



Impact on Enhancing Income Level and Socio-Economic Condition of Farmers Connected with Farmer's Producer Organization in Jaipur District, Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the socio-economic profiles of farmers in the Jhotwara block of Jaipur District, Rajasthan, focusing on the impact of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) on their livelihoods and income levels. Surveying 115 respondents, the research categorizes farmers based on criteria such as land ownership, age, gender, education level, and social category, offering a detailed demographic snapshot. It reveals a predominance of small-scale farming, with most landholdings between 1-3 hectares, emphasizing the role of small farmers in agriculture. The study also highlights a significant number of young farmers, indicating potential for innovative and sustainable agricultural practices. However, a gender disparity in land ownership is noted, with males owning larger plots. There is a correlation between lower educational attainment and higher farming engagement, suggesting the need for tailored agricultural education and training. The research outlines the benefits of FPOs, particularly in increasing incomes for small-scale farmers, and identifies challenges such as access to financial resources, technical knowledge, and market access. The study concludes with recommendations for financial inclusion, educational programs, policy reforms, and FPO support to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability. This research provides insights for policy-making aimed at supporting agricultural development and improving farmer well-being in Jaipur.

Keywords: FPOs, Livelihood, Demographic, Sustainable, Knowledge

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural sector in India is a cornerstone of the nation's economy, contributing significantly to its GDP and serving as the primary livelihood source for the vast majority of its rural population. With the growing emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices and the enhancement of farmers' income, the establishment of

Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) has become a pivotal strategy. This report examines the role of FPOs in boosting the income levels of farmers in the Jaipur district of Rajasthan, an area noted for its diverse agricultural practices and substantial contributions to state agricultural output. (NAFPO, 2023)

Defined by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as collective groups of farmers aiming to improve economies of scale, access to markets, and bargaining power, FPOs are supported by the Government of India through policies like the National Agricultural Policy and initiatives such as the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) (FAO, 2024) Over 7,000 FPOs have been formed across the country as of 2021, according to the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, signifying a major shift towards organized agriculture. (OECD, 2021)

In Rajasthan, particularly in Jaipur, FPOs have been transformative. The district, with its extensive agricultural lands, produces a range of crops including pulses, grains, and oilseeds. Historically, farmers here have struggled with challenges like limited market access, inadequate storage facilities, and poor bargaining power, all of which have hampered their income potential. FPOs address these issues by offering a collective platform for farmers to maximize their production capabilities. (Drishti IAS, 2021)

The impact of FPOs in Jaipur has been profound. For instance, collective bargaining through FPOs has enabled farmers to secure better prices for their produce, with studies indicating a 15-20% increase in market prices. Moreover, FPOs have facilitated access to better agricultural inputs and technologies at reduced costs through collective purchasing, significantly cutting post-harvest losses and promoting sustainable farming practices. This has not only led to enhanced productivity but also the long-term viability of farming operations in the district (Gurung & Choubey, 2023). The report underscores the essential role of both governmental and non-governmental support in the successful operation and

expansion of FPOs, which continue to play a crucial role in the evolution of India's agricultural landscape.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Despite the recognized potential of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) in transforming the agricultural landscape, their impact on enhancing the income levels of farmers in the Jaipur district of Rajasthan remains inadequately explored. Small and marginal farmers in this region continue to face challenges such as limited market access, low bargaining power, and high input costs. These issues contribute to persistent income instability and hinder the economic prosperity of farming communities. Understanding the extent to which FPOs can address these challenges is crucial for devising effective strategies to support farmer income enhancement in Jaipur.

JUSTIFICATION OF PROBLEM

The exploration of FPOs' impact on farmer incomes in Jaipur, Rajasthan, is justified by the critical role agriculture plays in the livelihoods of rural populations and the state's economy. With Rajasthan's agriculture characterized by arid conditions and fragmented landholdings, identifying mechanisms to enhance farmer income is vital for sustainable development. FPOs represent a promising avenue for achieving this goal. However, the lack of comprehensive research on their effectiveness in the region limits the ability to fully leverage their potential. A detailed study will provide valuable insights for policymakers, stakeholders, and the farming community to strengthen the agricultural sector in Rajasthan.

RESEARCH METHEDODOLOGY

A multistage stratified random sampling procedure was used, involving five stages, to select the ultimate unit of the sample. The study project was conducted in Jaipur District of Rajasthan, known for its agricultural activities and FPOs. Jhotwara was selected purposively from among multiple administrative blocks in Jaipur District. Three (5%) villages were randomly

selected from the 65 villages in Jhotwara Block. Respondents were selected based on landownership categories, and approximately 10% of the total respondents were interviewed. Retail Shop 1: SR Traders and Retail Shop 2: Jagannath Kridhi Udhyog were selected as the types of markets studied, along with FPOs and the local Mandi (Wholesale Market): APMC Mandi, Jaipur.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS IN A STUDY AREA

Table 1: Socio-economic profile of the respondents.

Landholding Size	Total	Age Distribution (Young/Middle/Old)	Gender (M/F)	Education Levels (Primary to Higher Ed.)	Caste (General/OBC/SC/ST)	Family Type (Joint/Nuclear)
Marginal (>1 Ha)	45	25 / 15 / 5	31 / 14	High (11), Moderate (10, 11), Low (5, 4, 2)	17 / 18 / 10	19 / 26
Small (1-2 Ha)	31	20 / 10 / 1	21 / 10	High (7), Moderate (7, 8), Low (4, 3, 1)	12 / 12 / 7	13 / 18
Semi-medium (2-4 Ha)	10	5 / 3 / 2	7 / 3	High (2), Moderate (2, 2), Low (1, 1, 1)	4 / 4 / 2	4 / 6
Medium (4-10 Ha)	18	10 / 7 / 1	12 / 6	High (4), Moderate (4, 4), Low (2, 2, 1)	7 / 7 / 4	8 / 10
Large (>10 Ha)	11	6 / 5 / 0	8 / 3	High (3), Moderate (2, 3), Low (1, 1, 1)	4 / 4 / 3	5 / 6
Total	115	66 / 41 / 8	79 / 36	-	44 / 45 / 26	49 / 66

Table 1, presents a socio-economic profile of 115 respondents categorized by landholding size. It details the age distribution showing a predominance of younger farmers, gender ratios, and varying levels of education from primary to higher education across different farm sizes. The table also includes caste demographics and family types, highlighting differences between joint and nuclear families. This comprehensive breakdown illustrates the diverse socio-economic factors influencing farming communities in the region.

NATURE OF INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATED THROUGH FPO.

Table 2: Revealed the Change in Income after Co-ordinate with FPO

Category	Marginal (<1 Hectare)	Small (1-2 Hectares)	Semi-medium (2-4 Hectares)	Medium (4-6 Hectares)	Large (>6 Hectares)
Average Income Before FPO	Rs. 8,000	Rs. 10,128	Rs. 12,500	Rs. 15,254	Rs. 38,456
Average Income After FPO	Rs. 11,000	Rs. 14,223	Rs. 16,000	Rs. 19,135	Rs. 45,365
Average Increment in Income	Rs. 3,000	Rs. 4,095	Rs. 3,500	Rs. 3,881	Rs. 6,909
Average Increment in Income (%)	37.5%	40.43%	Approx. 28%	27%	17.96%
Employment to Farmers	20	38	35	31	30

Table 2, illustrates the financial impact of coordinating with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) on farmers' incomes across various landholding categories. The data reveals increase in average income before and after joining FPOs for all categories—from marginal lands less than 1 hectare to large farms over 6 hectares. For instance, marginal farmers saw their income rise from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 11,000, while large farmers' income increased from Rs. 38,456 to Rs. 45,365. The percentage increment in income ranged from about 18% for large holders to over 40% for small farmers. Additionally, the table shows employment benefits, with the number of farmers gaining employment due to FPOs ranging from 20 in the marginal category to 38 in the small category.

CONCLUSION

The study successfully illustrated the diverse socio-economic backgrounds of farmers within the Jhotwara block of Jaipur, highlighting the predominance of small-scale farming and revealing significant demographic details such as age, gender, education level, and family structure. The analysis identified a vibrant young farming population, which bodes well for the adoption of innovative and sustainable agricultural practices. Gender disparities in land ownership and educational levels indicated areas needing targeted policy interventions.

Furthermore, the positive impact of FPOs on farmers' income levels across all sizes of landholdings demonstrates the effectiveness of collective action in securing better market prices, improving access to agricultural resources, and enhancing overall productivity. The research documented not only income enhancements but also better access to markets and resources, which are crucial for sustainable development and empowerment of the agricultural community.

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