PEZZOTTAITE JOURNALS

Volume 7, Number 3, July – September' 2018
ISSN (Print): 2279-0977, (Online): 2279-0985
SJIF (2016): 7.056, SJIF (2017): 8.980
H5-Index: 2, H5-Median: 2, H-Citations: 4

SOCIO–ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FARMERS: A STUDY OF RURAL PUNJAB

Harpominder Jit Kaur[2] Dr. Shalini Gupta[3]

ABSTRACT

This study aims at impact of socio-economic characteristics of farmers on access to agricultural financing. Data have been collected using a structured questionnaire. Findings suggest that the amount of agricultural credit that can be borrowed by the farmers is significantly affected by their age, marital status, education, number of dependents farm status, farm size, and education level, income from farming. The present research is based upon primary and secondary data. The socio-economic features of the 400 sampled farmers have bearing on the use of inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, labor charges, insecticides, pesticides etc., and in turn on economic surplus or deficit, investment pattern, amount borrowed, sources of borrowings and the utilization of credit. The attributes of the sampled farmer borrowers guide them to utilize the borrowed farm credit. The conscious farmer borrowers behave properly and therefore, utilize the loan for that purpose only as is mentioned in their loan applications. On the other hand, less conscious farmer borrowers behave indifferently and therefore, divert the farm credit for unproductive purposes. Such attributes of the sampled farmers has been brought to light through the study of socio economic factors of the borrowers. To achieve this specific objective of study the primary data has been collected from 400 sample farmers and has been analyzed. The results of research paper are thus, based on the primary data which has been duly analyzed. The 400 sample farmers are a good mixture of 46 (11.5 per cent) marginal farmers, 104 (26 per cent) small farmers, 127 (31.75 per cent) semi-medium farmers, 96 (24 per cent) medium farmers and 27(6.75 percent) large farmers.

INTRODUCTION

Punjab is a progressive state of India and has earned the distinction of being the "Granary of India". After the Green Revolution the agriculture in all the states of India particularly in the Punjab State, is not only serving as subsistence but also served for the improvement of the socio-economic development of the farmers. The Govt. of India and the Reserve Bank of India to give top priority to the small and marginal farmers and agricultural laborers, both in credit disbursement, have issued special directives and credit linked subsidies. For this purpose Small Farmers Development Agencies, the Central Government set up (SFDA) Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labour Agency (MFALA) in each district of all the states. These schemes were launched with credit as the main instrument. The credit-linked subsidy in case of small farmers was 25 per cent, in the case of Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Laborers was 33.33 per cent of the amount of loan disbursed. The subsidy was treated as seed money (borrower's own contribution) by the banks in such schemes sponsored under SFDA and MFALA. The purpose was to increase the income of the small and marginal farmers by providing credit and subsidy for agriculture and allied activities. With the increase in income, the farmers can improve their socio-economic conditions. Later on in 1978, Integrated Rural Development Programme was introduced which replaced MFALA/SFDA Programmes. Successful implementation of socio-economic developmental programme calls for effective coordination between the financial institutions and Government Departments. It also helps in improving efficiency of resources' allocation and identifying infrastructural gaps. The State Level Bankers' Committee Meetings constituted by the RBI under the Lead Bank Scheme periodically monitor performance under social schemes on quarterly basis. The banks in the state of Punjab have increased the supply of credit to agriculture for the alleviation of socio-economic conditions of the poor farmers particularly the small and marginal farmers. Accordingly, the Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and the Co-operative Banks through their 6920 branches and 3667 Co-operative Societies have disbursed agriculture credit at increasing trend. The increase in number of branches of these banks has accelerated the flow of credit to the agriculture sector on the one side and increased the deposits of the rural bank branches on the other side**.**

[2]Research Scholar, Department of Business Management & Commerce, Desh Bhagat University, Punjab, India, hsidhu13.mgt@gmail.com
[3] Professor, Department of Business Management & Commerce, Desh Bhagat University, Punjab, India, iedc@deshbhagatuniversity.in

Volume 7, Number 3, July – September' 2018
ISSN (Print): 2279-0977, (Online): 2279-0985
SJIF (2016): 7.056, SJIF (2017): 8.980
H5-Index: 2, H5-Median: 2, H-Citations: 4

It has been found that the institutional finance helped to improve the socio-economic conditions of the small, marginal and other farmers to some extent**.**

The amount of agriculture credit that can be borrowed by the farmers is significantly affected by their age, marital status, education, number of dependents, other occupations, farm size, farm status, tenancy status, farming experience, income from farming, income from other occupations, member of farm organizations, Co-operative Societies etc.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SCENARIO

Economic activities in the state are showing constructural change, over last few decades. Primary sector encounter a downfall both in its share of state domestic product and share of workforce. When we talk about socio- economic conditions, the issue of farmers committing suicides takes a priority. Suicides by cultivators and agriculture laborers have been reported in Punjab since the mid-1980s. This is caused by a multi-dimensional crisis of post-green revolution phase of agricultural development. Recently there has been an increase in the number of suicides in Punjab especially in Sangrur District (lehragagga). Suicide may occur for a number of reasons. Some of these are depression, shame, pain, financial conditions, difficulties, etc. There are a number of Socio-economic risk factors which include high debt, crop failure due to natural disasters, decline in social position, burden of big fat weddings, drug addictions, dispute in families, health problem etc. Thus, this issue demands high attention. The present study tries to understand the socio- economic status of farmers of districts Ropar, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, and Bathinda to find the reasons for higher incidence of suicides. Along with these factors, increased cost of production also constitutes to farmers woes. Indian agriculture has to be of better quality and low priced. The situation worsened and in 1997, the debt burden of agriculture farmers of Punjab stood at Rs. 5700.19 crores. Exorbitant rates by moneylenders in the state charge from 18 to 30 % which is in-fact impossible to return the money and turning to more indebtedness. This study attempts to access the main reasons of indebtedness in the above said districts of Punjab. Land holdings of farmers reduce productivity. According to a saying, "If you do cultivate your land as your forefathers, you will not get high output though you are hardworking but if you cultivate your land with new techniques you will get high output weather you are less hardworking." Thus, technology helps to enhance productivity. The main reason behind indebtedness is small agriculture holdings. Small agriculture holdings resulted in low productivity because new techniques and machinery are not adept for these smallholdings. Lack of knowledge about new techniques, methods of production, Hybrid seeds, and supply of efficient agricultural inputs are also responsible for low productivity. The agricultural farmers in these areas are backward and use old methods of production. All these reasons are responsible for increasing suicide in these areas. The present study focuses on analyzing the socio-economic status of above said districts to understand whether the situation has improved or what steps are needed to improve it.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Most of the studies concentrated on evaluating the impact of new agricultural technology on the level of poverty, indebtedness, income, consumption expenditure, etc. of the marginal and small farmers. A brief review of these studies is given as under:

Duraiswami (1950) attempted to examine the problem of low income. The study also revealed that there is a scope for increasing income of the sub marginal farmers by financing them to maintain livestock.

Misra (1961) conducted a study to analyze the distribution of income among farmers. The study revealed that the crop incomes of majority of the families were low as their landholdings were very small. The study also revealed that the poverty of the people in these areas was quite visible. The causes of the poverty were the low man-land ratio, lack of facilities for double and multiple cropping and lack of subsidiary occupations.

Shastri (1963) attempted to examine the levels of living of cultivating families. The study revealed that expenditure of per family and expenditure of per adult male unit increases with increase in farm -size. The study also highlighted the fact that major proportion of income was spent on only food items.

Bhalla (2005) examined the incidence of suicides by farmers in rural Punjab. He found that the 53 confirmed cases of suicides were spread over 14 villages. The researcher examined that 45.20 per cent of the victims were landless labourers, 25 per cent small and marginal farmers, 18.80 per cent lower medium farmers. The researcher highlighted that the agricultural labourers and poor peasants or farmers account for 70 per cent of the suicides from the confirmed cases in the villages. He concluded that the main cause of suicides was family discord, whilst alcohol and illicit drugs' use ranks next to family discord. He also further concluded that the economic causes, such as indebtedness, loss of status, lack of resources and crop failure accounted for 42.10 per cent of the suicides. The author further concluded that the rest of the suicides were caused by death in the family, quarrel with in-laws and impotency.

Sidhu et al (2005) reviewed the impact of income, employment and productivity growth in the farming sector of Punjab. Their study revealed that favourable input output pricing policy and easy and cheap availability of short-term credit in the state of Punjab had substantially increased the higher use of inputs. The researchers observed that the seeds of commercialization of agriculture in Punjab were sown with the introduction of high yielding varieties of wheat and rice, followed by the use of chemical fertilizers and investment in irrigation, diseases and insect-pests management, and tractorization to ensure timeliness and precision in the farm operations. They concluded that favourable output pricing policy, assured marketing, and subsidies on inputs like power and fertilizers further facilitated this process. They further concluded that agriculture sector, witnessed high growth until mid-1990s and thereafter the growth of agriculture sector started decelerating and profitability started declining in the State of Punjab.

Chowdhary (1970) concluded that the new agricultural technology broaden the income inequality among the different sections of farming and provides proportionately large benefits to the big farmers as compared to the small farmers, because small farmers are slow to accept the new technology. This is due to lack of credit, availability of inputs, control over irrigation input and so on.

Galgalikar et al. (1970) conducted a study to examine the pattern of income distribution, saving and expenditure in village Jalalpur of Parbhani district. In small farm-size holdings, wages formed a substantial portion of gross income and exceeded net income from crop production. Net income per acre decreased with the increase in the size of holding. About consumption, the low income and middle-income groups had resorted to borrowing to meet their consumption expenditure. The higher income group spent proportionately less on food grains. The middle-income group spent proportionately more on ceremonies. The study also revealed that the bulk of the co-operative finance was availed by the high-income group.

Singh et al. (2004) conducted a study in Sangrur district of Punjab state to scrutinize the area and sources of farm loans. The total sample consisted of 120 farmers in two blocks of Sangrur district of Punjab state. The study revealed that the average amount borrowed was Rs. 189750 for the marginal, Rs. 252162 for the small, Rs. 317632 for medium and Rs. 396200 large farmers respectively. The overall results brought out that there is a high level of credit prevalence among the Punjab farmers. Easy availability of credit and ignorance of its long-term negative consequences among farmers can be attributed to the high level of credit. The study also revealed that the average amount of outstanding loans increased with the increase in farm-size, whereas on a per acre basis there was an inverse relationship. Majority of the respondents, i.e., 42.50 per cent could not repay their loans because of the high cost of agricultural inputs, while insufficient income generation, high rate of interest, uneconomical size of landholdings were the other reasons responsible for the non-repayment of loans in time.

Kaur (2010) highlights that as the in the families of farmers who commit suicide are mainly female. Women often become the sole supporters of families. These women, who in times past managed the domestic region and perhaps engaged in light fieldwork, now find themselves playing the new role of meal ticket and sustaining their families among extreme outstanding debt. Given the traditional Punjabi gender dynamic, women are even less likely to be formally educated than men and are unable to find alternative sources of employment.

Okpeke et al. (2015) studied farmers' awareness of the economic importance in Nigeria. The result showed that majority (31.43 per cent) of the respondents were within the age range of 41-50 years, 52.86 per cent were Males,

61.43 per cent were married, 44.30 per cent were civil servants, 34.29 per cent had farming experience of above 15 years, 44.29 per cent had household size of the range of 5-8 persons and 85.71 per cent did not belong.

Samarpitha et al. (2016) studied about socio-economic profile of rice farmer's exploration from Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. The result showed that average age of the farmers was 43.30 years indicating that majority of the farmers were middle aged and were actively taking part in paddy cultivation. Majority (95 per cent) of the farmers were found to have small and medium sized families. The results also showed the general trend among the sample farmers towards having nuclear family. Majority of the farmers cultivated rice on own lands, which may be beneficial because owner farmers have the freedom for large capital investments in equipment's, and input.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research is an attempt to study the impact of socio-economic factors on farmers of Punjab. With a view to have, a proper understanding of the research topic, review of literature, relating to socio economic conditions and its impact on agricultural financing has been thoroughly conducted. Important studies relating to factors effecting socio economic conditions and its impact on agricultural credit conducted by various researchers in India and Punjab have been reviewed.

This study examines relationship of Socio economic factors with agriculture credit; it also includes sampling design, data collection, data analysis, the statistical tools applied in the analysis of data.

Table-1: Education-Wise and Farm Size-Wise Distribution of Farmers

Education		Farm Size Categories											
		Marginal		Small		Semi-Medium		Medium		Large		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Zone I	Below Matriculation	5	35.71	7	19.4	8	25.0	4	26.7	1	25.0	25	25.0
	Matriculation	5	38.5	15	41.7	13	40.6	5	33.3	0	0.0	38	38.0
	Secondary	2	15.4	12	33.3	10	31.3	2	13.3	2	50.0	28	28.0
	Graduate	1	7.7	2	5.6	1	3.1	1	6.7	1	25.0	6	6.0
	Post graduate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Uneducated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	20.0	0	0.0	3	3.0
Zone II	Below Matriculation	2	25.0	4	26.7	6	16.7	9	26.5	3	42.9	24	24.0
	Matriculation	5	62.5	8	53.3	19	52.8	13	38.2	0	0.0	45	45.0
	Secondary	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	13.9	3	8.8	1	14.3	9	9.0
	Graduate	1	12.5	3	30.0	0	0.0	3	8.8	1	14.3	8	8.0
	Post graduate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.9	0	0.0	1	1.0
	Uneducated	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	16.7	5	14.7	2	28.6	13	13.0
Zone III	Below Matriculation	0	0.0	6	24.0	9	26.5	7	25.9	1	14.3	23	23.0
	Matriculation	3	42.9	16	64.0	17	50.0	8	29.6	3	42.9	47	47.0
	Secondary	1	14.3	1	4.0	5	14.7	5	18.5	2	28.6	14	14.0
	Graduate	3	42.9	1	4.0	1	2.9	7	25.9	0	0.0	12	12.0
	Post graduate	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Uneducated	0	0.0	1	4.0	2	5.9	0	0.0	1	14.3	4	4.0
Zone IV	Below Matriculation	7	38.9	9	32.1	3	12.0	3	15.0	2	22.2	24	24.0
	Matriculation	11	61.1	9	32.1	11	44.0	7	35.0	5	55.6	43	43.0
	Secondary	0	0.0	6	21.4	6	24.0	7	35.0	1	11.1	20	20.0
	Graduate	0	0.0	3	10.7	1	4.0	3	15.0	1	11.1	8	8.0

	Post graduate	0	0.0	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0
	Uneducated	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	16.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.0
Total	Below Matriculation	14	30.4	26	25.0	26	20.5	23	24.0	7	25.9	96	24.0
	Matriculation	24	52.2	48	46.2	60	47.2	33	34.4	8	29.6	173	43.25
	Secondary	3	6.5	19	18.3	26	20.5	17	17.7	6	22.2	71	17.75
	Graduate	5	10.9	9	8.7	3	2.4	14	14.6	3	11.1	34	8.5
	Post graduate	0	0.0	1	1.0	0	0.0	1	1.0	0	0.0	2	.5
	Uneducated	0	0.0	1	1.0	12	9.4	8	8.3	3	11.1	24	6.0

Sources: Authors Compilation

Tables-1, highlights the distribution of selected farmers according to different Zones, farm size categories and education level.

In Zone-I, it is found that 35.71 per cent marginal, 19.4 per cent small, 25.0 per cent semi-medium, 26.7 per cent medium and 25.0 per cent large farmers are below Matriculates. 38.5 per cent marginal, 41.7 per cent small, 40.6 per cent semi-medium and 33.3 per cent medium farmers are Matriculates. 15.4 per cent marginal, 33.3 per cent small, 31.3 per cent semi-medium, 13.3 per cent medium and 50. 0 per cent large farmers have passed Higher Secondary Examination. 7.7 per cent marginal, 5.6 per cent small. 3.1 per cent semi-medium, 6.7 per cent medium and 25.0 per cent large farmers are Graduates. There is no farmer with Post Graduate farmer. Only 3 per cent medium farmers are uneducated. The overall position of the **Zone-I** shows that 25 per cent farmers are below Matriculates, 38 per cent sample farmers are Matriculates, 28 per cent sample farmers have passed Higher Secondary Examination and 6 per cent sample farmers are Graduates. There is no sample farmer in this district who is Post Graduate. 3 per cent sample farmers are uneducated.

In Zone-II, 25.0 per cent marginal, 26.7 per cent small, 16.7 per cent semi-medium, 26.5 per cent medium and 42.9 per cent large farmers are below Matriculates. 62.5 per cent marginal, 53.3 per cent small, 52.8 per cent semi-medium and 38.2 per cent medium farmers are Matriculates. 13.9 per cent semi-medium, 8.8 per cent medium and 14.3 per cent large farmers had passed Higher Secondary Examination. 12.5 per cent marginal, 20.0 per cent small. 8.8 per cent medium and 14.3 per cent large farmers are Graduates. 2.9 per cent medium farmers are post Graduates. 16.7 per cent semi-medium, 14.7 medium and 28.6 per cent large farmers are uneducated. The overall position of the Zone-II shows that 24 per cent farmers are below Matriculates, 45 per cent sample farmers are Matriculates, 9 per cent sample farmers have passed Higher Secondary Examination and 8 per cent sample farmers are Graduates. 1 per cent sample medium farmer in this district is Post Graduate. 13 per cent sample farmers are uneducated.

In **Zone-III,** 24.0 per cent small, 26.5 per cent semi-medium, 25.9 per cent medium and 14.3 per cent large farmers are below Matriculates. 42.9 per cent marginal, 64.0 per cent small, 50.0 per cent semi-medium, 29.6 per cent medium and 42.9 per cent large farmers are Matriculates. 14.3 per cent marginal, 4.0 per cent small, 14.7 per cent semi-medium, 18.5 per cent medium and 28.6 per cent large farmers had passed Higher Secondary Examination. 42.9 per cent marginal, 4 per cent small. 2.9 per cent semi-medium, 25.9 per cent medium farmers are Graduates. There is no farmer with post graduation. 4 per cent small, 5.9 per cent semi-medium and 14.3 per cent large farmers are uneducated. The overall position of the **Zone-III** shows that 23 per cent farmers are below Matriculates, 47 per cent sample farmers are Matriculates, 14 per cent sample farmers have passed Higher Secondary Examination, 12 per cent sample farmers are Graduates. There is no sample farmer in this district who is postgraduate. 4.0 per cent sample farmers are uneducated.

In **Zone-IV,** 38.9 per cent marginal, 31.1 per cent small, 12.0 per cent semi-medium, 15.0 per cent medium and 22.2 per cent large farmers are below Matriculates. 61.1 per cent marginal, 32.1 per cent small, 44.0 per cent semi- medium, 35.0 per cent medium and 55.6 per cent large farmers are Matriculates. 21.4 per cent small, 24.0 per cent semi-medium, 35.0 per cent medium and 11.1 per cent large farmers had passed Higher Secondary Examination. 10.7 per cent small. 4.0 per cent semi-medium, 15.0 per cent medium and 11.1 per cent large farmers are Graduates. There are 3.6 per cent small farmers who are Post Graduates. Only 16.0 per cent semi-medium farmers are uneducated. The overall position of the **Zone-IV** shows that 24 per cent farmers are below Matriculates, 43 per cent

sample farmers are Matriculates, 20 per cent sample farmers have passed Higher Secondary Examination and 8 per cent sample farmers are Graduates. There is 1 per cent sample small farmer in this district who is postgraduate. 4 per cent sample farmers are uneducated. The table highlights that 1.0 per cent sample small farmers and 1.0 per cent sample medium farmers are post Graduates in all the four sample districts.

The higher level of education will encourage the farmers to get training in agriculture production, proper utilization of farm credit, adoption of diversified farming practices, availing credit from the formal sources only. With this, the educated farmers can increase production of their crops, increase their income and improve their socio-economic status. The higher crop yield needs higher inputs and higher needs for institutional agriculture credit.

Table-2: Farm Size-Wise and Frequency–Wise Distribution of Farmers

Farm-Size Category	Number	Percentage
Marginal	46	11.5
Small	104	26.0
Semi-Medium	127	31.75
Medium	96	24.0
Large	27	6.75
Total	400	100.0

Sources: Authors Compilation

Table-2 exhibits the compositions of 400 sample farmers according to the size of land holdings. Accordingly, there are 46 (11.50%) marginal farmers, 104 (26.00 %) small farmers, 127 (31.75 %) semi-medium farmers, 96 (24.00%) medium farmers and there are 27 (6.75 %) large farmers out of 400 sample farmers. Thus, the overall position showed that 31.75 per cent of 400 sample farmers are semi-medium farmers, which constitute the majority of the sample farmers. Then, there are 150 sample small and marginal farmers with small size of land holdings and therefore, their credit requirements are less. Because of low income, they are unable to improve their socio- economic status also.

Table-3: Ownership-Wise and Farm Size–Wise Distribution of Farmers

Size of Land Holding Owned		Farm Size Categories											
		Marginal		Small		Semi-Medium		Medium		Large		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Zone I	Land holdings only on lease	1	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0
	Up to 2.5 acre	12	92.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	12	12.0
	2.51 to 5 acre	0	0.0	36	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	36	36.0
	5.01 to 10 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	32	32.0
	10.01 to 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	100.0	1	25.0	16	16.0
	Above 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	75.0	3	3.0
Zone II	Land holdings only on lease	1	12.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0
	Up to 2.5 acre	7	87.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	7.0
	2.51 to 5 acre	0	0.0	15	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	15	15.0
	5.01 to 10 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	36	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	36	36.0
	10.01 to 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	34	100.0	1	14.3	35	35.0
	Above 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	85.7	6	6.0
Zone III	Land holdings only on lease	2	28.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.0
	Up to 2.5 acre	5	71.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	5.0
	2.51 to 5 acre	0	0.0	25	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	25.0

	5.01 to 10 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	34	100.0	1	3.7	0	0.0	35	35.0
	10.01 to 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	26	96.3	5	71.4	31	31.0
	Above 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	28.6	2	2.0
Zone IV	Land holdings only on lease	14	77.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	14.0
	Up to 2.5 acre	4	22.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	4.0
	2.51 to 5 acre	0	0.0	28	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	28	28.0
	5.01 to 10 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	25	100.0	6	30.0	0	0.0	31	31.0
	10.01 to 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	70.0	6	66.7	20	20.0
	Above 25 acres	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	33.3	3	3.0
Total	Land holdings only on lease	18	39.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	4.5
	Up to 2.5 acre	28	60.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	28	7.0
	2.51 to 5 acre	0	0.0	104	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	104	26.0
	5.01 to 10 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	127	100.0	7	7.3	0	0.0	134	33.5
	10.01 to 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	89	92.7	13	48.1	102	25.5
	Above 25 acre	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	51.9	14	3.5

Sources: Authors Compilation

Table-3.1: Ownership-Wise and Farm Size–Wise Distribution of Farmers

Ownership of land and Farm Size Category		Number	Percentage
Owned Land Goldings	Land holdings only on lease basis	18	4.5
	Up to 2.5 acre	28	7.0
	2.51 to 5 acre	104	26.0
	5.01 to 10 acre	134	33.5
	10.01 to 25 acre	102	25.5
	Above 25 acre	14	3.5
	Total	400	100.0

Sources: Authors Compilation

Table 3 and 3.1 indicates that the 400 sample farmers are classified based on size of owned land holdings. Accordingly, out of 400 sample farmers, 18 (4.5%) farmers do not own any land in their names. Then, there are 28 (7.00%) farmers who have land holdings up to 2.5 acres. 104 (26.00%) farmers have land holdings from 2.51 acres to 5 acres. Besides, 134 (33.50%) farmers have land holdings from 5.01 to 10 acres. 102 (25.50%) farmers have land holdings from 10 to 25 acre and, 14 (3.50%) farmers have land holdings of above 25 acre. The total number of marginal and small farmers' is 132. These farmers have less credit requirements due to small size of land holdings. Being poor, they are unable to improve their socio economic status. Majority of the sampled farmers are semi- medium farmers. Only 14 (3.5%) sample farmers are the large farmers who have higher credit requirements for agriculture production.

Table-4: Gender-Wise and Farm Size–Wise Distribution of Farmers

Gender		Farm Size Categories											
		Marginal		Small		Semi-Medium		Medium		Large		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Zone I	Male	12	92.3	35	97.2	32	100.0	15	100.0	4	100.0	98	98.0
	Female	1	7.7	1	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	2.0
Zone II	Male	8	100.0	15	100.0	36	100.0	34	100.0	7	100.0	100	100.0
	Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Zone III	Male	7	100.0	25	100.0	34	100.0	27	100.0	7	100.0	100	100.0
	Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

Zone IV	Male	18	100.0	28	100.0	25	100.0	20	100.0	9	100.0	100	100.0
	Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	Male	45	97.8	103	99.0	127	100.0	96	100.0	27	100.0	398	99.5
	Female	1	2.2	1	1.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	.5

Sources: Authors Compilation

Tables 4 shows that the gender wise classification of the farmers reveals that 398 (99.50 %) sample farmers out of 400 sample farmers are males and 2 (0.50 %) sample farmers are females. The above table shows that there are only 2 female farmers one each in marginal and small category in Zone-I who head their families. In other 3 sampled Zones, no female heads the family. Thus, 99.50 per cent families are headed by the males in the study area. In **Zone-I,** 12 sample the marginal, 35 small, 32 semi-medium, 15 medium and 4 large farmers are males. As stated earlier, in this district there are two female farmers, who head their families. In **Zone-II,** 8 sample marginal farmers, 15 small, 36 semi-medium, 34 medium farmers and 7 large farmers are males. There is no female sample farmer in this district. In **Zone-III,** 7 sample marginal farmers, 25 small sample farmers, 34 sample semi-medium farmers, 27 medium farmers and 7 large farmers are males. There is no female sample farmer in this district. In **Zone-IV,** 18 sample marginal farmers, 28 small, 25 semi-medium, 20 medium farmers and 9 large farmers are males. There is no female sample farmer in this district.

The male-headed households have more access to formal credit than female-headed households do because the effect of gender was positive.

Table-5: Age-Wise and Farm Size-Wise Distribution of Farmers

Age		Farm Size Categories											
		Marginal		Small		Semi-Medium		Medium		Large		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Zone-I	21 – 30	3	23.1	4	11.1	3	9.4	1	6.7	0	0.0	11	11.0
	31 – 40	2	15.4	11	30.6	7	21.9	3	20.0	3	75.0	26	26.0
	More than 40	8	61.5	21	58.3	22	68.8	11	73.3	1	25.0	63	63.0
Zone-II	21 – 30	1	12.5	0	0.0	3	8.3	3	8.8	0	0.0	7	7.0
	31 – 40	2	25.0	1	6.7	9	25.0	7	20.6	1	14.3	20	20.0
	More than 40	5	62.5	14	93.3	24	66.7	24	70.6	6	85.7	73	73.0
Zone-III	21 – 30	0	0.0	1	4.0	1	2.9	3	11.1	0	0.0	5	5.0
	31 – 40	3	42.9	3	12.0	7	20.6	3	11.1	3	42.9	19	19.0
	More than 40	4	57.1	21	84.0	26	76.5	21	77.8	4	57.1	76	76.0
Zone-IV	21 – 30	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	16.0	2	10.0	1	11.1	7	7.0
	31 – 40	2	11.1	4	14.3	5	20.0	2	10.0	0	0.0	13	13.0
	More than 40	16	88.9	24	85.7	16	64.0	16	80.0	8	88.9	80	80.0
Total	21 – 30	4	8.7	5	4.8	11	8.7	9	9.4	1	3.7	30	7.5
	31 – 40	9	19.6	19	18.3	28	22.0	15	15.6	7	25.9	78	19.5
	More than 40	33	71.7	80	76.9	88	69.3	72	75.0	19	70.4	292	73.0

Sources: Authors Compilation

Table-5.1: Age-Wise and Frequency – Wise Distribution of Farmers

Age of Sample Farmers	Frequency	Percentage
21 – 30	30	7.5
31 – 40	78	19.5
More than 40	292	73.0
Total	400	100.0

Sources: Authors Compilation

Tables-5 and Table-5.1 reveal the age of 400 sample marginal, small, semi- medium, medium and large farmers. Three age groups have been constituted of the sample farmers in each district i. e. 21 to 30 years, more than 30 years but not exceeding 40 years and exceeding 40 years.

In Zone I, the 3 marginal farmers, 4 small, 3 semi-medium, I medium farmer fall in the age group of 21 to 30 years. In the age group of more than 30 years but not exceeding 40 years, there are 2 marginal farmers, 11 small farmers, 7 semi-medium farmers, 3 medium farmers, 3 large farmers. With respect to the age group of more than 40 years, there are 8 marginal, 21 small, 22 semi-medium, 11 medium and 1 large farmer. In this Zone, vast majority (63.00 %) of the sample farmers are in the age group of more than 40 years.

In Zone II, the 1 marginal, 3 semi-medium, 3 medium farmers fall in the age group of 21 to 30 years. In the age group of more than 30 years but not exceeding 40 years, there are 2 marginal farmers, 1 small farmer, 9 semi- medium farmers, 7 medium farmers, 1 large farmer. With respect to the age group of more than 40 years, 5 marginal, 14 small, 24 semi-medium, 24 medium and 6 large farmers fall in this age group. In this Zone, vast majority (73.00 %) of the sample farmers are in the age group of more than 40 years.

In Zone III, 1 small farmer, 1 semi-medium, 3 medium farmers fall in the age group of 21 to 30 years. In the age group of more than 30 years but not exceeding 40 years, there are 3 marginal, 3 small, 7 semi-medium, 3 medium and 3 large farmers. With respect to the age group of more than 40 years, there are 4 marginal, 21 small, 26 semi-medium, 21 medium and 4 large farmers that fall in this age group. In this Zone, vast majority (76.0 %) of the sample farmers are in the age group of more than 40 years.

In Zone IV, 4 semi-medium farmers, 2 medium farmers and 1 large farmer fall in the age group of 21 to 30 years. In the age group of more than 30 years but not exceeding 40 years, there are 2 marginal, 4 small, 5 semi-medium, 2 medium farmers. With respect to the age group of more than 40 years, 16 marginal farmers, 24 small, 16 semi-medium, 16 medium and 8 large farmers fall in this age group. In this Zone, vast majority (80.00 %) of the sample farmers are in the age group of more than 40 years.

The overall position of all the four sample Zones taken together reveals that out of 400 sample farmers, 7.5 per cent fall in the age group of 21 to 30 years, 19.5 per cent between the age group of 31 to 40 years, 73 per cent of the sample farmers are above 40 years of age .Therefore, the vast majority i. e. 73 per cent of the sample farmers are more than 40 years old.

The farmers gain maturity with the age and therefore have better appreciation for the source of credit. The aged farmers takes mature decision, uses the loan raised from the banks for the productive purposes, adopt diversified farming practices, gets higher yield of his crops etc. and do not take the loan from private money lenders such as arhtias, commission agents who charge exorbitant rate of interest. Therefore, in the study area 73 per cent sample farmers are wise, mature, and do not fall prey in the hands of the moneylenders.

Table-6: Marital Status-Wise and Farm Size-Wise Distribution of Farmers

Marital Status		Farm Size Categories											
		Marginal		Small		Semi-Medium		Medium		Large		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Zone I	Married	13	100.0	27	75.0	27	84.4	14	93.3	4	100.0	85	85.0
	Unmarried	0	0.0	8	22.2	5	15.6	1	6.7	0	0.0	14	14.0
	Divorcee	0	0.0	1	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0
Zone II	Married	5	62.5	14	93.3	31	86.1	33	97.1	7	100.0	90	90.0
	Unmarried	3	37.5	1	6.7	4	11.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	8.0
	Divorcee	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.8	1	2.9	0	0.0	2	2.0
Zone III	Married	7	100.0	25	100.0	32	94.1	24	88.9	6	85.7	94	94.0
	Unmarried	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	5.9	2	7.4	1	14.3	5	5.0
	Divorcee	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.7	0	0.0	1	1.0

Zone IV	Married	18	100.0	25	89.3	25	100.0	19	95.0	9	100.0	96	96.0
	Unmarried	0	0.0	2	7.1	0	0.0	1	5.0	0	0.0	3	3.0
	Divorcee	0	0.0	1	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.0
Total	Married	43	93.5	91	87.5	115	90.6	90	93.8	26	96.3	365	91.25
	Unmarried	3	6.5	11	10.6	11	8.7	4	4.2	1	3.7	30	7.5
	Divorcee	0	0.0	2	1.9	1	.8	2	2.1	0	0.0	5	1.25

Sources: Authors Compilation

Table 6 highlights that 365 farmers out of 400 sample farmers which constitute 91.25 per cent are married, 30 farmers out of 400 sample farmers which constitute 7.5 per cent are unmarried and 5 farmers out of 400 sample farmers which constitute 1.25 percent are divorcees.

In Zone I, 13 sample marginal, 27 small, 27 semi-medium, 14 medium farmers and 4 sample large farmers are married. 8 sample small farmers, 5 sample semi-medium farmers, 1 sample medium farmer are unmarried. 1 sample small farmer is a divorcee.

In Zone II, 5 sample marginal farmers, 14 small, 31 semi-medium, 33 medium and 7 sample large farmers are married. 3 sample marginal, 1 small, 4 sample semi-medium farmers, are unmarried. 1 sample semi-medium farmer and 1 sample medium farmer are divorcees.

In Zone-III, 7 sample marginal farmers, 25 small, 32 semi-medium, 24 medium and 6 sample large farmers are married. 2 sample semi-medium farmers, 2 sample medium farmer and 1 sample large farmers are unmarried. 1 sample medium farmers is a divorcee.

In Zone-IV, 18 sample marginal farmers, 25 sample small farmers, 25 sample semi-medium farmers, 19 sample medium farmers and 9 sample large farmers are married. 2 sample small farmer, 1 sample medium farmer are unmarried. 1 sample small farmer is a divorcee.

The married farmers have better decision-making authority than the unmarried or divorcees relating to agriculture production. Because if the farmer is married then his wife plays a significant role in the decision making and giving him the right advice from time to time. Such farmers do not take the loan from private moneylenders such as arhtias, commission agents who charge exorbitant rate of interest. Such farmers use the loan for productive purposes; get higher crop yield and thus higher income. Thus, 91.25 married sample farmers in the study area take mature decision in consultation with their wives with respect to proper utilization of credit, choice of taking credit from the formal sources with respect to agriculture production.

Table-7: Income-Wise and Farm Size-Wise Distribution of Farmers

Annual Family Income		Farm Size Categories											
		Marginal		Small		Semi-Medium		Medium		Large		Total	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Zone I	Below 50000	13	100.0	26	72.2	6	18.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	45	45.0
	50001-100000	0	0.0	10	27.8	14	43.8	4	26.7	0	0.0	28	28.0
	100001-250000	0	0.0	0	0.0	11	34.4	9	60.0	3	75.0	23	23.0
	More than 250000	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.1	2	13.3	1	25.0	4	4.0
Zone II	Below 50000	8	100.0	13	86.67	3	8.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	24.0
	50001 - 100000	0	0.0	2	13.33	25	69.4	9	26.5	0	0.0	36	36.0

	100001 - 250000	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	22.2	25	73.5	5	71.4	38	42.0
	More than 250000	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	28.6	2	3.0
Zone III	Below 50000	5	71.4	20	80.0	1	2.9	1	3.7	0	0.0	27	27.0
	50001 - 100000	2	28.6	4	16.0	25	73.5	3	11.1	0	0.0	34	34.0
	100001 - 250000	0	0.0	1	4.0	7	20.6	21	77.8	4	57.1	33	33.0
	More than 250000	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	2.9	2	7.4	3	42.9	6	6.0
Zone IV	Below 50000	6	33.3	15	53.6	6	24.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	27	27.0
	50001 - 100000	12	66.7	8	28.5	13	52.0	3	15.0	0	0.0	36	36.0
	100001 - 250000	0	0.0	5	17.9	6	24.0	14	70.0	7	77.8	32	32.0
	More than 250000	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	15.0	2	22.2	5	7.0
Total	Below 50000	32	69.56	74	71.2	16	12.6	1	1.0	0	0.0	123	30.75
	50001 - 100000	14	30.44	24	23.1	77	60.6	19	19.8	0	0.0	134	33.5
	100001 - 250000	0	0.0	6	5.7	32	25.2	69	71.9	19	70.4	126	31.5
	More than 250000	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	1.6	7	7.3	8	29.6	17	4.25

Sources: Authors Compilation

Table-7.1: Income-Wise and Frequency-Wise Distribution of Farmers

Annual Family Income	Number	Percentage
Below 50000	123	30.75
50001 – 100000	134	33.50
100001 – 250000	126	31.50
More than 250000	17	4.25
Total	400	100.0

Sources: Authors Compilation

Tables-7.1 reveals the annual income from farm operations of the marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large sample farmers. The income has been divided into four categories i. e. less than Rs. 50,000, Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000, Rs 1,00,000 to Rs. 2,50,000 and more than Rs. 2,50,000.

In Zone-I, the annual income from farm operations of 13 marginal, 26 small, 6 semi-medium farmers is less than Rs. 50,000. In the case of 10 small, 14 semi-medium and 4 medium farmers the annual income ranges from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 the income of 11 semi-medium, 9 medium and 3 large farmers ranges from more than Rs. 1,00, 000 but does exceed Rs. 2,50,000. In the case of 1 semi-medium, 2 medium and 1 large farmer the income is more than Rs. 2,50,000. In this Zone, the vast majority of the sample farmers whose income is less than Rs. 50,000 are the small farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 50,000 but do not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 are the semi-medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 1,00,000 but do not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 are the semi –medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income is more than Rs. 2,50,000 are the medium farmers.

In Zone-II, the annual income from farm operations of 8 marginal, 13 small, 3 semi-medium farmers is less than Rs. 50,000. In the case of 2 small, 25 semi-medium and 9 medium farmers the annual income ranges from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 In the income range of more than Rs. 1,00,000 but not more than Rs. 2,50,000 falls 8 semi-medium , 25 medium and 5 sample large farmers. In the case of 2 sample large farmers, the income is more than Rs. 2,50,000. In this Zone, the majority of the sample farmers whose income is less than Rs. 50,000 are the small farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 50,000 but do not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 are the semi- medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 1,00,000 but do not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 are medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income is more than Rs. 2,50,000 are the sample large farmers.

In Zone-III, the annual income from farm operations of 5 marginal, 20 small, 1 semi-medium and I sample medium farmer is less than Rs. 50,000. In the case of 2 marginal, 4 small, 25 semi-medium and 3 sample medium farmers the annual income ranges from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. Within the income range of more than Rs. 1,00,000 but not exceeding Rs. 2,50,000 falls 1 small, 7 semi-medium, 21 medium and 4 sample large farmers. Similarly, in the income range of more than Rs. 2,50,000 falls 1 semi-medium, 2 medium and 3 large farmers. In this Zone, the majority of the sample farmers whose income is less than Rs. 50,000 are the small farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 50,000 but do not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 are the semi-medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 1,00,000 but do not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 are medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income is more than Rs. 2,50,000 are the large farmers.

In Zone-IV, the annual income from farm operations of 6 marginal, 15 small and 6 semi-medium farmers is less than Rs. 50,000. Within the income range of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 fall 12 marginal , 8 small , 13 semi-medium and 3 sample medium farmers. In case of 5 small, 6 semi-medium , 14 medium and 7 sample large farmers the income ranges from more than Rs. 1,00,000 but does exceed Rs. 2,50,000 Similarly in the case of 3 medium and 2 large farmers the income is more than Rs. 2,50,000. In this Zone, the majority of the sample farmers whose income is less than Rs. 50,000 are the small farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 50,000 but do not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 are the semi-medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 1,00,000 but do not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 are medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income is more than Rs. 2,50,000 are the sample medium farmers.

Table-7 and 7.1 indicate the overall position of all the four sampled Zones taken together. Accordingly, the table highlight that the annual farm income of 123 (30.75 %) sample farmers is less than Rs. 50,000. The annual income of 134 (33.50 %) sample farmers ranges from Rs. 50,000, to Rs. 1,00,000. In case of 126 (31.50 %) sample farmers, the income ranges from more than Rs. 1,00, 000 but does not exceed Rs. 2,50,000. The annual income of 17 (4.25 %) sample farmer is more than Rs. 2,50,000.

As per the total of four sampled Zones, the majority of the sample farmers whose income is up to Rs. 50,000 are the small farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 50,000 but do not exceed Rs. 1,00,000 are the semi-medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income are more than Rs. 1,00,000 but do not exceed Rs. 2,50,000 are medium farmers. The majority of the sample farmers whose income is more than Rs. 2, 50,000 are the large farmers.

Thus, the annual income of 257 sample farmers (which constitute 64.25 %) is in the range of less than Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1, 00,000. In the present level of prices, this income level is insufficient. The reason behind this is that the input costs (such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, labour etc.) are very high but the prices of the farm produce are very low. Because of low farm income, the farmers could not improve their socio economic status. The reasons of low farm income are that the state of Punjab has not fixed the Maximum Sport Prices of Sunflower seeds and Maize and the state Government is also not purchasing the Sunflower seeds and Maize from the farmers. In this regard, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has asked the Punjab state Government to clarify its stand on the Maximum Sport Prices for Sunflower seeds and Maize. The High Court has further directed the state Government to also clarify its stand why the state Government is not purchasing the Sunflower seeds and Maize from the farmers. (The Tribune, Chandigarh, 25th October 2016, page 04.)

With higher income, the farmers can improve their socio-economic status. Higher yield of crops will increase the income of the farmers. Higher yield of crops is based on the age, qualification, experience, training in agriculture, member of farm organization, size of land holdings, gender, size of the family and availability of farm credit at a low rate of interest etc.

CONCLUSION AND FINDINGS

In all the four sampled Zones, out of 400 sample farmers, 376 (94.00 %) are educated and the education level ranges from below matriculation to post graduation level. The remaining 24 (6.00 %) sample farmers are illiterate. The higher level of education will encourage the farmers to get training in agriculture production, proper utilization of farm credit, adoption of diversified farming practices, availing credit from formal sources only. With this, the educated farmers can increase production of crops, increase in their income and improving their socio economic status. The higher crop yield needs higher inputs and higher needs for institutional agriculture credit.

The compositions of 400 sample farmers according to size of land holdings comprises of 46 (11.50 %) marginal, 104 (26.00 %) small, 127 (31.75%) semi-medium , 96 (24.00 %) medium and 27 (6.75 %) large farmers. Thus, the overall position showed that 31.75 Percent of 400 sample farmers are semi-medium farmers, which constitute the majority of the sample farmers. Then, there are 150 sample small and marginal farmers with small size of land holdings and therefore their credit requirements are less. These 150 small and marginal farmers because of their low income are unable to improve their socio economic status also. The total numbers of marginal and small farmers are 132. These farmers have less credit requirements due to small size of land holdings. Being poor, they are unable to improve their socio economic status. Majority of the sampled farmers are semi-medium farmer. Only 14 (3.5%) sample farmers are the large farmers who have higher credit requirements for agriculture production. The male- headed households have more access to formal credit than female-headed households do because the effect of gender was positive. The farmers gain maturity with the age and therefore have better appreciation for the source of credit. The aged farmer take mature decision uses the loan raised from banks for productive purposes, adopt diversified farming practices, get higher yield of their crops etc. and do not take the loan from private moneylenders such as arhtias, commission agents who charge exorbitant rate of interest. Therefore, in the study area 73 per cent sample farmers are wise, mature, and do not fall prey in the hands of moneylenders. The married farmers have better decision-making authority than the unmarried or divorcee relating to agriculture production. Because if the farmer is married then his wife plays significant role in decision making and giving him the correct advice from time to time. Such farmers do not take the loan from private moneylenders such as arhtias, commission agents who charge exorbitant rate of interest. Such farmers use the loan for productive purposes; get higher crop yield and thus higher income. Thus, 91.25 married sample farmers in the study area take mature decision in consultation with their wives with respect to proper utilization of credit, choice of taking credit from formal sources with respect to agriculture production. Vast majority i. e. 367 (91.75 %) sample farmers, which constitute vast majority, live in joint families. Besides there are 33 (8.25 %) sample farmers who live in nuclear families. Therefore, the 367 (91.75 %) sample farmers who live in joint families have better chances of availing institutional credit than nuclear families. Because one person in joint families is spared for doing follow up measures with the bank and complete the loan documents. Moreover, two minds are always better than single mind. In a joint family better decisions can be taken jointly for carrying out farm operation, choice of source of credit, amount of loan to be taken etc. than the nuclear family. Higher the income of the farmers, higher the chances in the improvement of their socio-economic status. Higher the yield of crops will lead to higher income. Higher yield of crops is based on the age, qualification, experience, training in agriculture, member of farm organization, size of land holdings, gender, and size of family and availability of farm credit at low rate of interest. Etc. The income of the sample farmers particularly of the marginal, small and medium farmers from agricultural operation was less due to high cost of inputs and low prices of the farm produce. From the study, it is concluded that due to low income farmers could not improve their socio economic status. This puts a question mark on the performance of the state government, which has not cared to redress the problems of the farmers relating to high cost of inputs and low prices of farm produce. Vast majority i. e. 73 per cent of the sample farmer is more than 40 years old. The farmers gain maturity with the age and therefore have better appreciation for the source of credit. The aged farmer take mature decision uses the loan raised from banks for productive purposes, adopt diversified farming practices, get higher yield of their crops etc.

In order to increase the farm income of the small, marginal and other farmers for improving their socio-economic status, the Punjab State Government should implement the following policy suggestion:

Viable farming- decreasing costs and increasing productivity.
Institutional credit at low rate of interest should be provided to the farmers.
Arhtiya system must be regulated.
Easy credit policies for promoting tractorisation should be rationalized.
Non-farm sector, especially dairy farming should be developed.
Co-operative sector should be developed and strengthened.
Crop' insurance Scheme should be made effective.
Special package should be given to the small farmers. Mass campaign against intoxicants and conservative social values should be launched.

REFERENCES

Annual Reports. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(1999-00 to 2010-11). ***Annual reports of Punjab State Cooperative Agricultural Development Bank Ltd.*** Chandigarh.

Gill, K. S. (19910. ***Research on Rice Wheat Cropping Systems in the Punjab***. Ludhiana: Punjab Agricultural University.

(2004). ***Announced Comprehensive Credit Policy***. Government of India.

(2005, May). ***Indebtedness of farmer Households, Situation Assessment of Survey of Farmers , NSS 59th Round, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation***. Government of India.

(2013). ***Government of Punjab announced Agriculture Policy for Punjab.*** Retrieved from www.punjab.gov.in 2013.

Jugale, V. B. (1997). ***Cooperative Credit in Indian Agriculture-Its Socio Economic & Technological Impact***. New Delhi: Mittal Publication.

Shandilya, Tapan Kumar, & Umesh, Prasad. (2003). ***Agricultural Credit and NABARD***, Volume 14, pp. 38-39. New Delhi: Deep and Deep Publications Private Limited.

Sumantara, S. (2010). ***Kisan Credit Card-A Study,*** Occasional Paper No. 52, NABARD, Mumbai.

(1793). ***Taccavi Loans by British Government to farmers, Reported in the Research Paper on Role of institutional Credits in the Socio Economic Development of Small Farmers of Mysore District by Ramakrishna.***

Thamilsaran, S. (2009). Impact of institutional credit on the employment, income, occupation and assets of the farmer borrowers: A case study. ***Ind. Co-oper. Rev.***, 47(2), 12-19.

Retrieved from http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/158487/2/9-Ajit-Singh.pdf

Retrieved from http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/204409/2/08-SummaryI.pdf

Retrieved from http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Joint%20Group%20on%20crop%20insu.-report.doc

Retrieved from http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Joint%2520Group%2520on%2520crop%2520insu.-repor...

Retrieved from http://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Rpt_pkm2.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjD37DmluDdAhUGso8KH...

Retrieved from http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/summary?doi=10.1.1.695.6280

Retrieved from http://consumerpsychologist.com/food_Production_Costs.html

Retrieved from http://createqrcodes.org/deforestation-and-the-environment.html

Retrieved from http://cyberpunk.asia/weapons.php?cat=5&action=show&lng=us

Retrieved from http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/947141471889365784/Impact-of-social-assistance-o...

Retrieved from http://elevenmyanmar.com/business/high-imports-capital-goods-lead-trade-deficit

Retrieved from http://ficci.in/spdocument/20386/India-Maize-2014_v2.pdf

Retrieved from http://indianculturalforum.in/2017/08/19/woman-battles-open-defecation-in-new-movie/

Retrieved from http://investeddevelopment.com/2013/06/the-impact-of-technology-in-agriculture/

Retrieved from http://investeddevelopment.com/about/

Retrieved from http://investeddevelopment.com/blog Retrieved

from http://investeddevelopment.com/portfolio/ Retrieved from

http://jeper.org/index.php/JEPER/article/view/134

Retrieved from http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0272431606291941

Retrieved from http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0272431606291941

Retrieved from http://kamareddy.telangana.gov.in/district-profile/

Retrieved from http://krishikosh.egranth.ac.in/handle/1/86780

Retrieved from http://mhrd.gov.in/statist?field_statistics_category_tid=231

Retrieved from http://my.msme.gov.in/MyMsme/Reg/COM_CgtmseAppForm.aspx

Retrieved from http://ncof.dacnet.nic.in/

Retrieved from http://orgprints.org/13555/1/Res_review_12_jones.pdf

Retrieved from http://rcpatna.ignou.ac.in/programmes/detail/1028/2

Retrieved from http://sarkariresults.org.in/upload/armyc.pdf

Retrieved from http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/3774/14/14_chapter%204.pdf

Retrieved from http://skeptictank.org/files/misc3/hs-ircdo.htm

Retrieved from http://studylib.net/doc/8296221/volume-02--number-10---the-international-journal

Retrieved from http://suaire.suanet.ac.tz:8080/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/872/THABITIHASSAN%20THABI..
.

Retrieved from http://tsnpdcl.in/ShowProperty/NP_CM_REPO/WhatsNew/2017/JLM%20Notification-2018

Retrieved from http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/international-standard-classification-...

Retrieved from http://woman-of-pakistan.blogspot.com/search/label/Violence

Retrieved from http://www.advanceduninstaller.com/FinMath-1_4_37_00-e4fb0c7f5f71b7041e569ac0e14e80c0-appl...

Retrieved from http://www.allresearchjournal.com/archives/2015/vol1issue7/PartD/3-11-104-114.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.assamcareer.com/2018/03/post-graduate-teacher-in-tinsukia-2018.html

Retrieved from http://www.bankofmaharashtra.in/downdocs/Recruitment-of-Security-Officers-Project-2017-18-...

Retrieved from http://www.bioflora.com/increase-crop-yield/

Retrieved from http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/ftpdocs/94xx/doc9452/85-cbo-015.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.cea.nic.in/reports/monthly/generation/2018/March/actual/opm_19.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.cimaglobal.com/Documents/ImportedDocuments/cid_improving_cashflow_using_credit_...

Retrieved from http://www.cracked.com/article_19682_5-most-embarrassing-architectural-failures.html

Retrieved from http://www.cracked.com/funny-articles.html

Retrieved from http://www.eajournals.org/wp-content/uploads/A-Review-of-Smallholder-Farming-In-Nigeria.pd...

Retrieved from http://www.ebc-india.com/lawyer/articles/2001v6a2.htm

Retrieved from http://www.economicsdiscussion.net/national-income/determination-of-equilibrium-national-i...

Retrieved from http://www.economicsdiscussion.net/theory-of-income/theory-of-income-and-employment-discus...

Retrieved from http://www.ecr.indianrailways.gov.in/uploads/files/1425292334563-

STOCK%20MASTER%20TRS%20DE... Retrieved from http://www.fao.org/3/a-at358e.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.fao.org/docrep/field/003/AC061E/AC061E21.htm

Retrieved from http://www.fosonline.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/Stem-etal.2005MEinConservati...

Retrieved from http://www.global.ucsb.edu/punjab/sites/secure.lsit.ucsb.edu.gisp.d7_sp/files/sitefiles/jo...

Retrieved from http://www.hewit.com/download/fs-conv.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.ijsrp.org/research-paper-0717/ijsrp-p6738.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.indiaspend.com/woman-battles-open-defecation-in-new-movie-heres-the-reality-223...

Retrieved from http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Conf.17004/Volume-1/10.%2047-52.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol17-issue4/S0174100105.pdf?id=8395

Retrieved from http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/vol1-issue4/G0145458.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.landdiscounts.com/1013028485350100360-valencia-county-nm.html

Retrieved from http://www.museumsaotearoa.org.nz/sites/default/files/ma_sector_survey_2012_execsum_for_ma...

Retrieved from http://www.oecd.org/cfe/smes/2492440.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.opendrivers.com/download/driver-19241.html

Retrieved from http://www.organicresearchcentre.com/manage/authincludes/article_uploads/iota/research-rev...

Retrieved from http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/sec_file/monitoring/m-0/sokuteichi2011.4.7.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.punjab.gov.in

Retrieved from http://www.renupublishers.com/images/article/147367726207.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.scienceandnature.org/IJABR_Vol7(2)2017/IJABR_V7(2)17-26.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/journal/paperinfo?journalid=381&doi=10.11648/j.i...

Retrieved from http://www.seea.org.in/vol15-2-2015/21.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.shangrilaresortar.net/

Retrieved from http://www.socialsciencejournal.in/download/146/2-7-41-142.pdf

Retrieved from
http://www.socialsciencejournal.in/download/146/2-7-41-142.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwiYsfWLmODdAh...

Retrieved from http://www.supremecourtcases.com/index2.php?option=com_content&itemid=1&do_pdf=1&a...

Retrieved from http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13600810123894

Retrieved from http://www.teriin.org/projects/green/pdf/HP-Agriculture.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.ti.com/lit/ds/symlink/lm324.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.tuomas.salste.net/doc/roman/numeri-romani-1-1000.html

Retrieved from http://www.uabr.auckland.ac.nz/files/articles/Volume1/v1i1-impact-of-trade-credit.pdf

Retrieved from http://www.vegetableipmasia.org/www.communityipm.org/toxictrail/Documents/Cambodia-Situati...

Retrieved from
http://www.vita.ie/sites/go2vitasite/files/ASA%20February%202014-%20The%20Impact%20of%20Ne...

Retrieved from http://www.worldtravelawards.com/award-travel-technologys-leading-online-travel-agency-web...

Retrieved from http://www.wsaz.com/content/news/Man-finds-rare-piece-of-history-while-trimming-weeds-in-h...

Retrieved from http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/economics/money/keynesian-monetary-theory-money-income-a...

Retrieved from https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/7469/undergraduate-graduate-or-post-graduate-...

Retrieved from https://accommodationtimes.com/table-of-measurement-of-land/

Retrieved from https://asu.pure.elsevier.com/en/publications/similarities-in-childrens-and-early-adolesce...

Retrieved from https://blog.bankbazaar.com/becoming-a-loan-guarantor-know-all-the-rules/

Retrieved from https://blog.bankbazaar.com/category/loans/home-loans/

Retrieved from https://books.google.co.in/books?id=_YWi_lJ0BPAC

Retrieved from
https://books.google.co.in/books?id=_YWi_lJ0BPAC&pg=SL265-PA152&lpg=SL265-PA152&am...

Retrieved from https://books.google.co.in/books?id=XuQ3EOZtrtkC

Retrieved from https://books.google.co.in/books?id=XuQ3EOZtrtkC&pg=PA125&lpg=PA125&dq=990

Retrieved from https://caep.org/agriculture-training-programs.php

Retrieved from https://caep.org/horticulture-training-programs.php

Retrieved from https://census2011.co.in/district.php

Retrieved from https://census2011.co.in/states.php

Retrieved from https://companiesinc.com/shelf-company-llc/using

Retrieved from https://coolconversion.com/area/0.25-acre-to-square

Retrieved from https://coolconversion.com/area/0.25-ha-to-acre

Retrieved from https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/33019935.pdf

Retrieved from
https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E73210_01/EMADV/GUID-9C6111F7-8367-4B78-AC57-27E83667FBD6.htm

Retrieved from https://dokumen.tips/documents/dynamics-of-institutional-agricultural-credit-and-growth-mo...

Retrieved from https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acre

Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture

Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crop_diversity

Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crop_yield

Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post-graduate

Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_Branco

Retrieved from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_in_Ecuador

Retrieved from https://es.scribd.com/document/323355867/10-Organic-in-Put-Production

Retrieved from https://farmer.gov.in/m_cropstaticsmaize.aspx

Retrieved from https://gadgets.ndtv.com/telecom/news/bsnl-offer-postpaid-discount-free-data-1769297

Retrieved from https://indiankanoon.org/doc/170333012/

Retrieved from https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/1199154

Retrieved from https://keirin-station.com/keirindb/race/odds/51/20180507/8/4/

Retrieved from https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/video/3943458-girl-14-fatally-struck-by-hit-and-run-driver...

Retrieved from https://mafiadoc.com/dynamics-of-institutional-agricultural-credit-and-growth-in-punjab-_5...

Retrieved from https://medium.com/mcap-labs/ico-review-2-0-suretly-4742dcbf4ef0

Retrieved from https://mutualfundinvestorguide.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/VAN415_WEB_r1.pdf

Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/Delivery.cfm/SSRN_ID2336223_code1729699.pdf?abstractid=233622...

Retrieved from https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2336223

Retrieved from https://pastebin.com/DWwydAyM

Retrieved from https://rbi.org.in/Home.aspx

Retrieved from https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=8192

Retrieved from https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_ViewMasterCirculardetails.aspx

Retrieved from https://rbi.org.in/scripts/MSM_MintStreetMemos.aspx

Retrieved from https://rbi.org.in/scripts/MSM_Mintstreetmemos4.aspx

Retrieved from https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx

Retrieved from https://rd.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%2FBF02469530.pdf

Retrieved from https://rd.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/BF02469530.pdf

Retrieved from https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4237&context=dissertation...

Retrieved from https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1313&context=all_dissertat...

Retrieved from https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/cut-off-dates-for-crop-insurance-announced...

Retrieved from https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/medical-expenditure-major-concern-among-indians-...

Retrieved from https://wenku.baidu.com/view/d72b439c81eb6294dd88d0d233d4b14e85243ed9.html%3Fre%3Dview&...

Retrieved from https://wenku.baidu.com/view/d72b439c81eb6294dd88d0d233d4b14e85243ed9.html?re=view

Retrieved from https://www.advisorperspectives.com/articles/2016/09/12/the-short-term-nature-of-robo-port...

Retrieved from https://www.alexa.com/siteinfo/medium.com

Retrieved from https://www.amazon.com/Zipadee-Zip-Medium-Months-19-26lbs-inches/dp/B072637QSK

Retrieved from https://www.apeasternpower.com/ShowProperty/EP_CM_REPO/Pages/Information%20center/Electric...

Retrieved from https://www.bioflora.com/about-us/

Retrieved from https://www.bioflora.com/contact/

Retrieved from https://www.bioflora.com/whats-happening/

Retrieved from https://www.birthrightarmenia.org/en/extra-links/land-and-culture-organization

Retrieved from https://www.birthrightarmenia.org/en/extra-links/land-and-culture-organization&ved=2ah...

Retrieved from https://www.britannica.com/science/income-and-employment-theory

Retrieved from https://www.businessinsider.com/surviving-the-other-twenty-percent-2011-9

Retrieved from https://www.cabdirect.org/cabdirect/abstract/20133355330

Retrieved from https://www.cbs.com/shows/lets_make_a_deal/video/

Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/prod/2007pubs/c2kbr-37.pdf

Retrieved from https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-14.pdf

Retrieved from https://www.census2011.co.in/census/district/206-surat.html

Retrieved from https://www.census2011.co.in/census/state/districtlist/gujarat.html

Retrieved from https://www.census2011.co.in/census/state/gujarat.html

Retrieved from https://www.cgdev.org/blog/clock-ticking-financial-inclusion-and-focus-women-can-help

Retrieved from https://www.cliffsnotes.com/study-guides/economics/classical-and-keynesian-theories-output...

Retrieved from https://www.cogentoa.com/article/10.1080/23311932.2017.1415100

Retrieved from https://www.coursehero.com/file/p5d7lus/00-0-0-00-0-0-00-0-0-00-0-0-00-0-0-00-0-0-00-0-0-0...

Retrieved from https://www.creditdivafundingceo.com/credit-ready-aged-corp/

Retrieved from https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/indias-deepening-farm-crisis-76-farmers-want-to-give-u...

Retrieved from https://www.gd-ots.com/munitions/medium-caliber-ammunition/25mm-pgu-32u-saphei-t/

Retrieved from https://www.google.co.in/domainless/read?igu\\u003d1\x22

Retrieved from https://www.google.co.in/intl/en/options/

Retrieved from https://www.google.co.in/webhp?tab=ww

Retrieved from https://www.helsinki.fi/en/faculty-of-science/supervision-of-postgraduate-studies

Retrieved from https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/woman-battles-open-defecation-in-hindi-movie-but...

Retrieved from https://www.ielts.org/-/media/0043dd2bd28c41029cc27dbb2e9eb79e.ashx

Retrieved from https://www.indiastat.com/agriculture-data/2/agricultural-production/225/maize/17199/stats...

Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/1942/03/11/archives/urge-new-inquiry-of-the-fsa-as-red-house-agric...

Retrieved from https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/bull...

Retrieved from https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestim...

Retrieved from https://www.pharmatutor.org/content/april-2018/recruitment-for-pharmacists-in-state-health...

Retrieved from https://www.psbindia.com/system/uploads/recruitment/2150_2018071809532986890.pdf

Retrieved from https://www.pyxeraglobal.org/jiva-spotlight-manohar-yadav-building-community/

Retrieved from https://www.rbi.org.in/Home.aspx

Retrieved from https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationsView.aspx?id=9455

Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Muhammad_Nouman13

Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228349846_Determining_rural_farmers

Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/291348584_Impact_of_socio-economic_characteristic...

Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309159664_Impact_Analysis_of_Reclamation_of_Water...

Retrieved from
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317178671_ECONOMICS_OF_PRODUCTION_OF_DRUMSTICK_MO
.

Retrieved from https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0925838808019208

Retrieved from https://www.scribd.com/document/204156015/Gender-Equality-in-the-Labor-Market-in-Cambodia

Retrieved from https://www.sigmaaldrich.com/catalog/search?term=50-00-0&interface=CAS%20No.&N=0

Retrieved from https://www.slideshare.net/MCAPlabs/ico-review-20-suretly

Retrieved from https://www.sportsmansguide.com/productlist/guns/handguns-pistols/semi-automatic?d=185&...

Retrieved from https://www.sportsmansguide.com/productlist/guns/handguns-pistols?d=185&c=32

Retrieved from https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/ktn/m/video/2000084056

Retrieved from https://www.st-claire.org/about-us/affiliations/

Retrieved from https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15332840802274437

Retrieved from https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/apr/30/nepal-earthquake-disaster-building-collapse...

Retrieved from https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/apr/21/india-drought-flooding-natura...

Retrieved from https://www.thehindu.com/data/does-it-pay-to-be-a-farmer-in-india/article10895031.ece

Retrieved from https://www.theregister.co.uk/2017/10/24/browsers_api_security_paper/

Retrieved from https://www.thomas-krenn.com/en/wiki/Collect_and_report_Linux_System_Activity_Information_...

Retrieved from https://www.tribuneindia.com/2011/20110307/punjab.htm

Retrieved from https://www.ukessays.com/essays/economics/a-study-of-household-income-consumption-expendit...

Retrieved from https://www.winrock.org/winrock-implemented-project-featured-on-usaid-impact-blog/

Retrieved from https://www.wsj.com/articles/merrick-garland-deserves-a-votefor-democracys-sake-1468797686

*****