

## Farmers Profile of Imphal West District

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Imphal West district during 2015 to investigate the socioeconomic profiles of rural farmers. The primary data was collected through structured questionnaire. Three villages from each block were selected randomly, thus the study was conducted in six villages namely Ngairangbam, Moidangpok, Heigrujam, Kodompokpi, Meitram and Hiyangthang. Farmers were selected randomly from each of the selected villages, making a total of 150 farmers. Most of the farmers (69.33%) belonged to medium size land holding category and most of them were middle aged. Majority of the farmers were found to have cattle (61.33%), where 18.66% of the farmers have Buffaloes, 62% have poultry, 42% duckery and 26% have piggery. Most of the farmer (68.67%) belonged to medium family size group. Annual income of the farmers ranges from Rs. 35,000/- to Rs.735,000/-.

**Key words:** Block, Imphal West, Questionnaire, Rural farmer, Socioeconomic Profile.

### INTRODUCTION

Manipur is one of the seven states of Northeast India. The state is bound by Nagaland in the north, Mizoram in the south, Assam in the west, and by the borders of the country Burma in the east as well as in the south. The state capital of Manipur is Imphal. Manipur has currently nine administrative districts, five in the hills viz. Senapati, Tamenglong, Churachandpur, Chandel and Ukhrul; and four in the central valley viz. Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal and Bishnupur. The Imphal West District has two categories of land forms, namely valley plains which constitute the major portion of the district and foot hills. It is a tiny plain at the centre of Manipur

surrounded by Plains of other districts. The district is endowed with a rich variety of vegetation. The prevailing climatic conditions are favorable for growing a wide range of herbs, shrubs, and also flowering and non-flowering trees. In addition, a variety of medicinal plants are also grown in the district. The present study has been designed to investigate the socioeconomic profiles of rural farmers in Imphal West District.

### MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the farmers from the selected villages of Imphal West Districts formed the universe of the study. Three villages from each block were selected randomly.

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Thus the study was conducted in six villages namely Ngairangbam, Moidangpok, Heigrujam, Kodompokpi, Meitram and Hiyangthang. Farmers were selected randomly from each of the selected villages, making a total of 150 farmers. Primary data was personally collected from the respondents through structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was based on both closed and open form questions.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study provided the following information regarding the socioeconomic profiles of rural farmers of Imphal West District.

### Age of the Farmers

It is evident from Table 1 that the largest percentage (60%) of the farmer belonged to the middle age category (41-63years) whereas only 19.33 and 20.66 percent of them were in the young age (<41years) and old age(>63years) category, respectively. The age of respondents was ranged from 30 to 75 years. This show that majority of the farmer who participate in agricultural activities had older and middle age group. Saha and Gupta<sup>4</sup> reported that most of the dairy farmers (74%) belonged to the middle age category. Sharma<sup>5</sup> revealed that 35.5 percent of dairy farmer belonged to younger age ( 18 – 33 years ), 51.5 percent middle age ( 34 – 39 years ), 12.9 percent older age ( 50 and above years). This show that majority of the dairy farmer who participate in agricultural activities had younger and middle age group.

### Caste of the Farmers

All the farmers were found to be of one caste only i.e. O.B.C. (Meitei)

### Religion of the farmers

All the farmers were found to be of one religion only i.e. Hindu.

### Land holdings of the Farmer

It indicates from Table 2 indicates that 69.66 percent of the respondent belonged to medium farm size category, possessing between (0.35 – 2.73 hectares) only 18 percent of them possessed large farm size category. Possession farm size by the respondents ranged from 0.0125 to 7 hectares.

### Herd size of the Farmer

Majority of the farmers were found to have cattle (61.33%), where as 18.66% of the farmers had Buffaloes, 62% of them had poultry, 42% of them had duckery and 26% of them had piggery. (Table3)

### Source of income of the Farmers

All of the farmers had agricultural source of income and 99.33% had Non-agricultural source of income. (Table 4)

### Level of income of Farmers

Majority (82.00%) of the farmers were found to have medium level of income followed by high (12.66%) and 5.33% were under low level of income. Annual income of the farmers ranges from Rs. 35,000/-to Rs.735,000/- (Table 5).

### Type of Family of Farmers

Of all the farmers 51.33% of the farmer family were found to be Nucleus family and 48.67% joint family. Mande and Thombre<sup>3</sup> reported that Majority of respondents were nuclear type of family with medium family size. (Table 6)

### Size of family

Table7 shows that most of the farmer, i.e. 68.67 percent were under medium family size group while the remaining farmers, i.e. 17.33 percent and 14 percent belonged to small (<4 members) and large (>7 members) family size respectively. The total number of the family members varies from the 2 – 11. Saha and Gupta<sup>4</sup> reported that most of the dairy farmers (46%) belonged to medium family size. Astikar<sup>1</sup> noticed that 43.34 percent of the dairy farmers belong to the small size of family (upto 5 members) while 41 percent has medium size of family (06-10 members) and only 15 percent belong to the large size of family (more than 10 members).

### Level of Education of Farmer

From Table 8, 13.33 percent of the farmer had low level of education, 58.667 percent had medium and 28 percent had high level of education. The level of education of respondents varies from illiterate to graduate/post graduate. Saha and Gupta<sup>4</sup> reported that most of the farmers exhibited low level education and medium family education status. Deshpande<sup>2</sup> found that most of the dairy

farmers (43.15 percent) were illiterate followed by 30.52 percent were educated up to primary school level.

#### Social Participation of the Farmers

Out of all the farmers 41.33% of them were member of religious committee, 38.66 % were associated with SHGs, 25.33% of them were members in Youth clubs, 21.33% of them were member of political organizations and 16 % Farmers were members in panchayat (Table

9). Saha and Gupta<sup>4</sup> reported that most (65 percent) of the respondents had low level of social participation and 69 % belonged to medium level of participation

#### Communication Facilities of the Farmers

Among all the communication facilities used by the farmers, radio got 1st rank followed by films, farm literature, and Agricultural Exhibition (Table 10).

**Table 1: Age of the farmers n=150**

Particulars (years)	Frequency	Percentage
Young(<41)	29	19.33
Middle aged(41to 63)	90	60.00
Old(>63)	31	20.67

**Table 2: Land holdings of the Farmer n=150**

Category (ha)	Frequency	Percentage
1.Small(<0.35)	19	12.66
2.Medium(0.35to 2.73)	104	69.33
3.Large(>2.73)	27	18.00

**Table 3: Herd size of the Farmers n=150**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
1. Cattle	92	61.33
2. Buffalo	28	18.66
3. Poultry	93	62.00
4. Duckery	63	42.00
5. Piggery	39	26.00

**Table 4: Source of income n=150**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Primary source(Agriculture)	150	100
Secondary source(Non-agriculture)	149	99.3

**Table 5: Level of income of Farmers n=150**

Category (Rs)	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<44,345.6)	8	5.33
Medium(44,345.6 to 2,51,366.4 )	123	82.00
High(>2,51,366.4)	19	12.66

**Table 6: Type of family of Farmers n=150**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Joint	73	48.67
Nucleus	77	51.33

**Table 7: Family Size of Farmer n=150**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.Small(<4)	26	17.33
2.Medium(4to 8)	103	68.67
3.Large(>8)	21	14.00

**Table 8: Level of Education of Farmer****n=150**

Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.Less educated (<1.703)	20	13.33
2.Medium educated (<1.703 to >3.737)	88	58.67
3.Highly educated (>3.737)	42	28.00

**Table 9: Social participation of farmers****n=150**

Social Participation	Frequency	Percentage
Panchayat	24	16.00
Religious committee	62	41.33
political organizations	32	21.33
Cooperative society	42	28.00
Youth club	38	25.33
SHGs	58	38.66

**Table 10: Communication Facilities of Farmers****n=150**

Category	Mean score	Ranking
1. Radio	3.00	I
2. Farm literature	1.95	III
3. Films	2.85	II
4. Agricultural Exhibition	1.68	IV

### CONCLUSION

From the facts and figures it can be observed that most of the farmers of Imphal West District are middle aged. All the farmers who were interviewed for the study belonged under Other Backward Caste (Meitei) and they belonged to Hinduism religion. Most of the farmers (69.33%) belonged to medium size land holding category. Majority of the farmers were found to have cattle (61.33%), where 18.66% of the farmers have Buffaloes, 62% have poultry, 42% duckery and 26% have piggery. Most of the farmer (68.67%) belonged to medium family size group. Out of all the farmers 16 % Farmers were members in panchayat, 41.33% of them were member of religious committee , 21.33% of them were member of political organizations, 25.33% of them were members in Youth clubs and 38.66 % were associated with SHGs. Among all the communication facilities used by the farmers, radio got 1st rank followed by films, farm literature, and Agricultural Exhibition.

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