SIZE AND FARMING EXPERIENCE OF COCONUT GROWERS IN TIRUPPUR DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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Abstract

This study was conducted in Tiruppur district of Tamilnadu. A sample size of 120 was fixed for the study considering the limitations of time and other resources. From the list of coconut cultivators in each villages, farmers cultivating coconut were identified. A total number of 120 holdings were identified from the simple random sampling technologies. Since, the coconut growers varied in their farm size and farming experience characteristics, the production technologies of coconut should be improved and scientific, cost effective and hard sustained performance in order to satisfy all categories of farmers. It should also taken care by the state department of agriculture while implementing any development for coconut growers future.

Key words: Farm size and farm experience of coconut farmers.

Introduction

The coconut with its tall, slender and uniformity thick and massive crown with the larger number of leaves, bearing branches of nuts in their axils, is one of the most beautiful and useful trees in the world. It is grown in more than 80 tropical countries and it is most important of all cultivated palms. It supplies food, drink, shelter, but also provides raw materials for a number of industries intimately connected with domestic as wells as economic life on account of this plan has been regarded as "Kalpa Vriksha". (Tree of heaven).

Review of literature

Farm Size

Manju (2010) revealed that (41.43 per cent) of the high productivity cultivators found to medium farm size followed by (31.43 per cent) of the cultivators under low and (27.14 per cent) of the growers under high farm size.

Sivajiganesan (2011) reported that more than half of the cultivators were farmers (45.83 per cent) followed by medium farmers (34.17 per cent) and only (20.00 per cent) of the growers were small farmers.

Kale and Kadam (2012) revealed that 38.33 per cent of the beneficiaries had semi medium land holding followed by small (35.00 per cent), medium (13.34 per cent), large (9.17 per cent) and marginal (4.16 per cent) land holding respectively under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme.

Prathapsingh (2012) observed that one third of the growers - '.54 per cent) had small size farmers followed by marginal farm holdings (30.00 per cent) and big farmers (29.17 per cent).

Mukesh Yadav *et al.* (2013) reported that majority (44.17 per cent) of me growers were found to Small land holding category, followed by medium (38.33 per cent) and large (17.50 per cent) land holdings categories respectively under WDP.

Raman (2014) observed that above half (52.50 per cent) of the growers were big farmers followed by one - third (32.50 per cent) of small farmers and the rest of them were marginal farmers (15.00 per cent).

Anand (2015) revealed that more than half the proportion (56.66 per cent) of the growers had marginal land holdings, followed by *35.84* per cent of growers with small land holdings and only 7.50 per cent of the growers had big land holdings.

Prakash (2016) noticed that majority (60.00 per cent) of the growers possessed small farm size followed by marginal holdings (20.84 per cent) and big sized holdings (19.16 per cent).

Farming experience

Rajivgandhi (2010) inferred that around fifty per cent (50.83 per cent) of the growers had medium level of experience in farming.

Rajeswari (2011) observed that nearly two - third of the growers (64.00 per cent) had medium level of farming experience. It was followed by 26.00 per cent of growers with low level of farming experience and high level (10.00 per cent) of experience.

Prathapsingh (2012) seen that greater than one third of the growers (42.50 per cent) had moderate level of farming experience followed by (40.00 per cent) of the growers with high level of farming experience and low level (17.50 per cent).

Kathiresan (2013) inferred that majority of the farmers 153.83 per cent) were found to be with high level of farming experience, followed by medium level (37.20 per cent) farming experience.

Vasanthakumar (2014) observed that most of the growers (83.30 per cent) were found to be with high level of farming experience.

Anand (2015) showed that less than half (48.33 per cent) of the growers had medium level of experience in coconut cultivation, followed by 37.51 per cent growers with low level of farming experience. Only 14.16 per cent of the growers had high level of farming experience.

Materials and Methods

This research carried out in Tiruppur district of Tamilnadu. A sample size of 120 was fixed for the study considering the limitations of time and other resources. From the list of coconut cultivators in each villages. A total number of 120 holdings were identified from the simple random sampling technologies.

Results and discussion

Farm Size

The results on distribution of coconut cultivators according to their farm size are presented in Table 1.

It could be revealed from the table1 that 35.83 per cent of the coconut cultivators had small size farms followed by Big farm holdings (33.33 per cent) and marginal farms (30.84 per cent). It could be inferred that most of the coconut cultivators owned small and big farms. This may be due to the nature of the coconut

Table 1: Distribution of coconut cultivators according to their farm size

(n = 120)

S. No	Category	Number of coconut cultivators	Percent
1.	Marginal	37	30.84
2.	Small	43	35.83
3.	Big	40	33.33
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

cultivators selected for this study. This finding derives support from the findings of Prathapsingh (2012).

Farming Experience

The results on distribution of coconut cultivators according to their fanning experience are given in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of coconut cultivators according to their farming experience

(n = 120)

S. No	Category	Number of coconut cultivators	Percent
1.	Low	12	10.00
2.	Medium	29	24.17
3.	High	79	65.83
	Total	**120**	**100.00**

It could be seen from the Table 2 that above sixty per cent of the coconut cultivators (65.83 per cent) had high level of farming experience followed by 24.17 per cent of the coconut cultivators with moderate level of farming experience and low level (10.00 per cent) in coconut field experience. This result is in line with the findings of Vasanthakumar (2014). Hence, it could be concluded that majority of the coconut growers had high level of farming experience.

Conclusion

Since, the coconut growers varied in their farm size and farming experience characteristics, the production technologies of coconut should be improved and scientific, cost effective and hard sustained performance in order to satisfy all categories of farmers. It should also taken care by the state department of agriculture while implementing any development for coconut growers future.

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