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### Socio-economic profile of wheat growers in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh

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#### Abstract

This research paper examines the socio-economic profile of wheat growers, highlighting their diversity in terms of Age, education, size of family, annual income, working experience, land holding, social participation, extension contact, communication & media exposure, innovativeness and risk taking behavior. Wheat cultivation emerges as a cornerstone of local and national economies, providing livelihoods for millions and significantly contributing to agricultural output and food security. The study has been carried out in the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh state. Selection of respondents was done by random sampling method and 10 respondents were selected from each identified village to make a total sample size of 120. Descriptive research design was followed for the present study. For the analysis of data Arithmetic mean, Standard deviation, Frequency, Percentage, Minimum and Maximum value were used. Analysis of data reveals that most farmers are middle-aged, literate, with moderate family sizes and incomes. They have extensive agricultural experience but often hold marginal land. While most are members of agricultural organizations, some are not. Overall, wheat growers exhibit moderate levels of engagement in extension services, communication, innovativeness, and risk-taking behavior. Targeted approaches are essential to meet their diverse needs and enhance their contributions to global agriculture and economic stability.

**Keywords:** Socio-economic, wheat growers, literate, arithmetic mean, standard deviation etc.

#### Introduction

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) is one of the most vital cereal crops globally, serving as a staple food source for a significant portion of the world's population. Its cultivation dates back thousands of years, with evidence suggesting domestication around 10,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent, marking a pivotal moment in agricultural history. Since then, wheat has evolved into various species and adapted to diverse climates and agricultural practices, becoming indispensable in both food security and economic stability worldwide.

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) the world's largest cereal crop belongs to Graminae (Poaceae) family of the genus *Triticum*. It has been described as the "King of cereals" because of the acreage it occupies, high productivity and the prominent position in the international food grain trade. It is grown all over the world for its highly nutritious and useful grain, as one of the top three most produced crops, along with corn and rice. It is used in the production of bread, biscuits, feeds, confectionary, amongst many, utilization. The crop, which has been cultivated for over 10,000 years probably, originates in the Fertile Crescent, along with other staple crops.

Today, wheat cultivation occupies vast agricultural landscapes across six continents, with production concentrated in regions with temperate climates, although it is grown in a wide range of environments, from the humid

plains of Asia to the dry highlands of Africa. Its adaptability to different climates and soil types, coupled with advances in agricultural technology, has significantly boosted global production over the past century. The significance of wheat extends beyond its role as a staple food. It is a valuable commodity in international trade, influencing global markets and economies. Moreover, wheat serves as a critical component in the livestock feed industry and is increasingly used in biofuel production, highlighting its multifaceted economic importance.

#### Methodology

The study has been carried out in the Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh state. The purpose of choosing this area is to know the socio-economic profile of wheat growers in the study area. There are total 17 blocks in Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh out of that Reoti and Belahari blocks were selected for the present investigation. Six villages were selected from each identified block through random sampling method. Interview schedule was prepared to collect the required information, for that several questions and statements were prepared. Wheat growers were the universe for the study. Selection of respondents was done by random sampling method and 10 respondents were selected from each identified village to make a total sample size of 120. Descriptive research design was followed. It describe the characteristics of a population or phenomenon being

studied. For the analysis of data Arithmetic mean, Standard deviation, Frequency, Percentage, Minimum and Maximum value were used.

## Results and Discussion

**Table 1:** Distribution of respondents according to their socio-economic conditions

S. No.	Variables	Category	Respondents	
1.	Age	Young age (up to 31)	20	16.67
		Middle age (32-58)	70	58.33
		Old age (59 & above)	30	25.00
2.	Education	Illiterate	5	04.16
		Primary	22	18.33
		Middle	37	30.83
		High School	32	26.66
		Intermediate	15	12.50
3.	Size of family	Graduate & Above	09	07.50
		Small family	34	28.34
		Medium family	59	49.16
4.	Annual income	Large family	27	22.50
		Low (up to 0.42)	39	32.50
		Medium (0.42001-3.63)	58	48.33
5.	Working experience	High (3.63001 & above)	23	19.17
		Agriculture	77	64.17
		Agriculture with caste based work	25	20.83
6.	Land holding	Agriculture + Business / Service	18	15.00
		Marginal (0-1.0 ha)	62	51.66
		Small (1.01-2.0 ha)	39	32.50
		Medium (2.01-4.0 ha)	16	13.34
7.	Social participation	Large (4.01 ha & above)	03	02.50
		No membership in any organization	29	24.17
		Member in one organization	62	51.66
		Member in two organization	23	19.17
8.	Extension contact	Member in more than two organization/office bearer	6	05.00
		Low (up to 87)	29	24.16
		Medium (88-102)	67	55.84
9.	Communication and media exposure	High (103 & above)	24	20.00
		Low (up to 87)	31	25.83
		Medium (88-103)	64	53.33
10.	Innovativeness	High (104 & above)	25	20.84
		Low (up to 12)	31	25.83
		Medium (13-15)	63	52.50
11.	Risk taking behavior	High (16 & above)	26	21.67
		Low (up to 21)	31	25.83
		Medium (22-27)	68	56.67
		High (28 & above)	21	17.50

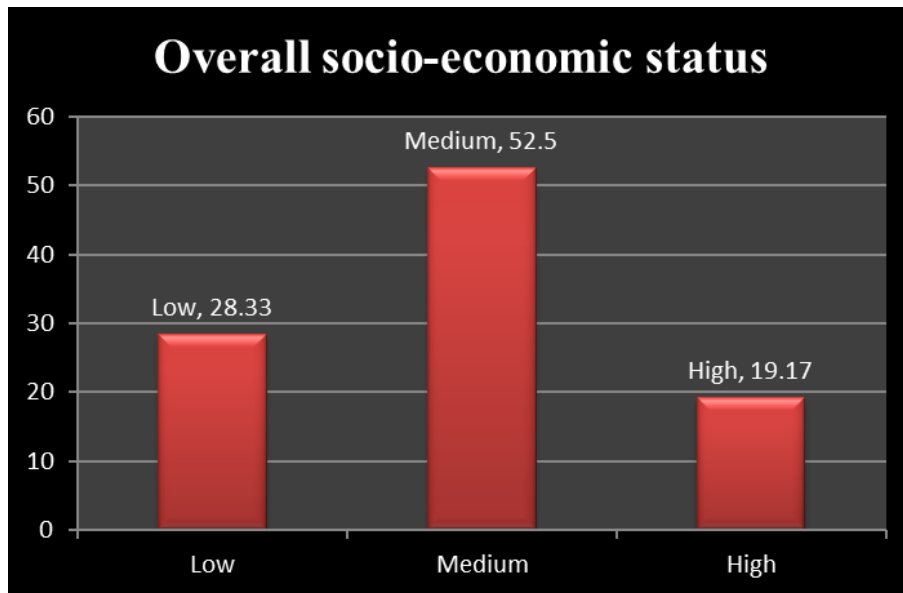
f = Frequency, % = per cent

- Age:** Data incorporated in table 1 reveals that the majority of the respondents (58.33 per cent) were in the category of 26-50 years of age followed by 25.83 per cent and 15.83 per cent for 51 and above and up to 25 years of age respectively. So, the majority of the wheat growers fall in the category of 26-50 years of age.
- Education:** Data furnished in table 1 shows that majority of respondents i.e. 30.83 per cent of respondents were educated up to middle school followed by 26.66 per cent of respondents were educated up to high school and 18.33 per cent of respondents were educated up to primary level, further analysis of table shows that 12.50 per cent of respondents were educated up to Intermediate and 7.50 per cent of respondents were educated up to graduate & above and only 04.16 per cent of respondents were illiterate.
- Size of family:** Data in table 1 shows that out of 120 respondents 49.16 percent of respondents were belonged to medium family size and 28.34 percent respondents were had small family type and rest 22.50 per cent of respondents were belonged to large family size.
- Annual income:** Data incorporated in table 1 shows that out of 120 respondents 48.33 per cent of respondents were had medium level of annual income followed by 32.50 per cent of respondents were had low level of annual income and rest 19.17 per cent of respondents were had high level of annual income.
- Working experience:** Out of 120 respondents 64.17 per cent of respondents were associated with working experience of agriculture followed by 20.83 per cent of respondents were associated with Agriculture with caste based work and rest 15.00 per cent of respondents were associated with Agriculture + Business / Service.
- Land holding:** Out of 120 respondents 51.66 per cent of respondents were belonged to marginal group of land holding followed by 32.50 per cent of respondents were belonged to small level category of land holding furthermore 13.34 per cent of respondents were belonged to medium level category of land holding and rest 02.50 per cent of respondents were belonged to large land holding category.
- Social participation:** Reveals that majority of respondents (51.66%) were member in one organization followed by (24.17%) of respondents were had no membership in any organization further analysis of data shows that (19.17%) of respondents were member in two organization and rest (05.00%) of respondents were Member in more than two organization/office bearer.
- Extension contact:** Reveals that majority of respondents i.e. 55.84 were had medium level of overall extension contact followed by 24.16 per cent of respondents were had low level of overall extension contact and rest 20.00 per cent of respondents were had high level of overall extension contact.
- Communication and media exposure:** Reveals that majority of respondents i.e. 53.33 per cent of respondents were had medium level of Communication and media exposure while 25.83 per cent of respondents were had low level of Communication and media exposure and rest 20.84 per cent of respondents were had high level of Communication and media exposure.
- Innovativeness:** Vividly revealed that majority of respondents i.e. 52.50 per cent were had medium level of innovativeness followed by 25.83 per cent of respondents were had low level of innovativeness and rest 21.67 per cent of respondents were had high level of innovativeness.
- Risk taking behavior:** Reveals that majority of respondents i.e. 56.67 per cent were belonged to medium level of risk taking behavior followed by 25.83 per cent of respondents were belonged to low level of risk taking behavior and rest 17.50 per cent of respondents were belonged to high level of risk taking behavior.

**Table 2:** Overall socio-economic status of wheat growers n=120

S. No.	Categories	Respondents	
		f	%
1.	Low (up to 50)	34	28.33
2.	Medium (51-76)	63	52.50
3.	High (77 & above)	23	19.17
	Total	120	100.00

Mean: 63.27, S.D: 13.56 f= Frequency, % = per cent



**Fig 1:** Overall socio-economic status of wheat growers

Data furnished in table 2 and fig.1 reveals that majority of wheat growers i.e. 52.50 per cent had medium level of socio-economic status followed by 28.33 per cent of respondents were had low level of socio-economic status and rest 19.17 per cent of respondents were had high level of socio-economic status.

Farmers often maintain a medium socio-economic status due to income variability from agriculture, limited access to resources like technology and finance, dependency on fluctuating market conditions, and generally lower educational opportunities. These factors combine to hinder significant wealth accumulation or upward mobility, keeping many farmers in the middle-income bracket.

**Conclusion**

The study concludes that wheat growers are a diverse group with varying access to education, technology, and financial resources. Tailored policies are needed to support different segments, from smallholder farmers in developing nations to large-scale producers in industrialized countries. Wheat cultivation plays a crucial role in local and national economies, providing livelihoods for millions and contributing significantly to agricultural output and food security. Most farmers are middle-aged, literate, with moderate family sizes and incomes. They have extensive agricultural experience but often hold marginal land. While most are members of agricultural organizations, some are not. Overall, wheat growers exhibit moderate levels of engagement in extension services, communication, innovativeness, and risk-taking behavior. Targeted approaches are essential to meet their diverse needs and

enhance their contributions to global agriculture and economic stability.

**Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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