

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF ONION CULTIVATION PROBLEMS IN NAMAKKAL DISTRICT OF TAMILNADU

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### Abstract

*Thus the study assumed to produce very important information related to farmers' variety evaluation criteria and factors influencing adoption of improved onion production package in the study area. Farmers' criteria will vary greatly between households, depending on the productive resources controlled by the household. However, the criteria also vary within a household. The division of responsibilities and tasks is socially defined according to gender and age, qualification, income and problems. Finally, the information produced from this study is expected to be of some value for technology generators, extension agents and policy makers. Farmers' are not always adopting the newly introduced technologies that come to them from any extension organization as it is. They try to evaluate according to its match with their social, environment and economic importance. So understanding these factors is important for the scientists to develop and generate agricultural technologies, which suits to the current conditions of farmers. Policy makers too will benefit from the research output since they require micro level information to formulate and revise policies and strategies.*

Keywords: age, education, income and problems.

### 1. Introduction

Agriculture is the largest sector in many developing countries, to meet the growing demand for employment and to raise cash income of rural people to stimulate industrial expansion. Onion is one of the most important vegetables grown in India which is used either in raw or dehydrated form to add flavour and taste to Indian cuisine. Since onion has medicinal values, it is used in some pharmaceutical preparations also. The diverse agroclimatic conditions enable India to produce onion in one or the other part round the year.

“Tamil Nadu accounts for 5 per cent of onion cultivating area (Small onion and Bellary onion) and contributes 3.74 per cent of production. According to the trade sources nearly 70 per cent of area is occupied by small onion and remaining 30 per cent is by Bellary onion. CO1, CO2, CO3, CO4, CO (On) 5, MDU 1 and Bangalore rose are important small onion varieties raised by farmers. Perambalur district occupies 24 per cent of the area under onion in Tamil Nadu and the other districts cultivating onion are Trichirapalli, Dindigul, Namakkal, Coimbatore, Erode, VirudhuNagar, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, and Salem.<sup>1</sup>”

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<sup>1</sup>Domestic and Export Market Intelligence Cell's Report, “Small Onion: Prices to Stay Firm”, 2008, p.6.

### Review of literature

**Thakur et al. (1994)**<sup>2</sup> found that low price paid to the farmers, malpractices, lack of mechanical grading, packing and proper storage facilities, lack of low cost transportation facilities, lack of market information and market news, lack of price regulation and control, lack of processing units and co-operative society were the major marketing problems faced by vegetable growers.

**Kiresur and Ganesh Kumar (1998)**<sup>3</sup> revealed that absence of storage facilities was the major problem expressed by 91.23 per cent of onion growers followed by delay in payment of sale proceeds (89.47%), high commission charges (84.21%), lack of cheapest transport facilities and inadequate infrastructural facilities and civic amenities at the market both expressed by 70.18 per cent farmers. High charges of Hamali (68.42%), lack of proper grading facilities (61.40%) and faulty weighment system (14.04%) were other problems.

**Pandey (2000)**<sup>4</sup> presents the constraints limiting onion productivity and increasing postharvest losses in Andhra Pradesh, India, and the strategies to increase productivity and minimize postharvest losses by adopting production and postharvest technologies in onion production such as the use of quality seeds of the recommended variety, selection of suitable land, use of manures and fertilizers, weeding, irrigation, suitable chemical treatments and proper storage.

**Waman and Patil (2000)**<sup>5</sup> reported that high cost of onion seed and fertilizers was considered as major constraints for onion growers. Lack of knowledge about recommended fertilizer doses, difficulty in identifying the pests and diseases of onion, water shortage in summer, labour problem for weed control, in effective and costly weedicide, had the production constraints of onion growers. Labour problem during harvesting, lack of knowledge about improved storage structure, lack of knowledge about grading, open auction sale leading to less market price, low price and fluctuation in market price, irregular purchase of onion by NAFED were the marketing problems faced by growers.

**Dixit and Singh (2003)**<sup>6</sup> experiments were conducted in a farmer's field in Madhya Pradesh, India, during the rabi season from 1998/99 to 2000/01 to study the effects of improved farming techniques and farmers' practice on the yield and profitability of tomato and onion. The adoption of improved farming practices recorded an average yields of 256 quintal/ha for tomato and 200 quintal/ha for onion, which were higher by 43.5 and 39.5%

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<sup>2</sup>Thakur,D.S.; Sanjay, Thakur, D.R. and Sharma,K.D. (1994). Economics of off season vegetable production and marketing in hills.*Indian J. Agric. Market.*.8(1):72-82.

<sup>3</sup>Kiresur,V.R. and Ganeshkumar,N. (1998). Impact of regulation on vegetable marketing in Indian – A case study in Dharwad district of Karnataka state.*Indian J. Agric. Market.*, 2(1):23-30.

<sup>4</sup>Pandey,U.B. (2000). Strategy for increasing onion productivity and minimizing postharvest losses in onion in Andhra Pradesh.*News Letter National Horticultural Research and Development Foundation.* 20(1&4):1-5.

<sup>5</sup>Waman,G.K. and Patil,P.S. (2000). Production, storage and marketing constraints faced by onion growers. *Maharashtra J. Extn.Edu.*19:104-108.

<sup>6</sup>Dixit,S.N. and Singh,S.P.(2003). Evaluation of improved technique on tomato and onion under frontline demonstrations.*BhartiyaKrishiAnusandhan Patrika.*18 (1/2): 61-64.

than the yields recorded for farmers' practice. The average net returns obtained with the adoption of improved farming practices were 12 868.70 and 27 424.30 rupees/ha for tomato and onion, respectively. The average incremental cost benefit ratios recorded for tomato (2.73) and onion (3.087) indicated the profitability of using improved farming technologies.

### **Statement of the problem**

Production of onion is an important business to various producers and this is an important crop which helps to increase the economic condition of the farmers. Onion is a seasonal dependence crop. Its productivity is highly associated with the nature. Onion production is an eye irritating like onion itself as its productivity and prices remains not stabilized. Onion producers are facing many problems right from the point of production to the final disposal. If the monsoon and climate are favourable to farmers in production, proper price for the produce is not received because of oversupply.

Onion producers are affected by the problems like huge labour cost, non-availability of quality seeds, high transport cost, high commission charges, huge price fluctuations and malpractices by the middlemen. On the other hand, inadequate technical know-how and lack of Government's nod have increased the problems of production and marketing of onion. Farmers are thus facing a number of hindrances especially in disposal of the produce.

### **Motivation of the study**

This study is undertaken to examine the onion production, marketing in Namakkal District of Tamil Nadu. Onion is grown in most of the districts in the State of Tamil Nadu. Since onion has medicinal values, it is used in some pharmaceutical preparations also. The diverse agroclimatic conditions enable India to produce onion in one or the other part round the year.

### **Objectives of the study**

The main objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the production problems of onion cultivation growers.
2. To analyze age and Qualification of sample cultivators and their farmers.
3. To analyze the Annual income of sample cultivators and their onion producers.

### **Hypotheses of the study**

1. There is No significant relationship between Age and their size of farmers.
2. There is No significant relationship between Qualification of sample cultivators and their farmers
3. There is No significant relationship between Annual income of sample cultivators and their onion producers.

### **Methodology**

The selection of a Namakkal district is purposely chosen as it is a district where the production of onion is more. The selection of blocks, five blocks namely, Rasipuram, Puduchatram, Namagiripet, Erumapatti, and Vennandur. 250 cultivators should be selected. The random sampling method is used to identify the farmers and consumers. The farmer's strata selected respondents each blocks and farmers are unknown but randomly selected 250 is sample size are chosen for the study.

## Analysis and discussion

**Table No. 1**  
**Age wise classification of the respondents**

Age	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Large Farmers	Total
Less than 30 years	29 ( 58.00)	33 ( 22.00)	13 ( 32.50)	3 ( 30.00)	78 (31.20 )
30-60 years	10 ( 20.00)	77 ( 51.33)	14 ( 35.00)	4 (40.00 )	105 ( 42.00)
Above 60 years	11 ( 22.00)	40 (26.67 )	13 ( 32.50)	3 ( 30.00)	67 ( 26.80)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>150</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>40</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>250</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>

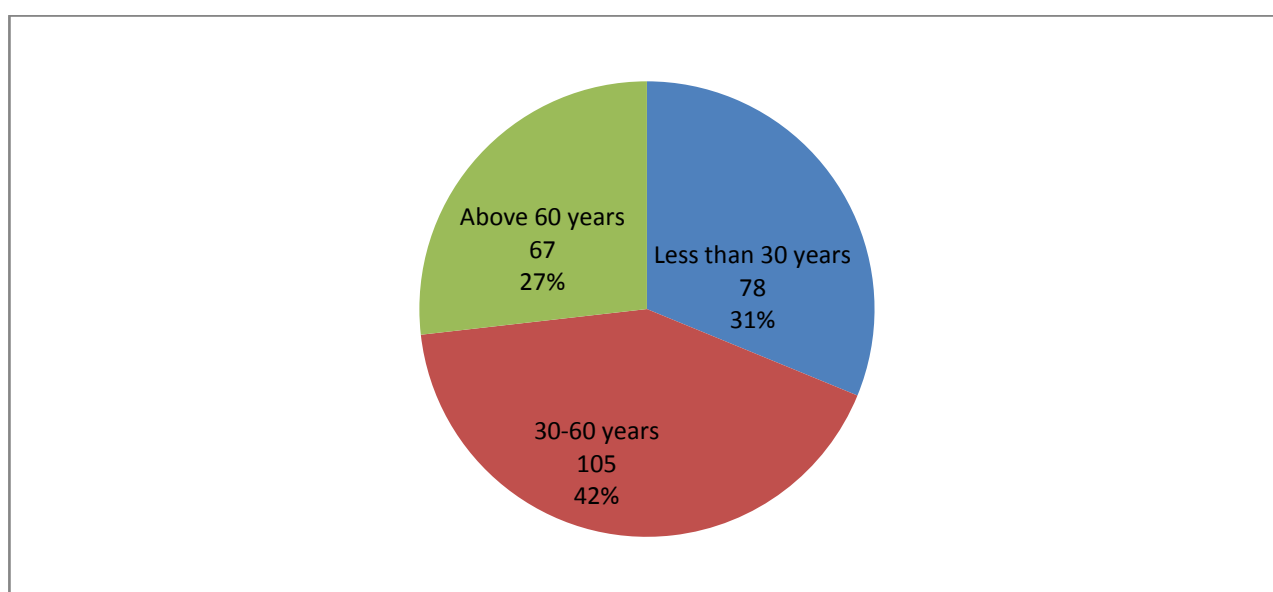
**Note :** Figures in this parenthesis indicate percentage to total

**Source :** Primary Data

The table no. 1 deals with the sample cultivators of marginal farmers, 58.00 per cent of them are less than 30 years; 20.00 per cent of them belong to the age of 30-60 years, and rest 22.00 per cent of them are above age group of 60 years. Among the Small farmers, 22.00 per cent are less than 30 years of age, 51.3 per cent between 30 years and 60 years, and 26.6 per cent of them are above 60 years of age. Of the Medium farmers, 32.5 per cent are less than 30 years, 35.0 per cent of them are between 30 and 60 years and the rest 32.5 per cent belong to the third category of 60 years and above.

Among cultivators of large farmers, 40.0 per cent of them are 30-60 years old and remaining 30.0 per cent cultivators are above 60 years. In general 31.2 per cent sample cultivators are less than 30 years; 26.8 per cent cultivators are above 60 years.

**Chart No. 1.1**  
**Age wise classification of the respondents**



### Qualifications of Respondents

Education plays a role in eradicating poverty. Agricultural laborers and farmers are to be educated in order to know the market trend, prices of the produces etc.

**Table No.2**  
**Qualifications of the respondents**

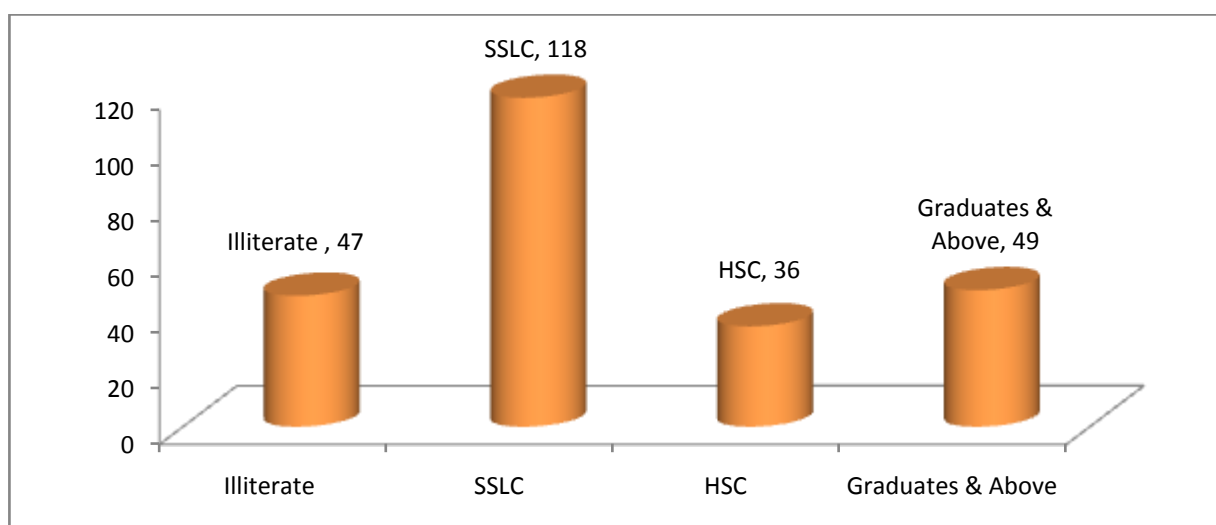
Qualification	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Large Farmers	Total
Illiterate	5 (10.00)	33 (22.00)	7 (17.50)	2 (20.00)	47 (18.80)
SSLC	31 (62.00)	72 (48.00)	12 (30.00)	3 (30.00)	118 (47.20)
HSC	5 (10.00)	13 (8.67)	15 (37.50)	3 (30.00)	36 (14.40)
Graduates & Above	9 (18.00)	32 (21.33)	6 (15.00)	2 (20.00)	49 (19.60)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>150</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>40</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>250</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

**Note :** Figures in this parenthesis indicate percentage to total

**Source :** Primary Data

Table no. 5.3 exhibits the educational status of the respondents among them small farmers 22.0per cent of the respondents are illiterates, followed by 48percentwho studied up to 10<sup>th</sup>. From the analysis it is found that 21.33 percent of the respondents are graduates.

**Chart No. 1.2**  
**Qualifications of the respondents**



### Annual Income

India is an agriculture country and nearly 70 per cent of people depending upon agriculture. There are many instances of farmers' suicides. Onion is a crop / produce, which gives fair returns to the farmers. Yet many farmers commit suicides because of financial burden. In this context annual income gets its importance. The sample farmers of different farmers are classified according to their annual income.

**Table No.3**  
**Annual incomeof the respondents**

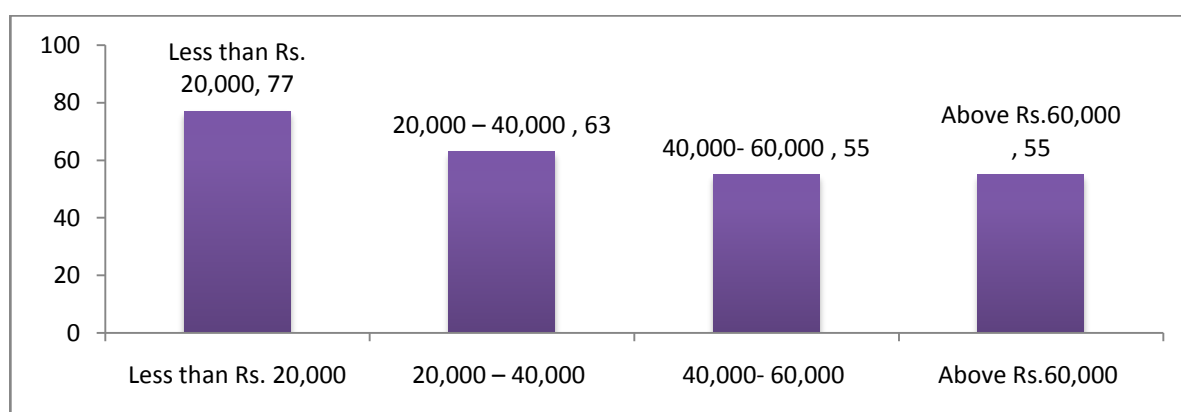
Annual Income	Marginal Farmers	Small Farmers	Medium Farmers	Large Farmers	Total
Less than Rs. 20,000	10 (20.00)	52 (34.67)	12 (30.00)	3 (30.00)	77 (30.8)
20,000 – 40,000	23 (46.00)	33 (22.00)	6 (15.00)	1 (10.00)	63 (25.2)
40,000- 60,000	11 (22.00)	35 (23.33)	7 (17.50)	2 (20.00)	55 (22.00)
Above Rs.60,000	6 (12.00)	30 (20.00)	15 (37.50)	4 (40.00)	55 (22.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>150</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>40</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>(100.00)</b>	<b>250</b> <b>(100.00)</b>

**Note : Figures in this parenthesis indicate percentage to total**

**Source : Primary Data**

The above table 5.3 exhibits that the out of 250 marginal farmers 34.67 percent gets below Rs.20000 as their annual income earned by the respondents. The annual income marginal farmers from 46.0 percent of respondents are Rs.20000 to Rs.40000. The table clearly indicates that majority of the small farmers, 23.33 are in the category of Rs 40000 - 60000. Only 4(40 percent) farmers are earning more than above Rs 60000 and farmers are earning. It clearly shows that respondents earn decent income from their production.

**Chart No. 1.3**  
**Annual incomeof the respondents**



**Table No.4**  
**Marital status of the respondents**

<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Marginal Farmers</b>	<b>Small Farmers</b>	<b>Medium Farmers</b>	<b>Large Farmers</b>	<b>Total</b>
Married	38 ( 76.00)	127 ( 84.67)	32 ( 80.00)	9 ( 90.00)	206 ( 82.40)
Unmarried	12 ( 24.00)	23 ( 15.33)	8 ( 20.00)	1 ( 10.00)	44 (17.60)
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>150</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>40</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>10</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>	<b>250</b> <b>( 100.00)</b>

**Note : Figures in this parenthesis indicate percentage to total**

**Source : Primary Data**

The table 5.4 among the marital status of the respondent as marginal farmers, constitute 76.00 per cent found to be married, remaining 24.00 per cent were unmarried. Among the medium farmers 80.0 per cent were married and 20.0 were unmarried

Among the large farmers of sample cultivators, 90.0 per cent were married and 10.0 per cent were unmarried. Of the entire sample of 250 farmers 82.4 per cent were married, only 17.6 were unmarried. Out of 250 samples, nearly 82 percent of respondents are married.

#### **Problems faced by marginal farmers**

The marginal farmers were asked to respond to the following.

**Table No.5**  
**Problems faced by marginal farmers of the respondents**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Marginal farmers</b>	<b>Problems</b>	<b>Ranks</b>
1	MF1	Scarcity of labour	4
2	MF2	Increase in input cost	6
3	MF3	Monsoon failure	5
4	MF4	No fair return	7
5	MF5	Problem of storage facility	1
6	MF6	Unfair treatment in Mundies	8
7	MF7	Unfair Role of Intermediaries	2
8	MF8	Problem of raising funds	3

**Source : Computed from Primary Data**

Kendall's W test is used to analyze the above response to find the average order of rankings of the marginal farmers for the problems they are facing in their cultivation activities. The results are given in table 5.25

**Table No. 6****Kendall's w test for the ranking of problems of marginal farmers – descriptive statistics**

Problems	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Assigned ranks for Mean
MF1	100	4.2400	0.4359	4	5	4
MF2	100	5.6800	0.4761	5	6	6
MF3	100	5.3200	0.4761	5	6	5
MF4	100	7.3600	0.4899	7	8	7
MF5	100	1.1600	0.3742	1	2	1
MF6	100	7.6400	0.4898	7	8	8
MF7	100	1.8400	0.3742	1	2	2
MF8	100	3.2400	0.4359	3	8	3

**Source: Computed from Primary Data**

The table 5.26 indicates that MF5 (Storage facility) is the main problem of marginal farmers as it fetches first rank; MF7 unfair role intermediaries is their second problem as it has fetched second rank.

**Table No. 7****Test statistics – marginal farmers**

N	<b>100</b>
Kendall's Wa Test	0.946
Chi-Square	164.082
Degree of freedom	<b>7</b>
Asymp. Significance	<b>0.000</b>

**0. Kendall's coefficient of concordance**

**Source: Computed from primary data**

The table 5.27 exhibits that there is a high degree of concordance (agreements among the marginal farmers in ordering of the problems). The significance value 0.000, which is less than 0.5, indicates that there is a significant difference in the ranking among eight problems they face.

**Table No. 8****Problems by small farmers of the respondents**

The small farmers were asked to respond to the following problems.

Sl.No.	Small Farmers	Problems	Ranks
1	SF1	Scarcity of labour	3
2	SF2	Increase in input cost	1
3	SF3	Monsoon failure	5
4	SF4	No fair return	6
5	SF5	Problem of storage facility	2
6	SF6	Unfair treatment in Mundies	4
7	SF7	Unfair Role of Intermediaries	7
8	SF8	Problem of raising funds	8

**Source: Computed from Primary Data**



Kendall's W test is used to analyze the above response to find the average in the order of rankings of the small farmers for the problems they are facing in their cultivation activities. The results are given in table 5.28

**Table No. 9**

**Kendall's w test for the ranking of the problems of small farmers – descriptive statistics**

Problems	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Assigned ranks for mean
SF1	150	2.1250	0.4385	4	8	3
SF2	150	1.1150	0.4229	1	5	1
SF3	150	2.3750	0.4385	4	2	5
SF4	150	3.1250	0.4385	6	5	6
SF5	150	1.7750	0.4229	1	7	2
SF6	150	2.3500	0.4830	3	2	4
SF7	150	3.3250	0.4385	7	4	7
SF8	150	3.5000	0.4225	6	8	8

**Source: Computed from Primary Data**

The table 5.29 shows that SF2 (increase in input cost) is the main problem of small farmers; next is FS5 (Problem of storage facility).

**Table No. 10**

**Test statistics – small farmers**

N	150
Kendall's Wa Test	0.915
Chi-Square	254.276
Degree of freedom	7
Asymp. Significance	0.000

**Source: Computed from primary data**

The table 5.30 analysis there is a high degree of concordance (agreement, among small farmers in order of their problems). The significance value 0.000, which is less than 0.05, indicates that there is significant difference in the ranking among eight problems they face.

**Table No. 11**

**Problems faced by medium farmers of the respondents**

The marginal farmers were asked to respond to the following.

Sl.No.	Medium Farmers	Problems	Ranks
1	MF1	Scarcity of labour	1
2	MF2	Increase in input cost	3
3	MF3	Monsoon failure	2
4	MF4	No fair return	4
5	MF5	Problem of storage facility	6
6	MF6	Unfair treatment in Mundies	5
7	MF7	Unfair Role of Intermediaries	8
8	MF8	Problem of raising funds	7

**Source: Computed from Primary Data**

Kendall's W Test is used to analyses the above response to find the average in the order of rankings of the medium farmers for the problems they are facing in their **cultivation activities**. The results are given in Table 5.31.

**Table No. 12**  
**Kendall's w test for the ranking of the problems of medium farmers – descriptive statistics**

Problems	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Assigned ranks for mean
MF1	40	1.1000	0.2021	1	2	1
MF2	40	2.1000	0.2031	3	4	3
MF3	40	1.8000	0.3030	2	2	2
MF4	40	2.9000	0.4041	3	4	4
MF5	40	3.6000	0.3030	5	2	6
MF6	40	3.4000	0.4949	5	4	5
MF7	40	5.6000	0.4949	3	6	8
MF8	40	5.4000	0.4251	2	6	7

**Source: Computed from Primary data**

The table 5.32 indicates the MMF (Security of Labour) is the main problem of marginal farmers, next is MMF3 (Monsoon failure).

**Table No. 13**  
**Test statistics –Medium farmers**

N	40
Kendall's Wa Test	0.922
Chi-Square	242.000
Degree of freedom	7
Asymp. Significance	0.000

**A. Kendall's co efficient of concordance**

**Source: Computed from primary data**

The table 5.33 reveals that there is a high degree of concordance (agreement) among the medium farmers in ordering the problems faced by them. The significance value 0.000, which is less than 0.05, indicates that there is significant difference in the ranking among eight problems they face.

**Table No. 14**  
**Problems faced by largefarmersof the respondents**

The marginal farmers were asked to respond to the following.

Sl.No.	Large Farmers	Problems faced by Large Farmers	Ranks
1	LF1	Scarcity of labour	3
2	LF2	Increase in input cost	5
3	LF3	Monsoon failure	8
4	LF4	No fair return	6
5	LF5	Problem of storage facility	2
6	LF6	Unfair treatment in Muddies	4
7	LF7	Unfair Role of Intermediaries	1
8	LF8	Problem of raising funds	7

**Source: Computed from Primary Data**

Kendall's W test is used to analyses the above response to find the average in the order of rankings of the large farmers for the problems they are facing in their cultivation activities. The results are given in table 5.34.

**Table No. 15.**

**Kendall's w test for the ranking of problems of the large farmers – descriptive statistics**

Problems	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Minimum	Maximum	Assigned ranks for mean
LF1	10	3.2000	0.4041	3	4	3
LF2	10	3.6000	0.4041	3	4	5
LF3	10	5.7400	0.4431	5	6	8
LF4	10	3.7800	0.4185	2	3	6
LF5	10	1.9000	0.3030	1	2	2
LF6	10	3.2200	0.4185	3	4	4
LF7	10	1.1000	0.3030	1	2	1
LF8	10	5.26000	0.4431	5	6	7

**Source: Computed from Primary data**

The table 5.35 shows that LF7 (Unfair role of intermediaries) is the major problem of large farmers; next is LF 5 (Problem of storage facility).

**Table no. 16**  
**Test statistics – large farmers**

N	<b>40</b>
Kendall's Wa Test	0.05
Chi-Square	242.000
Degree of freedom	7
Asymp. Significance	0.000

**A. Kendall's co efficient of concordance**

**Source: Computed from primary data**

The table 5.36 exhibits that there is a high degree of concordance (agreement) among the medium farmers in ordering the problems faced by them. The significance value 0.000, which is less than 0.05, indicates that there is significant difference in the ranking among eight problems they face.

### Testing of Hypotheses

#### Hypothesis -I

There is No significant relationship between Age and their size of farmers.

Test used	Degree of freedom	Level of significance	Table value	Calculated value	Result
Chi-square	6	5%	12.59	10.333	Rejected

#### Hypothesis- II

There is No significant relationship between Qualification of sample cultivators and their farmers

Test used	Degree of freedom	Level of significance	Table value	Calculated value	Result
Chi-square	9	5%	16.919	28.479	Accepted

#### Hypothesis- III

There is No significant relationship between Annual income of sample cultivators and their onion producers.

Test used	Degree of freedom	Level of significance	Table value	Calculated value	Result
Chi-square	9	5%	16.919	123.302	Accepted

### FINDINGS

In general 31.2 per cent sample cultivators are less than 30 years; 42.0 per cent of them are 30-60 years and remaining 26.8 per cent cultivators are above 60 years.

Finally the 47.2 percent majority of the respondents are SSLC level.

The overall, 30.0 fall in the first category of less than Rs.20,000 a year, 25.2 per cent receive income between Rs.20001- Rs.40,000. Out of 250 samples, nearly 82 percent of respondents are married.

Among the Small farmers, 11.3 per cent have family size of 2-4 in a family, 8.0 per cent have 4-6 members in their family. Majority of the small farmers, i.e. 35.3 per cent have 6-8 members in their family, and 45.3 per cent farmers have bigger family with more than 8 members.

Among the cultivators of medium farmers 32.5 per cent have a small family of 2-4 persons 20.0 per cent have the family size of 4-6 in a family. 30.0 per cent have 6-8 persons in their family, and remaining 17.5 per cent have more than 8 members in their family.

Among large farmers 30.0 per cent has small family of 2-4 persons, 30.0 per cent have the medium size family between 4-6 members, and 20.0 per cent have 6-8 members in their family. Remaining 20.0 per cent have a bigger size with more than 8 members in their family.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

In the present study, researcher has made an attempt to study knowledge, adoption and marketing behavior of the onion growers in a comprehensive way. The present study was limited to small area comprising Namakkal district involving 250 respondents. Further, research need to be taken up statewide involving all categories of onion growers. This will enable to make valid and wider generalization regarding knowledge, adoption and marketing behavior of onion growers.

Only rich farmers get the benefit of loan subsidies and it does not serve the purpose and therefore the banks should be lenient in lending loan to the marginalized.

The study also indicated that onion growers were facing problem with regard to storage, marketing, transportation, exploitation by commission agents and untimely availability of market information. To mitigate this problem it invites the planners and policy makers to intervene by way of establishing cold storage structures at onion growing belts under National Horticulture Mission and National Horticulture Board.

So farmers are suggested to judicious use of fertilizer and irrigation in production project to get optimum profit from onion cultivation. Such co-operative effort will immensely benefit them in standardizing the quality of their produce on one hand and remunerative realization of the price on the other.

### **CONCLUSION**

Indian agriculture today is facing challenges in many aspects. The shortage of labour and increase in input cost are the problems that the cultivators find it cope with. Onion is commercial crop with certain advantages. Though the role of intermediaries cannot be totally eliminated, but the onion cultivators should choose the timing of sales carefully watching the market condition. They should make use of the banking facilities and reduce their financial burden. Though there can be many researches in agricultural fields, but this research is throws a light on the problems and prospects of farmers in Namakkal District. So the research of this kind is the need of the hour as most of the people rely on agriculture and related activities and will serve for the betterment of the rural cultivators.

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