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Socio-Economic and Other Conditions of Farmers Dr. B.R Ambedakr Konaseema District Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract:
The present chapter has attempted to analyze the Socio-Economic characters of the sample farmers selected for the study.As already mentioned in methodology part of the study a total of 300 Farmers are selected for the study.Out of which 100 belongs to Ainavilli mandal, 100 to Ambajipeta mandal and 100 to Amalapuram mandal.In this study simple percentages Chi square Tests have been applied to find out association if any between different variables taken into consideration for the study.Agriculture is a labour intensive sector activity and all the members in the family should work to fulfill the requirements. Most of the Farmersin this mandals come under the marginal, small and large category and both male and female have to work to minimize the labour expenditure. It can be seen from the table 6.1 and Figure 6.1 that the proportion of male farmers are relatively high i.e. 98 per cent among the total farmers and it is a clear evidence that men are actively participating in coconut production and marketing activities in the study area.A close perusal of mandal-wise analysis of data shows that this per centage is almost same but somewhat higher in respect of Ambajipeta mandal (33.57) whereas this is some lower (33.56 per cent) in Ainavilli and Amalapuram mandals. As male members are more productive and physically strong, they are concentrating on cultivating of coconut and the marketing activity.

Keywords: sprinklers, Ainavilli, Farmers, Ambajipeta, Amalapuram, predominant

Review Of Literature

Bala Sundhahari T and Mukundan. K (1992) 52 their study mainly focused on the contributionof coconut to the national economy. The contribution of coconut to the national economy is verysignificant and it enjoys a prominent position among other plantation crops in the country.

Kamala, Thirumalaisamy, H. Vijayaraghavan & Joseph Savary (1992) 53 their study mainly point out the control measures employed in Thanjavur wilt of coconut. Thanjavur wilt isa serious problem in Tamil Nadu and in the adjoining States. Trees in the age group of 10-30

Thampan. P.K (1995) 54 in his study mainly highlighted the stability of the rural economy depends on the coconut industry. As coconut cultivation is the mainstay of small and marginalfarmer its profitability is important.

Punchideva. P.G (2005), 55 in his study mainly emphasized the status of the coconut industry in the sixties regarding the future of the coconut industry, apart from stagnation in production, was the restrictive nature of the market.

55 Punchideva.P.G., (2005), "Current Status of the Coconut Industry", Indian Coconut Journal,Vol.31(6), October 2005, pp.1-12.desiccated coconut.
M. T. N., Zubair, L., Peiris, T. S. G., Ranasinghe, C. S, & Ratnasiri, J.(2007) 56 in their study assessed the economic value of climate variability, employing a percentile analysis on an array of 31-years national annual coconut production data from 1971 to 2001.
Markose V.T (2010) 60 his article mainly focused on coconut cultivation in observed the 58 Sabapathy, S. N., & Bawa, A. S. (2007), "Standards for packed and preserved tender coconut water". Indian coconut journal, 38 (1), 2-8.
Nagaraja.G (2010) 61 in his study mainly focused on Health benefit of coconut water, in this study coconut water should be taken daily and preferably on an empty stomach.
Jayavel & Dharmalingam (2011) 62 in his study focused on the significance of the coconut industry in India. The crop assumes considerable significance in the national economy in view of rural employment and income generation.
Chinniah, M., & Suresh, G. (2013), "Coconut Cultivation in Tamil Nadu- an Economic Analysis", International Journal of Scientific Research, 2 (3), 62-63.
Karunakaran N (2015) 64 his study highlighted significance of coconut cultivation in Kerala. One important feature of Kerala's agriculture is the change in cropping pattern in favour of commercial crops.

Objectives of the Study

To analyse the cost and returns of coconut cultivation in East Godavari district. To study the efficiency of resource use and returns to scale

Hypotheses

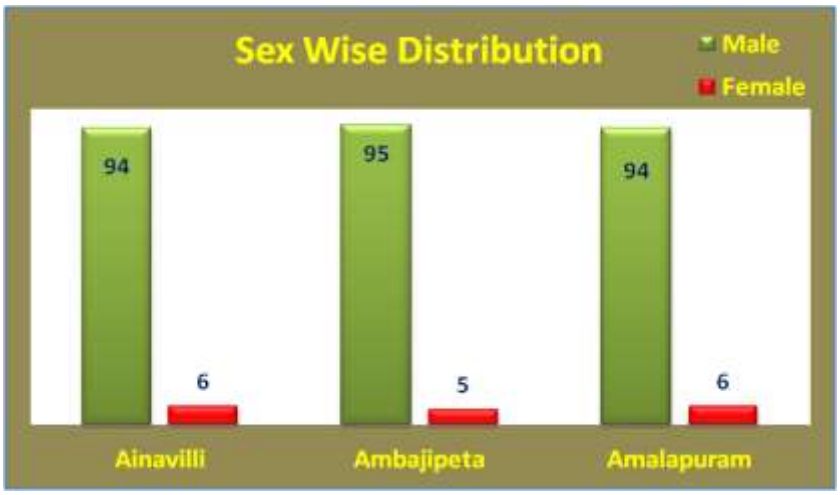
- There is no relation between different marketing channels and coconut farmers
- There isno relation between farmers of the sample farmers by their income levels.
- It is assumed that the purpose of harvest of coconuts in the study area.
- It is hypothesises that there is a difference between the sample farmers of three mandals in the impact of agro-ecological condition influence on coconut quality.
- Types of subsidies are not uniform among sample farmers in the study area.

Table: 6.1
Sex Wise Distribution of Farmer

Sl.No.	Sex	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Male	94 (33.56)	95 (33.57)	94 (33.56)	283 (100.00) [98]
2	Female	6 (35.29)	5 (29.41)	6 (35.30)	17 (100.00) [2]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]

Source: Primary Data

Fig-6.1



Marital Status

The marital status of farmers in the study area is presented in table6.2.

Table: 2

Marital status of Farmers

Sl. No.	Marital Status	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Unmarried	8 (29.62)	13 (48.14)	6 (22.22)	27 (100.00) [09.00]
2	Married	90 (33.58)	86 32.08	92 (34.32)	268 (100.00) [89.33]
3	Divorced	2 (40.00)	1 (20.00)	2 (40.00)	5 (100.00) [01.66]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]

Source: Primary Data.

Table 6.2shows that 89.33 per cent of farmerfarmers are married and about 9 per cent are unmarried among the total farmers of the study area. The mandal- wise analysis also shows that over 34.32 per cent of farmers in Amalapuram, 33.58 per cent of farmers in Ainavilli mandal and 32.04 per cent of farmers are married, while in this case, one-fifth of the farmers are unmarried. Those belong to divorced category are very few and negligible.

Religious Status of Farmers

The religious distributions of farmers are presented in table 6.3.

Table: 3
Religion Wise Distribution of Farmers

Sl.No.	Religion	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Hindu	92 (33.69) [92.00]	90 (33.33) [90.00]	88 (32.23) [88.00]	270 (100.00) [90.00]
2	Muslim	3 (75.00) [3.00]	3 (75.00) [3.00]	1 (25) [1.00]	7 (100.00) [1.33]
3	Christian	5 (21.73) [5.00]	7 (30.43) [7.00]	11 (47.82) [11.00]	23 (100.00) [7.67]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]

Source: Primary Data

It can beseen from the table 4.3,90 per cent of farmers in aggregate belongs to Hindu religion and this is more or less true in all the mandals except inAmalapuramwhere this per cent is little lower. The participation of Christian farmers is more in Amalapuram accounting for 11.00 per cent. Only 1.33 per centMuslim farmers were found in each mandalsengaging in coconut cultivation.

Education

Education and knowledge are a must if one is to succeed in life. Education modifies the behavior and imparts skills in the occupations. It is considered as an important asset to the people. Unfortunately in the villages people give priority to work and neglect education of their children. It is the main reason for the mass illiteracy in the Agricultural families.

Majority of the farmers are being exploited by the middlemen due to their illiteracy. Education not only helps the farmers to perform well at the cultivation and marketing of coconut, but it would also helps them in improving their income through agriculture by adopting modern farm practices like using high yielding varieties of seeds, complex fertilizers, improved crop protection measures and most important of all is soil conservation and proper water management through scientific irrigation techniques like using drip and sprinklers etc. In other words, there is close relationship between educational background and marketing knowledge and skills, the educational status of the responding are presented in table.6.4

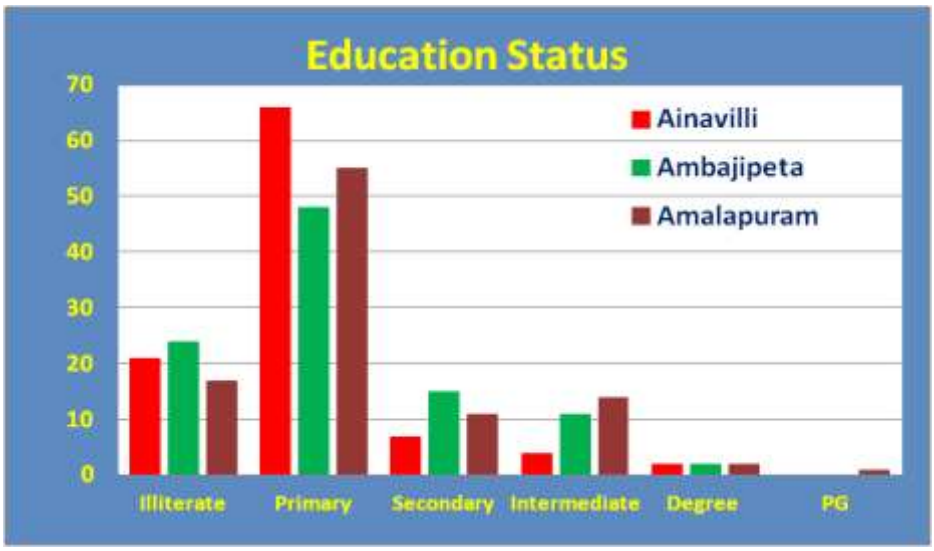
Table: 4
Education Status of the Farmers

Sl. No.	Education level	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Illiterate	21 (33.87) [21.00]	24 (38.70) [24.00]	17 (27.41) [17.00]	62 (100.00) [20.66]
2	Primary level	66 (39.05)	48 (28.40)	55 (32.54)	169 (100.00)

		[66.00]	[48.00]	[55.00]	[56.33]
3	Secondary level	7 (21.21) [7.00]	15 (45.45) [15.00]	11 (33.33) [11.00]	33 (100.00) [11]
4	Intermediatelevel	4 (13.79) [4.00]	11 (37.93) [11.00]	14 (48.27) [14.00]	29 (100.00) [9.67]
5	Degree level	2 (33.33) [2.00]	2 (33.33) [2.00]	2 (33.33) [2.00]	6 (100.00) [2.00]
6	PG level	-	-	1 (100.00) [1.00]	1 (100.00) [0.34]
Total		**100 [100.00]**	**100 [100.00]**	**100 [100.00]**	**300 [100.00]**
Chi-square test - X^2=11.266		df=6	X^2/df=1.87	P(X^2>11.266)=0.081	

Source: Primary Data

Fig-2



It is observed from the table 6.4 and Figure 6.2 that out of the total 300 farmers, more than 20 per cent of farmers are illiterates and more than half of the farmers are fall in category of having education less than primary level and only 11 per cent possess SSC qualification. Themandal wise analysis shows that the illiterates are more in Ambajipeta mandal (38.70 per cent) followed by Ainavilli mandal (34 per cent) and Amalapuram mandal (27.41per cent).More number of farmers in Ambajipeta mandal (45.45 per cent) possesses qualifications less than that of SSC, while, it is 33.33 per cent in Amalapuram and 21.21 per cent in Ainavilli mandals. Only 10per cent of farmers completed in intermediate level, more than 48per cent of farmers completed intermediate level in Amalapuram,38 per cent in Ambajipetaand 14per cent in Ainavilli mandals. Only 6 farmers in all three mandals completed their graduation. In other

words, the literacy standards are terrible among the sample farmers in the villages. The highest 56.33per centof thefarmers were having primary level background as their educational qualification in the study area. The revealed chi-square value 11.6 found to be not significant at 5 per cent level because the calculated value is less than the table value (T=12.6, significant at 5per cent level). This shows that there is no significant relation between literacy levels of the sample farmers.

Age wise Distribution of Farmers

Table 6.5 shows and Figure 6.3 that distribution of age group of the farmers. The highest, 42 per cent of the farmers were in the age group between 40 -50 years, followed by 21 per cent in the age group of 50-60 years, about 17 per cent in the age group of above 60 years, 15.66 per cent were in the age group 31-40 years, 4.33 per cent of the farmers were in the age group of below 30 years.

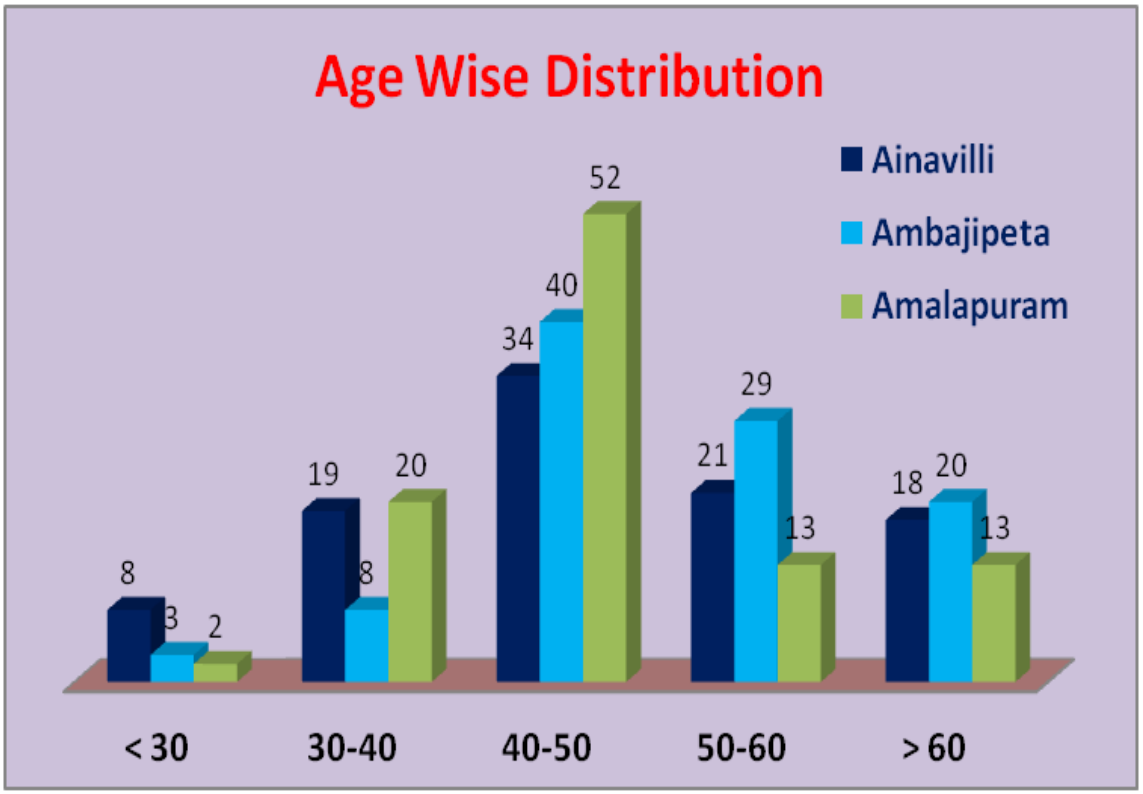
The analysis shows thatin Amalapuram mandal about52 per cent of farmers were in the age group between 40-50 years followed by Ambajipeta (40 per cent), Ainavilli (34 per cent).More number of farmers in Ainavilli mandal (8 per cent) are in the age group of below 30 years. In Ambajipeta mandal 20 per cent of farmers were in the age group of above60 years followed by Ainavilli (18 per cent), Amalapuram (13 per cent). The revealed chi-square value 22.05 found to be significant because the calculated value is more than the table value (T=15.5, significant at 5 per cent level) at 5 per cent level. This shows that there is no significant relation between age levels of the sample farmers.

Table: 5
Age Wise Distribution of Farmers

Sl. No.	Age Group	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Less than 30 years	8 (61.53) [8.00]	3 (23.07) [3.00]	2 (15.38) [2.00]	13 (100.00) [4.33]
2	30-40 years	19 (40.42) [19.00]	8 (17.02)	20 (42.55) [20.00]	47 (100.00) [15.67]
3	40-50 years	34 (26.98) [34.00]	40 (31.74) [40.00]	52 (41.26) [52.00]	126 (100.00) [42]
4	50-60 years	21 (33.33) [21.00]	29 (46.03) [29.00]	13 (20.63) [13.00]	63 (100.00) [21]
5	Above60 years	18 (35.29) [18.00]	20 (39.21) [20.00]	13 (25.49) [13.00]	51 (100.00) [17]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]
Chi-square test –X^2=22.053		df=8	X^2/df=2.76	P(X^2>22.053)=0.0048	

Source: Primary Data

Fig-3



6. Residential Status of Farmers

The nature of house ownership status of farmersin the study area is presented in table 6.6.

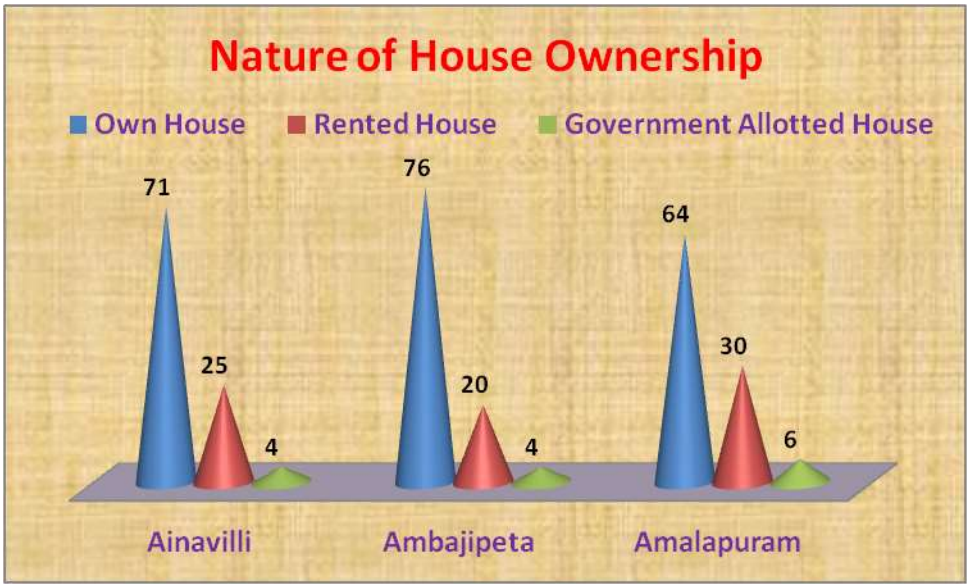
Table: 6

Nature of House Ownership of Farmers

Sl.No.	Residence	Mandals wise			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Own House	71 (33.64) [71.00]	76 (36.01) [76.00]	64 (30.33) [64.00]	211 (100.00) [70.34]
2	Rented House	25 (33.34) [25.00]	20 (26.66) [20.00]	30 (40) [30.00]	75 (100.00) [25]
3	Government Allotted House	4 (28.57) [4.00]	4 (28.58) [4.00]	6 (42.85) [6.00]	14 (100.00) [4.66]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]

Source: Primary Data

Fig-4



It can be seen from the table 6.6 and Figure 5.4about 70.34 per centof farmersare living in their own houses, followed byonly 5 per cent having Government allotted house accommodation. In respect of the three mandals, it is found that more than 70.34 per cent of farmer living in their own houses in three mandals, i.e., 34per cent in Ainavilli, 36 per cent in Ambajipeta and 30.33 per cent in Amalapuram mandals, about 25 per cent of farmers are living in rented house in three mandals.Only 4.66 per cent of farmersnot having own houses and they are living ingovernment allotted houses, under various government schemes houses allotted to weaker sections in rural and semi urban areas. In Ainavilli mandal about 71 per centof farmers are living in their own houses, 25 per cent of farmers are living in rented house and only 4 per cent of farmers are living in government allotted houses.In Ambajipeta mandal about 76 per cent of farmers are living in their own houses, 20 per cent of farmers are living in rented house and only 4 per cent of farmers are living in government allotted houses. In Amalapuram mandalabout 64 per cent of farmershavingown houses, 30 per cent of farmers are living in rented house andonly 4 per cent of farmers are living in government allotted houses. On an average, 70 per cent of sample farmers are living in their own house.

Family size of the farmers

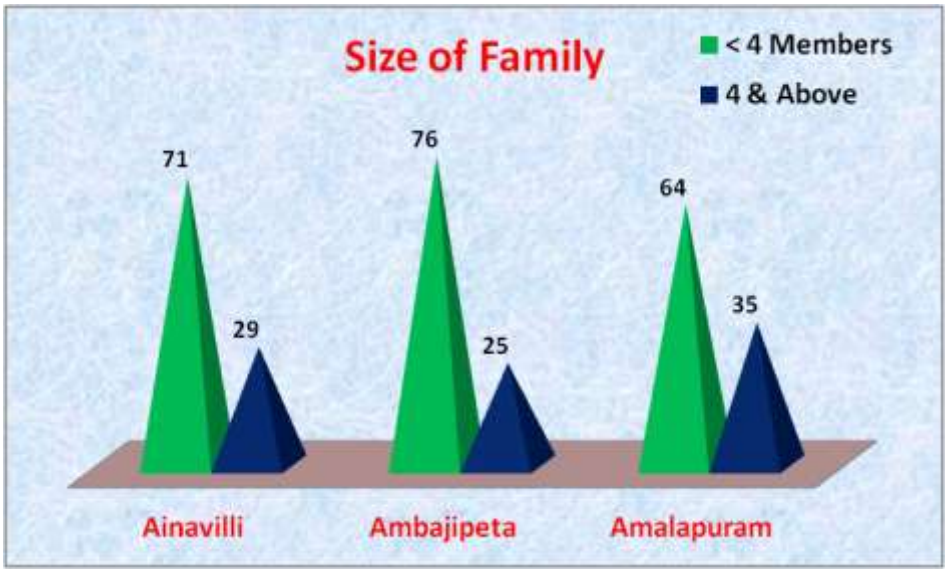
Table 6.7 shows and Figure 6.5 that the family size of farmers in the study area. The highest 70.34 per cent of the farmers were having less than 4 members in their family followed by 29.66 per cent of the farmers having 4 members or more than 4 members in their family.The mandal wise analysis shows that in Ambajipeta mandal about 76 per cent of farmers were having less than 4 members in their family, followed by 71 per cent in Ainavilli, 64 per cent in Amalapuram mandal. In respect of the three mandals, it is found that Amalapuram mandal about 35 per cent of farmers having 4 members or more than 4 members in their family, followed by 29 per cent in Ainavilli, 25 per cent in Ambajipeta mandal.

Table: 7
Size of Family of Farmers

Sl.No.	Size of Family	Mandals wise			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Less than 4 Members	71 (33.64)	76 (36.01)	64 (30.33)	211 (100.00) [70.34]
2	Four members and more than 4 Members	29 (29.00)	25 (21.34)	35 (39.32)	89 (100.00) [29.66]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]

Source: Primary Data

Fig-5



8 Land Holdings of farmers

Coconut farming in India is of different categories. Majority of the farmers cultivate coconut palms in their own land holding either as a special crop or as a component of a mixed crop. It has been stated earlier that of late farmers take land on lease or hire coconut palms. The nature of land holdings of the farmersis presented in table 6.8

Table: 8
Nature of Land Holding of Farmers

Sl.No.	Land Holding	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Own Land	69 (32.74) [69.00]	76 (36.02) [76.00]	66 (31.28) [66.00]	211 (100.00) [70.34]

2	Lease Land	29 (38.67) [29.00]	16 (21.33) [16.00]	30 (40.00) [30.00]	75 (100.00) [25]
3	Hire Land	2 (14.29) [2.00]	8 (57.14) [8.00]	4 (28.57) [4.00]	14 (100.00) [4.66]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]

Source: Primary Data.

Fig.6

It can be seen from the table 6.8 and Figure 6.6 that among the total farmers, 70.34 per centfarmers have stated that they are cultivating coconut palm in their own land, about 25 per cent of farmers are cultivating coconut on leased land, remaining 4.66 per cent of farmers cultivating in hired land. The mandal wise analysis shows thatin Ambajipeta mandal about76 per cent of farmershave stated they are cultivating coconut their own land followed by 69per cent in Ainavilli, 66per cent in Amalapuram mandals. It is found that Amalapuram mandal about 40 per cent of farmers are cultivating coconut on leased land followed by 30per cent in Amalapuram mandal, 16per cent in Ambajipeta mandal. Table also reveals that in Ambajipeta mandal about 8per cent of farmers growing coconut hired land, followed by 4per cent in Amalapuram mandal.

Table 6.9 shows and Figure 6.7 that 56.33 per cent of the farmers have stated that they are cultivating in holdings, which are less than 2 acres, and 27.33 per cent have stated that their holdings vary from two to four acres in area. It is evident that 80.33 per cent of the farmers belong to marginal andsmall farmers categories. The remaining 30 per cent of the farmers own above 4 acres.

Table also reveals that among the total farmers about 63 per cent of farmers grows coconut palm in less than 2 acres in Amalapuram mandal followed by 58 per cent in Ambajipeta, 48 per cent in Ainavilli mandals.It is found that Ambajipeta mandal about 29 per cent of farmers are cultivating coconut on 2 to 4 acres landfollowed by 28 per cent in Ainavilli, 25 per cent in Amalapuram mandal. In Amalapuram mandal about4 per cent of farmers growing coconut in more than 8 acres of land followed by2 per centfarmers in Ambajipeta mandal.The calculated X^2-value is 23.90 is significant at 5 per cent level. The

analysis infers that there is significant difference in the farmer's size of land holding among the selected three mandals.

Table: 9
Size of land Holding of Farmers

Sl.No.	Size of Land	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Below 2 acres	48 (28.40)	58 (34.31)	63 (37.27)	169 (100.00) [56.33]
2	2-4 acres	28 (34.14)	29 (35.36)	25 (30.48)	82 (100.00) [27.34]
3	4-6 acres	11 (40.74)	9 (33.33)	7 (25.92)	27 (100.00) [9]
4	6-8 acres	13 (81.25	2 (12.5)	1 (6.25)	16 (100.00) [5.33]
5	Above 8 acres	-	2 (33.33)	4 (66.67)	6 (100.00) [2]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]
Chi-square test -X^2=23.902		df=8	X^2/df=2.98	P(X^2>23.902)=0.002	

Source: Primary Data.

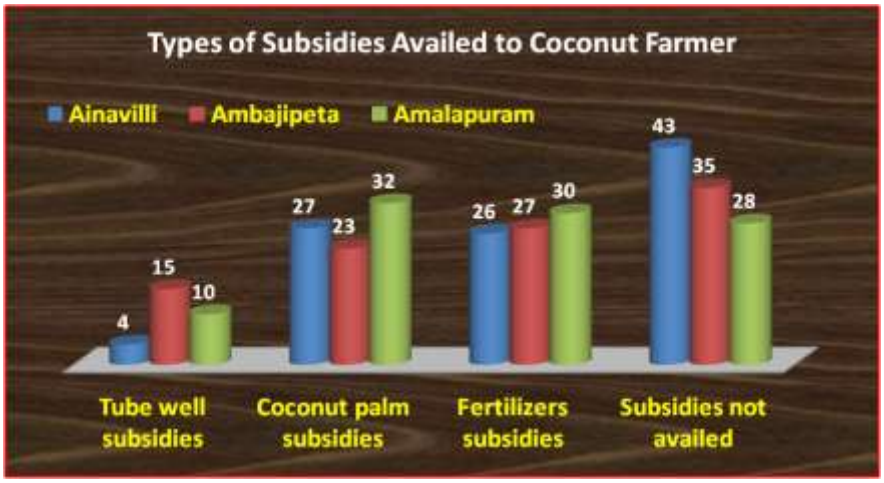
Fig-7

Table:10
Types of Subsidies Availed to Coconut Farmer

Sl. No.	Types of Subsidies Availed to Farmers	Mandals			Total
		Ainavilli	Ambajipeta	Amalapuram	
1	Tube well subsidies	4 (13.79)	15 (51.72)	10 (34.48)	29 (100.00) [9.66]
2	Coconut palm subsidies	27 (32.92)	23 (28.04)	32 (39.02)	82 (100.00) [27.33]
3	Fertilizers subsidies	26 (31.32)	27 (32.53)	30 (36.13)	83 (100.00) [27.66]
4	Subsidies not availed	43 (40.56)	35 (33.01)	28 (26.41)	106 (100.00) [35.33]
Total		100	100	100	300 [100.00]
Chi-square test -X^2=11.266		df=6	X^2/df=1.87	P(X^2>11.266)=0.0081	

Source: Primary Data

Fig-8



It is evident from table 6.32 and Figure 6.12 that on an average 27.34 per cent of the farmers have availed subsidy for developing nursery and planting of palms. Only 9 per cent farmers have availed subsidy for tube well construction and about 27.66 per cent of the farmers have availed fertilizer subsidy. Majority of farmers (35.34 per cent) have not availed subsidies in the study area.

The mandal wise analysis shows that in Ambajipeta mandal30per centfarmers availed fertilizer subsidy in Amalapuram Mandal followed by Ambajipeta (27 percent) and Ainavilli (26 percent) mandals. About32per cent of farmers have availed coconut palm subsidy in Amalapuram mandal followed by Ainavilli (27per cent) and Ambajipeta (22per cent). About 10per cent of farmers have availed subsidy

for tube well in Amalapuram mandal.On the other hand in Ainavilli mandal 43per cent of farmers havenot availed any subsidy. Majority of farmers i.e., 43, 35 and 28per cent in Ainavilli, Ambajipeta and Amalapuram mandals respectively have not availed subsidy in three mandals. There is a correlation between types of subsidies and the farmers in three mandals. The calculated chi-square value 25.95 found to be not significant at 5 per cent level, because the generated value is more than table value. This shows that there issignificant differencebetween the sample farmers of threemandals and types of subsidies availedby farmers in the study area. Cooperation from Government Agencies

Conclusion

The study reveals that the socio-economic conditions offarmers, brings out standard of living, income level, gender status, education, age level of farmers, nature and sizeof land holding, nature of soil, mode of irrigation, frequency of irrigation,types of palm cultivation, usage of coconut, number of coconut palm cultivated, source of coconut plant, age of palm, fertilizer uses, purpose of harvest, types of harvest, cause of high yield/productivity, about disease/ pests, types of protective measuretaken to control diseases/pests, agro ecological condition influence oncoconut quality and others.In the study area majority of farmers having primary level of education,thefarmers were having a monthly income ranges between Rs. 10,001-12,000. Their socio-economic status will be improved only if adequate measures are taken to overcome their problems. The state and central government shouldtake up policy decisionsand formulate suitable programmes and schemes to increase improve the socio economic conditions of farmers.This study helps to suggest increasing the socio-economic conditions of farmers in the district.

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