



**ANALYSIS OF SOCIO –ECONOMIC STATUS OF ARECA NUT
CULTIVATORS : A CASE STUDY OF SHIVAMOGGA DISTRICT OF
KARNATAKA**

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ABSTRCT :

The term arecanut (Areca catechu L.) is taken up from the Malayalam. It means the cluster of nuts. The exact location of the origination of the arecanut is not known till date but, it is said that the betel palm originally grew in the South-east Asian region, most probably in Malaysia or Philippines in the ancient times. These areas still have the widest variety of the plantation belonging to the „Areca“ genus. The common practice and culture of chewing nuts is said to be as old as the origin of the plantation itself and has its roots in Vietnam and Malaysia.

Arecanut is one of the most important commercial crops in Karnataka and it has the never ending list of uses. It finds a place in all religious, social and cultural functions. Although the production of areca nut is localized in a few states, the commercial product is widely distributed all over the country and is consumed by all classes of people. Areca nut economy is currently facing crisis from several fronts. Keeping these in background the present study was taken in shivamogga district of Karnataka. The results found that price fluctuation and labour scarcity are the major threat across all the regions. In traditional regions production is effected more by pests and diseases such as root grab, YLD (yellow leaf disease) etc. Cultivators are attracted to grow areca nut due to its attractive price. Cutivators expect high profit which will bring handsome income and thereby they can improve their standard of living in the study area. Shivamogga district is famous for two important crops they are rice and areca nut . This paper attemts to analyse the socio-economic status of areca nut cultivators in Shivamogga district.

INTRODUCTION ;

Arecanut is popularly known as the beetal nut or supari. It is one of the most important commercial crops in South-east Asia. Arecanut has the never ending list of uses i.e. for chewing purpose, as medicine , as vegetable, as stimulant, fuel wood, lubricant, tannin, wrapping, clothing etc., medicinal properties of arecanut are helpful to cure following ailments such as dysentery, diarrhoea, heart burn, urinary stones, jaundice, excessive passing of flute, etc. Arecanut has uses in ayurvedic and veterinary medicines because of its several alkaloids, but its utilization in this way is negligible on the whole. Arecanut is being known as a habitual commodity. It finds a place in all religious, social and cultural functions. The habit of chewing arecanut is typically habit of the Indian sub-continent and its neighborhood. Its cultivation is concentrated in South Western and North Eastern regions mainly in states of Karnataka, Kerala, Assam, Maharashtra, Goa, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Although, the production of arecanut is localized in a few states, the commercial product is widely distributed all over the country and is consumed by all classes of people. The quality, variety, and types of arecanut vary from one place to other. Arecanut is produced in two types 1) White chali type arecanut, 2) Red boiled type arecanut White chali type arecanut is prepared by harvesting of the fully ripened fruits and drying them in sun for around two months. Red boiled type arecanut is produced by harvesting the green nuts and peeling off the outer husk and then by boiling them. The boiled supari is mainly used in preparation of Panmasala and Gutkha, where as white supari is used in making of pan by panwalas. India is the traditional areca-growing country in the world. At the time of partition during 1947, nearly half of the area under arecanut was lost to Pakistan. As a result, the country faced the shortage in supply of arecanut during the early fifties. The increasing internal demand was made good by import of arecanut from Sri Lanka and Malaysia in the beginning. Hence, the Government had encouraged the expansion of area under arecanut cultivation on a large scale and provided liberal financial assistance through co-operatives and scheduled banks for its cultivation. Consequently, the production of arecanut increased steadily and the country achieved the self-sufficiency by early 60's. Main arecanut growing states in the country are Karnataka and Kerala which together account for 70 per cent of both area and production in the country. Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Mizoram are other minor arecanut producing states in India.

Karnataka is the largest producer of arecanut in India. In Karnataka as per the National Horticulture Board, around 1.84 lakh hectares is under arecanut cultivation which forms

around 46 percent of all India total. Its contribution to total production is around 2.24 lakh a tons that forms 47 percent of all India production in 2010-11. It is important to note that arecanut cultivation is undertaken with varying extent in almost 28 out of 30 districts in Karnataka. Among which, Chikmagalur district stands first in both area (19.91%) and production (17.38%), Shivamogga stands second followed by Davanagere district. The top 7 districts viz. Chikmagalur, Shimoga, Davangere, Dakshina Kannada, Tumkur, Chitradurga and Uttar Kannada occupy 89 per cent of the area under arecanut and contribute around 91 per cent of areca produced in the state. The remaining 21 districts occupy around 11 per cent of the total area, which together contribute around nine per cent of the production.

Income and Employment in arecanut farming Arecanut provides income and livelihood security is also vital. With an average size of holding less than 2 acres, there are around three lakh farm families involved in arecanut cultivation in Karnataka. In addition, arecanut cultivation generates high employment both at production as well as processing stages. On an average, each acre of areanut employs around 250 human days for cultivation and another 200 human days for processing annually in Karnataka . In this way, areca nut provides employment to around 10 lakh labourers round the year at the farm level itself in Karnataka. In addition, for grading, marketing and preparation of value added products like Scented supari, arecanut provide employment in the urban as well as semi urban areas. There are 15 lakh petty pan shops earning a good income by selling behead and other value added arecanut products in different parts of India. At present a quintal of fresh arecanut costs about Rs 1,600, while the price ranges from Rs 16,000 to Rs 18,000 per quintal for dry arecanut.

Shivamogga district is situated in the mid southwestern part of Karnataka state between 13° 27" and 14° 39" North latitude and between 74° 38" and 76° 4" East longitude having a geographical area of 8,495 square kilometers. The district receives an annual rainfall of 1813.9mm with an average of 86 days in the year being rainy days. The district is bounded on East by Chitradurga district, by Chickmangalore district in the south and the districts of Uttara Kannada and Udupi on the west and Haveri and Davanagere districts on the North. The western parts of the district consist of mountainous terrains, covered by dense tropical forest, while the eastern side is characterized by a striking transition from Malnad to Maidan. Soils range from lateritic to red loams. The main plantation crops grown in the district are arecanut, coffee, banana etc., among the commercial crops; sugarcane, cotton, groundnut and chilli are the other popular. The

present paper analyses the socio –economic status of Areca nut cultivators of Shivamogga district of Karnataka state.

OBJECTIVES :

1. To analyse the economic status of areca nut cultivator in Shivamogga district.
2. To identify the problems faced by of areca nut cultivator in district.
3. To find out solutions for the problems.

METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES:

The study design is descriptive and analytical in nature. This study has utilized primary and secondary data. The information about areca nut cultivators in Shivamogga district has been collected from sample areca nut cultivators in the study area. This study is based on data collected from randomly selected 50 areca nut cultivators in Shivamogga district of Karnataka state. Simple tabular form and percentage techniques are used to present the study findings. Secondary sources include published books, journal articles, magazines and Internet sources.

TABLE -1 -AGE WISE CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

SL. NO	Age Groups	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Up to 20 years	03	06
2	21 to 30years	08	16
3	31 to 40years	06	12
4	41 to 50years	12	24
5	51 years and above	21	42
6	Total	50	100

SORCE –PRIMARY DATA

Socio-Economic factors like age, education and caste or religion greatly influence the structure of cultivation . Hence all these factors are considered.

It is clear from the table No.1 that 06 percent of the respondents belong to the age group of 20 years and 16 percent are in the age group of 21 to 30 years, Whereas 12 percent respondents belong to the age group of 31 to 40 years while 24 percent of

the respondents belong to the age group of 41 to 50 years and 42 percent respondents belong to the age group of 51 and above.

TABLE-2

EDUCATION QUALIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS.

SL.NO	Qualification	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Illiterate	06	12
2	Up toSSLC	24	48
3	Up toPUC	15	30
4	Job oriented	05	10
5	TOTAL	50	100

SORCE –PRIMARY DATA

Education is an important factor that influences the market behaviour of the crop cultivated . Therefore the educational level of the respondents is also considered for the study. The data explicit that the 12 percent respondents are illiterate, 48 percent respondents have completed SSLC, 30 percent respondents acquired PUC level education and 10 percent respondents completed job oriented education. This data explicitly proves that most of the entrepreneurs are illiterate or semiliterate. Only few respondents are having good educational qualification

TABLE-3 CASTE OR RELIGION WISE CLASSIFICATION OF RESPONDENTS

SL.NO	Caste/Religion	Respondents	percentage
1	Christians	04	08
2	Muslims	06	12
3	OBC	24	48
4	SC/ST	07	14
5	Upper class	09	18
	TOTAL	50	100

SORCE –PRIMARY DATA

Though India is a secular state, Indians follow a variety of castes, creeds and religion. From the study it is found that 08 percent respondents are Christians, 12 percent belong to Muslims, 48 percent respondents belong to OBC, 14 percent belong to SC/ST and

the remaining 18 percent respondents are upper caste people. This reveals that all religion and caste people are engaged in areca nut cultivation.. It is evident from the explanation that caste is not at all hurdle for the cultivation .

TABLE -4
FAMILY SIZE OF RESPONDENTS

SL.NO	Members in the family	Respondents	Percentage
1	2-4	22	44
2	5-6	25	50
	7 and above	03	06
4TOTAL		50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

It is very much clear from Table -4 that 44 percent respondents have 2 to 4 members in their family and 50 percent respondents 5 to 6 members in the family. And 06 percent respondents have more than 7 members in the family. Hence majority respondents have moderate size. family .

TABLE-5-SIZE OF THE LAND HOLDINGS:

SL.NO	Land holdings	Respondents	percentage
1	1-2 acres	18	36
2	3-4 acres	24	48
3	5-6 acre	05	10
4	7 and above	03	06
5		50	100

SORCE –PRIMARY DATA

Table -5 explains the size of the land holdings of the respondents . As per the above table 36 percent respondents have 1-2 acres of land for the cultivation. 48 percent respondents have 3-4 acres of land for the cultivation while 10 percent respondents have 5-6 acres of land for the cultivation where as only 06 percent 42respondents have 7 and above acres

of land for the cultivation . So majority respondents have 3-4 acres of land for the cultivation

TABLE -6--MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

SL.NO	Mode of transportation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Rickshaw	10	20
2	mini lorry	05	10
3	big lorry	02	04
4	Jeeep	21	42
	Car	12	24
	TOTAL	50	100

SORCE –PRIMARY DATA

Table-6- gives information about the mode of transport used by the respondents to transport areca nut to the market. From discussion and observation, it is clear that the following are the means of transportation used by the rural respondents to transport the areca nut to the market they are – by rickshaw, mini lorry, big lorry, jeep and car. From Table -06 it is understood that 20 percent of respondents use rickshaw for the transportation of areca nut to the market. While 10. Percent of respondents use mini lorry for the transportation of areca nut to the market, 04 percent of respondents use big lorry for the transportation of areca nut to the market. 42 percent of respondents use jeep and 24 percent of respondents use car for the transportation of areca nut to the market. Hence majority of the respondents use jeep and car for the transportation of transportation of areca nut to the market.

TABLE-7-MONTHLY INCOME OF RESPONDENTS

SL.NO	Monthly Income	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Up to 10, 000	27	54
2	10001 to 20000	09	18
3	20001 to 30000	07	14
4	30001 to 40000	04	08
5	40001 and above	03	06
TOTAL		50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

MONTHLY INCOME: Future of the areca nut cultivation and agriculture sector depends on income earned by the respondents, so income factor is taken in to consideration.. The data regarding income of the respondents is collected in terms of monthly income. It is evident from Table No.07 that 54 percent of respondents earn up to Rs. 10000, 18 percent earn in between Rs 10001 to 20000 where as 14 percent belong to the income group of Rs. 20001 to 30000 and 08 percent belong to the income category of Rs 300001 and 40000 and 06 percent respondents earn 40001 and above.

TABLE-08-LOAN TAKEN BY RESPONDENTS

SL.NO	Loan	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Up to Rs 30000	08	16
2	Rs30001 to 75000	25	50
3	Rs75001 to 100000	11	22
4	Rs100001 and above	06	12
	TOTAL	50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

Table -08 examines about amount of the loan taken by respondents. 16 percent respondents have taken up to Rs 30000, 50 percent respondents have taken in between Rs 30001 to 75000 where as 22 percent respondents have taken in between Rs75001 to 100000 and 12 percent respondents have taken Rs 100001 and above. So financial source is very essential for the respondents.

TABLE-09-NAME OF THE BANK

SL.NO	Name of Bank	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Co-operative societies	26	52
2	Rural development Banks	13	26
3	Commercial Banks	05	10
4	Friends and Relatives	06	12
	TOTAL	50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

Table -09 examines the financial source of respondents. It is clear that 52 percent respondents have taken loan from Co- operative societies, 26 percent respondents is

depending on Rural development Bank , 10 percent respondents have taken loan from Commercial Banks and remaining 12 percent respondents are depending on their friends and relatives. So majority respondents are depending on Co-operative societies for financial assistance .

TABLE-10- INFORMATION SOURCE OF THE RESPONDENTS

SL.NO	Information	Number of Respondents	Percentage
	Friends	10	20
	Co-operative societies	15	30
	Radio and TV	12	24
	Agricultural office	09	18
	Agricultural Journals	04	08
	TOTAL	50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

Information regarding cultivation pattern , modernization , new technology is necessary for the respondents to get better yield , so this factor is taken for the discussion.It is clear from the table -10 that 20 percent respondents collect information from their friends , 30 percent respondents collect information from the Co-operative societies while 24 percent respondents collect information from Radio and TV, 18 percent respondents collect information from Agricultural office 08 percent respondents collect information from Agricultural Journals.

TABLE-11- DEMAND FOR THE PRODUCTS

SL.NO	Demand	Number of Respondents	Percentage
1	Very Good	14	28
2	Good	36	72
3	Bad	00	00
4	TOTAL	50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

The data of Table No -11- explicit that 14 out of 50 have given a very positive opinion on demand for areca nut . According to 28 percent of respondents demand is very good. . According to 72 percent of respondents demand is good. They expect good future for areca

nut cultivation. .. None of the respondent has negative opinion on demand for areca nut. Cultivators are happy about the demand aspect.

TABLE-12 PROFIT FOR THE PRODUCT

Sl.No.	Opinions	No. of Cultivators	Percent
1	Very Good	36	72
2	Not bad	14	28
3	bad	00	00
	TOTAL	50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

The data of table No.12 explains that 36 out of 50 have given a positive opinion on profit of for areca nut cultivation . They expect good future out of areca nut cultivation. Whereas 14 out of 50, that is 28 percent respondents are not satisfied as they get only marginal profit. They still expect some more percentage of profit. None of the cultivator has negative opinion on profit.

TABLE-13- SOURCES OF WATER

Sl.No.	Source of water	No. of Cultivators	Percent
1	Owned well	08	16
2	Owned boar well	13	26
3	Hired from others	05	10
4	Canal irrigation	23	46
5	depending rain only	01	02
	TOTAL	50	100

- SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

Water is an important factor for any agricultural cultivation and it holds good even for areca nut also. According to the table- 14, 16 percent respondents are depending on their own well for water , 26 percent respondents are depending on their own bore well for water , while 10 percent respondents are depending on hired water , where as 46 percent respondents are depending on canal irrigation and only 02 percent respondents are depending on rain water for cultivation.

TABLE-15 -VIEWS ON ARECA NUT ORGANISATION:

Sl.No.	Views	No. of cultivators	Percentage
1	Not necessary	01	02
2	Necessary	46	92
3	No Idea	03	06
	Total	50	100

SOURCE: PRIMARY DATA

Since there is very much necessity of recognized organization for areca nut trade and cultivation, this factor is considered. The data of table No-15 tells that one out of 50 cultivators opinion that there is no necessity of areca nut organization. The percentage is only 02, 46 out of 50 cultivators tell that areca nut organization is very essential as it is one of the main crops of the district.. Whereas 06 out of 50 cultivators, that is 06 percent do not have any idea about areca nut organisation.

PROBLES :

- Lack of water .
- Problem of middlemen
- High commission from middlemen
- Lack of financial assistance .
- Decreasing ground water
- Irregular supply of electricity
- Irregular supply of manures , chemical fertilizers
- Low quality crop
- Low yield
- Uncertainty in demand and supply
- Fluctuating price
- Lethargic attitude of cultivators.
- Lack of information regarding market of sugar cane .
- Increasing cultivation cost.
- High wages to labors
- Lack of labors
- Natural calamities like flood , famine etc

SUGGESTIONS :

- Grond water level should be improved.
- Government should supply electricity regularly.
- Government should regulate the price of areca nut .
- Government should announce support price to help the loss for the cultivator.
- Information should be given to the cultivator through mass media
- Education level should be improved.
- Quality of crop should be improved.
- Relationship between cultivator and regulated market should be improved.

CONCLSION:

Shivamogga district is blessed with suitable soil and has water source for the cultivation of Areca nut . Areca nut is the main commercial crop grown in the district. Shivamogga district produces the best quality of Areca nut in the state of Karnataka .

. Cultivators are attracted towards Areca nut cultivation due to its attractive price in the market. Cultivators are expecting more profit from this crop. Majority of Cultivators are having small size of land holdings , which hinders the cultivator to adopt modern technology for cultivation .. Cultivators have to sell Areca nut to nearby mandies or to the regulated markets . But they have poor quality of road and poor transportation facility. Village roads are not properly maintained and cost of transportation is also very expensive. Mandies and regulated markets are noy paying the cash in time, they delay to pay. But Cultivators will be badly need of money for maintaining their families. Beside Cultivators have problems like Lack of water, Irregular supply of electricity, Low yield, Fluctuating price. Government should look in to all these problems and should provide suitable solutions so that economic status of the Cultivators can be improved a lot . Agricultural prosperity is the prosperity of our nation. Due attention should be given to the cultivation of Areca nut and solve the existing problems which are hindering the progress of the crop as well as cultivators.. Development of agriculture and cultivators will ensure the development and progress of the country .References

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