

**Research Note**

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26725/JEE.2018.2.30.6083-6087>**Profile Characteristics of and Constraints faced by Banana Growers****N. Amaladeepan<sup>1</sup> and J. Pushpa<sup>2</sup>.****ABSTRACT**

*This study explored the socio-economic characteristics of the banana growers and the constraints faced by them in banana cultivation in Thoothukudi district of TamilNadu. The major constraints faced by them were, non availability of labour during cultivation time, inadequate irrigation facility, heavy damage by wind, high labour wages and fluctuation in market price.*

**Keywords:** Socio-Economic Characteristics; Constraints; Banana growers; Tamil Nadu

In India, Tamil Nadu is the leading producer of banana at 43,31,650 tonnes with a share of about 14.87 % in the overall production of banana (APEDA, 2015 -16). Though Tamil Nadu ranks first in production of banana, productivity is less compared to the other leading banana producing states in the country. Hence, there was a need to study the socio-Economic characteristics of banana growers and the constraints faced by them in Banana cultivation in order to enhance the productivity of banana in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.

**METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu. In Thoothukudi district, two blocks viz., Srivaikundam and Alwarthirunagiri were selected for this study where the area under banana cultivation is predominant.

Among them, two villages were selected from each block, where the area under Banana cultivation was predominant. From these selected four villages, 120 farmers growing banana were selected by applying proportionate random sampling method. The respondents were interviewed individually with the help of a well structured interview schedule to assess the socio-economic characteristics. Then they were asked to mention the constraints that limited the adoption of cultivation technologies of banana growers. Finally, the results were analysed and interpreted.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS****Socio-Economic Characteristics of Banana Growers**

In Social science research, it is essential to analyse the characteristics of farmers which

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will give a basic and clear understanding about the background of farmers.

The Socio-Economic characteristics of banana growers are given in Table 1.

**Table 1.**  
**Socio-Economic Characteristics of Banana Growers**

(n=120)

Sl.No	Category	Number	Percentage
I.	<b>Age:</b>		
1.	Young	7	5.83
2.	Middle	27	22.50
3.	Old	86	71.67
II.	<b>Educational Status</b>		
1.	Illiterate	-	-
2.	Functionally literate	-	-
3.	Primary school education	6	5.00
4.	Middle school education	48	40.00
5.	Secondary school education	22	18.33
6.	High school education	26	21.67
7.	Collegiate education	18	15.00
III.	<b>Occupational Status</b>		
1.	Farming alone	71	59.17
2.	Farming + wage earners	28	23.33
3.	Farming + business	19	15.83
4.	Farming+ services	2	1.67
IV.	<b>Family Type</b>		
1.	Joint family	48	40.00
2.	Nuclear family	72	60.00
V.	<b>Farm Size</b>		
1.	Marginal farmers <2.5 acres	33	27.50
2.	Small farmers (2.51 - 5.0 acres)	41	34.17
3.	Medium farmers (5.01 - 10.00)	25	20.83
4.	Big farmers (>10 acres)	21	17.50
VI.	<b>Area under Selected Crop (Banana)</b>		
1.	< 2.5 acres	47	39.17
2.	2.5 -5.0 acres	37	30.83
3.	5.01- 10.0 acres	21	17.50
4.	>10.0 acres	15	12.50

## Profile Characteristics of and Constraints faced by Banana Growers

Sl.No	Category	Number	Percentage
<b>VII.</b>	<b>Farming Experience in Banana Cultivation</b>		
1.	Low	43	35.83
2.	Medium	66	55.00
3.	High	11	9.17
<b>VIII.</b>	<b>Information Seeking Behaviour</b>		
1.	Low	36	30.00
2.	Medium	48	40.00
3.	High	36	30.00
<b>IX.</b>	<b>Social Participation</b>		
1.	Low	6	5.00
2.	Medium	105	87.50
3.	High	9	7.50
<b>X.</b>	<b>Innovativeness</b>		
1.	Low	9	7.50
2.	Medium	68	56.67
3.	High	43	35.83
<b>XI.</b>	<b>Scientific Orientation</b>		
1.	Low	33	27.50
2.	Medium	72	60.00
3.	High	15	12.50
<b>XII.</b>	<b>Risk Orientation</b>		
1.	Low	21	17.50
2.	Medium	68	56.67
3.	High	31	25.83
<b>XIII.</b>	<b>Progressiveness</b>		
1.	Low	43	35.83
2.	Medium	35	29.17
3.	High	42	35.00
<b>XIV.</b>	<b>Credit Orientation</b>		
1.	Low	24	20.00
2.	Medium	41	34.17
3.	High	55	45.83
<b>XV.</b>	<b>Economic Motivation</b>		
1.	Low	33	27.50
2.	Medium	50	41.67
3.	High	37	30.83

Sl.No	Category	Number	Percentage
<b>XVI.</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>		
1.	Up to Rs. 50000	2	1.67
2.	From Rs.50000 to 100000	20	16.67
3.	Above Rs.100000	98	81.67

From Table 1, it could be observed that, majority of the banana growers were old aged, had middle school education, had farming alone as their occupation, small farmers, had cultivated banana in less than 2.5 acres, had medium to high level of information seeking behaviour, had medium level of experience in banana cultivation, medium level of social participation, medium level of innovativeness, medium level of scientific orientation, risk orientation and economic motivation, had low level of progressiveness,

had high level of credit orientation and had an annual income of more than one lakh rupees.

### Constraints Faced by the Banana Growers in Banana Cultivation

Constraint analysis is becoming one of the important components of research. Without analysing the constraints, it is impossible to diffuse the needed technologies among the farming community. The constraints faced by the banana growers are given in Table 2.

**Table 2.**  
**Constraints Faced by the Banana Growers in Banana Cultivation**

(n = 120)

Sl.No.	CONSTRAINTS	Number	Percentage
1.	Non availability of labour	97	80.83
2.	Inadequate irrigation facilities	95	79.17
3.	Heavy damage by wind	85	70.83
4.	High labour wages	80	66.67
5.	Fluctuation in market price	64	53.33
6.	More distance of market place	24	20.00
7.	Inadequate credit facilities	11	9.17
8.	More incidence of pests and diseases	10	8.33
9.	Lack of storage facilities	8	6.67
10.	Inadequate extension support	6	5.00
11.	Lack of technical guidance	4	3.33
12.	Non availability of inputs in time	3	2.50

From Table 2, it is concluded that non availability of labour during cultivation time was the major constraint reported by 80.83 per cent of the respondents. This might be mainly due to hundred days employment programme (MGNREGA) followed by 79.17 per cent of the respondents who reported that inadequate irrigation facility as a constraint for them. Nearly three-fourths of the respondents (70.83 %) expressed heavy damage by wind as a major constraint.

The result is in accordance with the findings of Poonam (2010) who had also reported that heavy damage by wind, fluctuation in market price, inadequate irrigation facilities and non-availability of input in time were the constraints faced by the Banana growers.

From the findings derived in this study, certain broad implications have been brought out in formulating strategies for the benefits of banana growers. The study revealed that the banana growers differed widely in their profile. It is essential to enhance the adoption level of the banana growers through proper demonstration and training. The study revealed that the major constraints in banana cultivation were heavy damage by wind, inadequate irrigation facilities and non availability of labour for intercultural

operations. Hence, it is recommended that extension personnel need to take steps in popularizing casuarina cultivation to protect banana crop from heavy winds.

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