



## Cropping Pattern for Sustainable Agriculture Development of Hilly Area of Satara District

**Dr. Prakash K. Tone**

*Dept. of Economics,*

*Savitribai Phule Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Satara.*

*Corresponding Author – Dr. Prakash K. Tone*

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### **Introduction:**

In Indian continent agriculture is one of the important factors of earning source and it's also behind the development of an Indian Economy. Agriculture is the main source of the employment because most of the industries are depend on the agriculture sector because it gives raw material for a large number of industries. It also employs about half of the population of India's workforce and it is also important sector of the economy. Agriculture is also the backbone of our country. About half of the countries national income is derived from agriculture and allied activities. Agriculture provided food to the teeming millions and raw materials to our industry. It works crucial job in financial improvement by having the country's subsistence arrangement office send out for amplification, transferring labour to non-farming areas, engaging in capital growth, and checking industrialization markets. Agricultural development appears to hold the key progress for our economy as a whole. Therefore, it is necessary to receive it because of the emphasis.

Agriculture provides additional income from the owner of the land, assistance for farming families, farmers, and implicitly generates income for a host of other people involved in processing, transport, food preparation and sale. Satisfactory development is the administration and security of the common asset base and the introduction of

creative change to ensure achievement and the fulfilment of present and future human needs. Practical horticulture is an expansive idea that covers various distinctive methodologies. All attempt in one way or other to accomplish financially gainful, ecologically solid and morally worthy and socially capable type of land farming.

### **Objectives of the study:**

The present research work conducted on the basis of the following objectives.

1. To study the cropping pattern of Fruits and Vegetables in study area.
2. To suggest appropriate policy measures

### **Hypothesis of the Study:**

#### **Hypothesis-1**

1. H<sub>0</sub>- Mango is not major crop in the study area.
2. H<sub>1</sub>- Mango is major crop in the study area.

### **Research Methodology:**

#### **Primary data:**

The primary data was collected through intensive fieldwork with the help of questioner, interviews and personal discussion with the farmers, agricultural experts, other relevant persons and authorities.

#### **Sampling Design:**

The present study was conducted using a sample survey methodology and we have used a

random sampling method for selecting the samples. Total 300 respondents were selected from Mahabaleshwar, Patan and Jaoli Tehsils of the Satara district. Total 100 respondents were selected from each Tehsil for in-depth investigation.

In the present research work 30 villages are selected from three Tehsils in which the researcher has selected randomly 10 villages from three major Tahashils such as 10 villages from Mahabaleshwar Tehasil, 10 villages from Jaoli and 10 villages from Patan Tehsil. Beside this 10 farmers are selected randomly from each village based on the appropriate representation of the economic and social status of the farmers that are form marginal small, Medium and big categories of landholding. Hence, the study covered 300 farmers from 10 villages of Mahabaleshwar Tehsil, 100farmers from 10 villages of Jaoli Tehashil and 100farmers from 10 villages of Patan Tehashil Thus, total 300 sample farmers from these three Tehashils are selected.

#### Secondary data:

The secondary data was collected from the District and State Census Reports and Statistical Abstracts, Epitome of Agriculture in Maharashtra Part-II, Season and Crop Report, Economic Survey of Maharashtra District Gazetteers and some unpublished records. Some data were collected from Zila Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, and Village Revenue Officer and from different government office like irrigation, Agriculture Animal Husbandry, Public Work, Regional Transport Office, District Dy. Registrar Office of Co-operative Societies and Soil Conservation Department etc.

#### The Study Area:

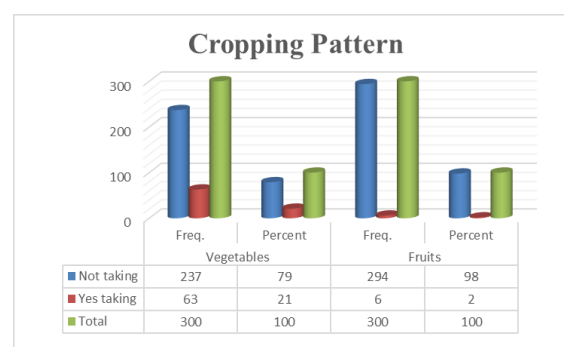
The proposed study covers a hilly area of Satara district particularly Mahabaleshwar, Jaoli and Patan Tehsils

#### Cropping Pattern in the Study Area:

Table No. 1 Indicates out of 300 farmers 21.0% of farmers are taking only 21% vegetables in their farm and 2% farmers are taking fruit in their farm and remaining farmers are taking other crops in their farm.

**Table No. 1: Cropping Pattern in the Study Area**

	Vegetables		Fruits	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Not taking	237	79.0	294	98.0
Yes taking	63	21.0	6	2.0
Total	300	100	300	100



We also find that most of the farmers are taking different crops in the Jawali, Mahabaleshwar and Patan Tehasil but while farmers are taking vegetables and fruit also however it is observed that most of the farmers are dependent on wheat crop

**Table No 2: Cropping Pattern in the Study Area**

	Mango		Strawberry	
	Freq.	Percent	Freq.	Percent
Not taking	210	70.0	237	79.0
Yes taking	90	30.0	63	21.0
Total	300	100.0	300	100.0

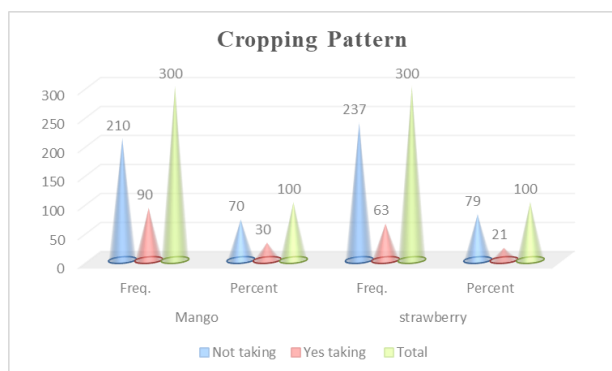


Table No. 2 Indicates out of 300 farmers 30% of farmers are taking mango crop and 21% of farmers are taking strawberry crop in their farm. It shows that most of the farmers are taking mango crop. It is observed that mango is major crop in the study area.

### Major Findings:

1. Basically, there is need of agricultural diversity in the study region, because the study region has such potential. However, we found that most of the farmers are taking conventional crops along with the food-grains only.
2. We observed that out of 300 farmers 79.7% of farmers are cultivating food grains and only 21% farmers are taking different types of vegetables in their farm and only 2% of the farmer respondents are taking fruit in their farm. This is not good picture of study region because there is need to change in cropping pattern for better survival and livelihood of the farmers.
3. It is also found that out of 300 farmers 30% of farmers are taking mango crop, only 1% farmers are taking cotton crop and 21% of farmers are taking strawberry crop in their farm. However, the strawberry and mango producers are not processing the produce at local level. They are simply selling these crops to the traders, hence, they are not getting proper income from the same crops.

### Suggestions:

On the basis of empirical findings and discussions made with the respondents and policy makers we have recommend the following recommendations and suggestions for betterment of the farmers' community.

1. The cropping pattern is one of the most important issues in the agriculture sector. We also found the same issue in the study region. Hence, we suggest that the Agriculture universities and Agriculture colleges should take empirical survey and suggest further changes in cropping pattern which will helps to the farmers' community.
2. The farmers should have change the cropping pattern according to the market situation and changes in the climatic situations.

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