

Influence of Socio-Economic Factors on Adoption of High Yielding Varieties

To identify the socio-economic factors responsible for adoption of high yielding varieties, a study was undertaken in Perur block in three villages selected at random. Only adopters of high yielding varieties were identified and categorised as high, medium and low adopters based on the package of practices adopted for the high yielding varieties. Only 38 high yielding variety growers were found in these villages and all of them were included for the study.

The socio-economic factors like age, education, farm size and farm income were related with the adopters' category and presented in Table 1.

[Table 1 in page 850]

The study revealed that there was a positive association of certain socio-economic factors and adoption of high yielding varieties. Age had a relation with the adoption of high yielding varieties. Young and middle aged farmers were generally less conservative in taking up high yielding varieties for cultivation. Educational levels had a significant influence over adoption of high yielding varieties. The findings of Thakur (1966) and Chau-

dhary (1967) supported the above results. Farm size also had a significant influence over adoption and this is supported by the findings of Rai (1967). Similar significant influence was noticed in the case of farm income also.

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Table 1. Socio-Economic factors Vs. adopter's category

Socio-Economic Factor	Adopter's Category			Total	X ² Value
	High	Medium	Low		
Age					
a. Young	4	3	—	7	19.62**
b. Middle aged	8	13	1	22	
c. Old	—	3	6	9	
Total	12	19	7	38	
Education					
a. Illiterate	—	—	1	1	24.03**
a. Primary	4	3	5	12	
c. High school	4	16	1	21	
d. Collegiate	4	—	—	4	
Total	12	19	7	38	
Farm Size					
a. Small	4	4	6	14	13.80*
b. Medium	8	10	—	18	
c. Big	—	5	1	6	
Total	12	19	7	38	
Farm Income					
a. Below Rs. 5,000	—	6	6	12	19.22**
b. 5001/- 10,000/-	3	8	—	11	
c. 10,001 and above	9	5	1	15	
Total	12	19	7	38	