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PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDE OF THE FARMERS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE FARMING IN PRAYAGRAJ DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The study conducted was to understand the perception and attitude of the farmers towards sustainable farming in Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh. Seven random villages were selected in Jasra block at Bara tehsil, in total 110 respondents were selected randomly for this study, the data was collected with the help of a self-designed well-structured interview schedule by personally interviewing by the researcher. The data was then statically analysed. The results concluded that majority of the respondents 43.63% had a highly favourable perception towards sustainable farming followed by 31.82% favourable and only 24.55% had unfavourable perception about it. And the findings also revealed that most of the respondents i.e. 50% had favourable attitude regarding sustainable farming while the other 29.09% had unfavourable and 20.91% highly favourable attitude.

KEYWORDS: Sustainable farming, Perception and Attitude

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture is the backbone of mankind's survival since the dawn of time. It has not only provided food but also generated income sources and employment throughout the years. It contribute a good share to the world's economy. In Indian economy agriculture plays one of the most prominent sector. It is the source of livelihood for almost two third of the rural population workforce in the country residing in rural areas. But With the increasing rate of population and globalization worldwide, the same piece of land is being used for

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farming over and over again from generations. The use of same land for farming, air, water and application of excess amount of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides to meet the ever increasing needs of the present generation is posing a huge threat to our environment. The major concerns of present generation as a result of irresponsible actions of the humanity are soil erosion, soil degradation water and air pollution, forest wildlife, climate and depletion of natural resources. Most farmers are likely to possess poor knowledge of conventional fertilizers. Besides, the available fertilizer is often not the correct type required for various crops and most farmers are not familiar with its correct rates, the timing for application, and placement in the soil-plant continuum **(Sanginga and Woomer, 2009).** To restore and regain soil health, Sustainable agriculture is one of the most convenient method to be practice. As Sustainable agriculture consists of environment friendly methods of farming that allows the production of crops or livestock without damaging human health or natural systems. **United Nations Brundtland Commission (1987)** defined sustainability as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Sustainable agriculture is a collective term that embraces but is not restricted to nor is defined by such terms as organic, regenerative, biodynamic, alternative or low input agriculture. Just because a farm is Organic or alternative, it does not however mean that it is sustainable **(Reganold *et. al.* 1990)**. Sustainable agriculture is farming without compromising on nature, depleting or exploiting natural resources and also understanding the inter-dependency of living organisms and environment.

Sustainable farming offers a much-needed alternative to conventional input-intensive agriculture, the long-term impacts of which include degrading topsoil, declining groundwater levels and reduced biodiversity. Sustainable agriculture consists of environment friendly methods of farming that allow the production of crops or livestock without damage to human or natural systems.

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RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Descriptive research design was followed for this study as it describes the characteristics or phenomenon that are being studied. The study was conducted at Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh. Jasra block was selected purposively out of 20 blocks in Prayagraj district. Seven villages were selected randomly out of 114 villages under this block from where 110 respondents were interviewed randomly for this study.

OBJECTIVE

- To understand the perception and attitude of the farmers regarding sustainable farming.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Perception

Findings of the study (Table.1) revealed that 82.73% of the respondent strongly agreed on the statement that natural resources must be protected for the next generation. 77.27% respondents strongly agreed on the statement "Successive cultivation of a single crop increase pest invasion". 53.64% respondents agreed on the statement that we have to protect natural resources even if it lead to incur to a short term loss. 73.64% respondents agreed that tillage operation decrease soil fertility. 40.91% respondents agreed that only using modern technology agriculture can be developed. 66.36% respondents strongly agreed that there are long term negative effects of applying modern agriculture technology. "Agricultural productivity can only be increased by using agrochemicals", this statement was strongly agreed by 62.73% respondents. 80.91% respondents strongly agreed that there are long term decreasing effect of agrochemicals on the production and farmer's income. 78.18% of the respondents believe and strongly agreed that Sustainable farming technology/practices have no negative effect on environment. 50.91% of the respondents agreed that a farmer's main objective must be maximizing the profit.

Based on the data in (Table.1) it can be observed in (Table.2) that 43.63% of the respondents had highly favourable perception on sustainable farming while 31.82% had favourable followed by 24.55% unfavourable perception respectively.

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Attitude

The findings of the study in (Table.3) shows that 90% of the respondents strongly agreed that sustainable farming improves soil fertility. 44.55% of the respondents agreed that sustainable farming practices are just a waste of time and money. "Adoption of sustainable agricultural practices is partially not feasible" 47.27% respondents were disagreed on this statement. 56.36% of the respondents agreed that sustainable agriculture practices are not profitable for vegetable cultivation. 66.36% respondents agreed that sustainable agriculture practices is highly risky and it is not advisable to follow the same. 87.27% the respondent strongly agreed that sustainable agriculture practices are essential for better quality of agriculture produce. 82.73% respondents were disagreed on the statement that it is not correct to support sustainable agriculture practices. 89.09% responded strongly agreed on the statement that it is possible to solve environmental problems through sustainable agricultural practices. "Use of sustainable agriculture practices prevent pollution" this statement was agreed by 50.91% of the respondents. "Sustainable agriculture practices contribute to environmental conservation" this statement was disagreed by 55.45% of the respondents. 49.09% of the respondents agreed that sustainable agriculture practices reduce cost of cultivation. 90% of the respondent strongly think that sustainable agriculture practices improve condition of environment. 65.45% agreed that sustainable agriculture practices keep biodiversity. "Sustainable agriculture practices preserve soil equality" 62.73% of the respondents were disagreed on this statement. Sustainable agriculture practices help farmer to improve their techniques and quality of life for this statement also majority of the respondents 68.18% remained disagreed.

Based on the data in (Table.3) it was clearly visible that majority 50% of the respondents had favourable attitude on sustainable farming practices, 29.09% and 20.91% of the farmers had unfavourable and high favourable attitude towards sustainable farming practices respectively.

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Table 1: Perception of the respondents regarding sustainable farming.

S.no.	Statements	Strongly Agree		Disagree		Disagreed	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1	Natural resources must be protected for next generations	91	82.73%	15	13.64%	08	7.27%
2	Successive cultivation of a single crop increases pests' invasion	85	77.27%	08	7.27%	17	15.45%
3	We have to protect natural resources even if it led to incur to a short term loss	25	22.72%	59	53.64%	26	23.64%
4	Tillage operation decreases soil fertility	10	9.09%	81	73.64%	19	17.27%
5	Only using modern technologies agriculture can be developed	39	35.45%	45	40.91%	26	23.64%
6	Long term negative effects of applying modern agricultural technologies	73	66.36%	18	16.36%	19	17.27%
7	Agricultural production can only be increased using agrochemicals	69	62.73%	36	32.73%	05	4.55%
8	Long term decreasing effects of agrochemical on production and farmers' income	89	80.91%	11	10%	10	9.09%
9	Sustainable Farming technologies/practices have no negative environmental effects	86	78.18%	15	13.64%	9	8.18%
10	Farmers' main objective must be maximized profit	54	49.09%	56	50.91%	0	0%

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Table 2: overall Perception of the respondents regarding sustainable farming.

S. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Unfavourable	27	24.55%
2.	Favourable	35	31.82%
3.	Highly favourable	48	43.63%
	Total	110	100.00%

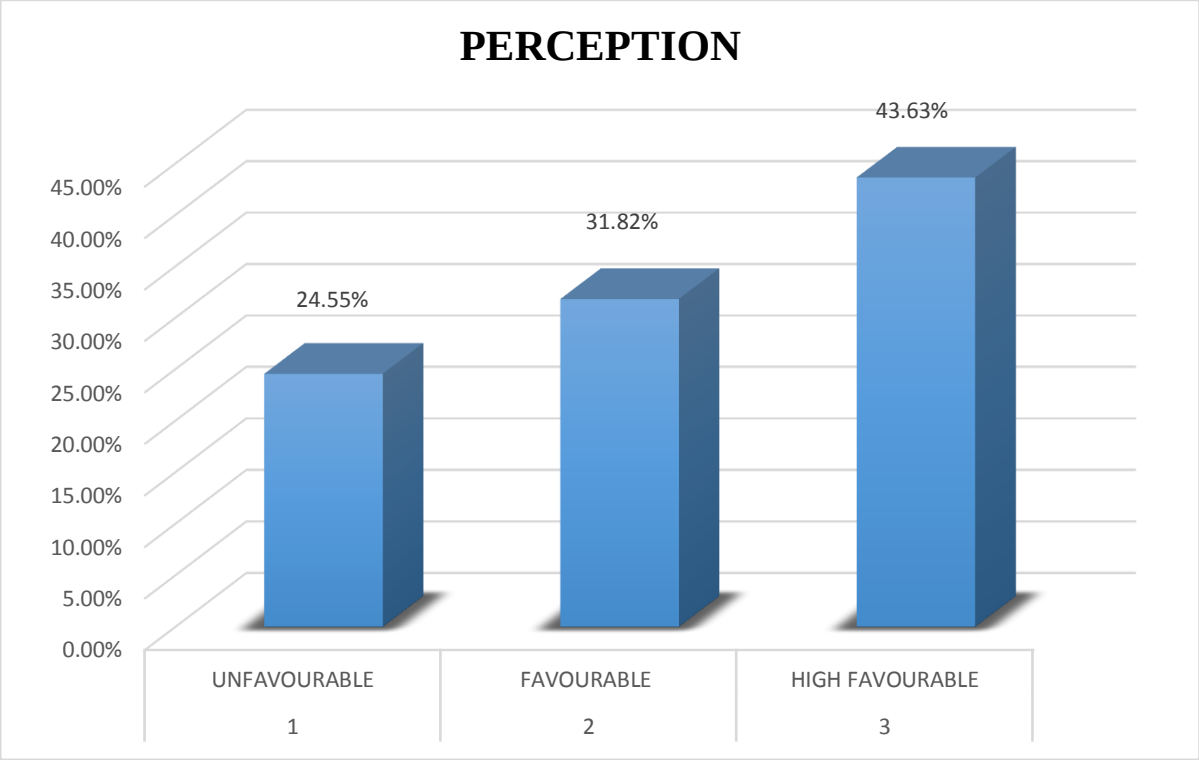

Fig. of table 2: overall Perception of the respondents regarding sustainable farming.

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Table 3: Attitude of the respondents regarding sustainable farming.

S.no.	Statements	Strongly Agree		Agree		Disagreed	
		F	P	F	P	F	P
1)	Sustainable Farming improves fertility status of soil.	99	90%	05	4.55%	06	5.45%
2)	Use of sustainable farming practices is only a west of time and money.	38	34.54%	49	44.55%	23	20.91%
3)	Adoption of sustainable agriculture practices practically not feasible.	40	36.36%	18	16.36%	52	47.27%
4)	Sustainable agriculture practices are non-profitable for vegetable cultivation.	25	22.73%	62	56.36%	23	20.91%
5)	Adoption of sustainable agriculture practices is Highly risky and hence, it is not advisable to follow the same.	29	26.36%	73	66.36%	08	7.27%
6)	Use of sustainable agricultural practices is essential for better quality of agricultural produce.	14	12.71%	56	50.91%	40	36.36%
7)	It is not correct to support sustainable agriculture Practices.	12	10.91%	07	6.36%	91	82.73%
8)	It is possible to solve our environmental problems through sustainable agricultural practices.	98	89.09%	04	3.64%	08	7.27%
9)	Use of sustainable agricultural practices prevents pollution.	96	87.27%	07	6.36%	07	6.36%
10)	Sustainable agricultural practices contribute to environmental conservation.	21	19.09%	28	25.45%	61	55.45%
11)	Sustainable agricultural practices reduce cost of Cultivation	45	40.91%	54	49.09%	11	10%
12)	Sustainable agricultural practices improve the condition of environment.	99	90%	04	3.64%	07	6.36%

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13)	Sustainable agricultural practices keep biodiversity.	11	10%	72	65.45%	27	24.55%
14)	Sustainable agricultural practices preserve social Equality.	15	13.64%	26	23.64%	69	62.73%
15)	Sustainable agricultural practices helping farmers improve their techniques and quality of life.	17	15.46%	18	16.36%	75	68.18%

Table 4: overall attitude of the respondents regarding sustainable farming.

S.No.	**Category**	**Frequency**	**Percentage**
1.	Unfavourable	32	29.09%
2.	Favourable	55	50%
3.	Highly favourable	23	20.91%
	Total	110	100.00%

Fig. of table 3: overall attitude of the respondents regarding sustainable farming.

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CONCLUSION

It is concluded that majority of the respondents had highly favourable perception regarding sustainable farming followed by favourable and less favourable perception respectively. And the attitude of the respondents was mostly favourable followed by less favourable and highly favourable about sustainable farming. Thus majority of the respondents had highly favourable perception and favourable attitude towards sustainable farming.

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