



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Home Science

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF MUNSYARI REGION

KEY WORDS: Shoka Traders, Agriculture, Animal husbandary, Trade, Raw material.

Geeta

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ABSTRACT

Johari Shoka traders of Munsyari used to have strong trading relationships with Tibet. From ancient time agricultural, animal rearing, trading with Tibet and wool industry is the base of economic life of Johari Shoka community. They always excelled in Tibet trading. Johari Shoka used to fulfill their daily needs through Tibet trading. Johari Shoka and Tibetan traders had very old relationship. Both community imported and exported trading goods. Tibetan traders exported wool, borax, all kinds of woolen goods, animals (sheep, goat, mule, dogs, horses) etc. to Shoka Johari traders and Shoka Johari traders used to export cereals (rice, pulses, wheat, millets), potato, tobacco, sugar, salt, spices, cloths etc. Shoka traders could only exchange salt and borax for cereals. Tibetan traders had to pay cash for rest of the goods. No credit transaction was allowed to Tibetan traders. The main trading markets of Shoka traders were Munsyari, Ramnagar, Madkot, Tanakpur, Bageshwar etc. They used to travel impossible routes to reach out to markets which were very unsafe. Trades between Johari Shoka and Tibetan traders got extinct due to closing of Tibet trading in 1962. This led to social and economic decline among Johari communities.

INTRODUCTION

Munsyari is one of the most important tehsil in Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand. It lies in the central Himalayan region between Ramganga and Goriganga valley near Indo-Tibetan border. It is covered by high Himalayan range from three sides. Goriganga valley of Munsyari is also known as Johar. Johar region is divided into two sub-regions Malla Johar and Talla Johar.

Munsyari is also known as gateway of Johar region. From the ancient time Munsyari is used as the main way for trading with Tibet. Before 1962, traders of Tibet used Munsyari as the godowns for their products. There were small villages in this region. People living in this region are commonly known as Shoka or Bhotia. Even before independence, Johari Shoka traders of Munsyari used to have strong trading relationship with Tibet. From the ancient time agriculture, animal rearing trading and wool industry is the base of economic life of Johari Shoka community.

They always prioritized trading with Tibet to fulfill their daily needs. Johar Shoka community and Tibetan traders had very old relationship. Both community imported and exported trading goods. Tibetan traders exported wool, borax, all kinds of woolen goods, animals (sheep, goat, mule, dogs, horses), etc. to Shoka Johari traders and Shoka Johari traders used to export cereals (rice, pulses, wheat, millets), potatoes, tobacco, sugar, salt, spices, cloths.

Shoka traders could only exchange salt and borax for cereals. Tibetan traders had to pay cash for rest of the goods. No credit transaction was allowed to Tibetan traders. The main trading markets of Shoka traders were Munsyari, Ramnagar, Madkot,

Tanakpur, Bageshwar, etc.

They used to travel impossible routes to reach out to markets which were very unsafe. Trades between Johari Shoka and Tibet traders got extinct due to closing of Tibet trading in 1962. This led to social and economic decline among Johari communities. Due to this decline, there was a scarcity in the raw materials which affected the woolen industry. Even after that, Tibetan wool was exported for more than 10 years with the changed name known as Nepali wool.

Nepali traders used to purchase wool from Kathmandu and sell in the Dharchula villages. Munsyari gets the raw material from these villages. Nepali wool was used for some time by woolen industry in Munsyari. The supply of wool diminished with the time. In 1962, due to the closure of the Tibet trade, business of the Johari Shoka community gradually became extinct. After which, ready made woolen threads were used for making woolen clothes. These woolen threads were imported from Panipat, Bhadoi, Haryana, etc. which is commonly available in nearby markets.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted on Munsyari block, district Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. A total of 200 women selected as respondents through random sampling techniques. The selected respondents were personally using pre- tested well-structure interview schedule. Purposive sampling techniques were used for selecting the sample size. Interview schedule was to be choosing regarding of general information in terms of entrepreneurial activities, socio-economic status of the respondents, profile of main occupation sources of the respondents etc. to undertake of women.

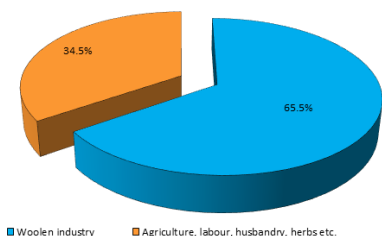
Table- Survey area (Malla Johar and Talla Johar) related information regarding agricultural and animal husbandry from the selected women's respondents based on their economic information:

S. No.	Parameter	Malla Johar Region							Talla Johar Region						Average of both the regions				
		NANASEM	GHORPATTA	SURKING	DARKOT	JAINTI	TOTAL	PERCENT	S. NO.	BALA	GIRGAON	QUITI	TEJAM	TIMITIMA	TOTAL	PERCENT	GRE.TOTAL	PERCENT	
1	Family Main source of income	Woolen industry	15	15	12	10	15	67	67%	1	10	12	16	11	15	64	64%	131	65.5%
		Agriculture, labour, husbandry, herbs etc.	5	5	8	10	5	33	33%		10	8	4	9	5	36	36%	69	34.5%
2	Monthly income of family	1000-1500	5	2	5	4	10	26	26%	2	10	5	5	10	5	35	35%	61	30.5%
		1600-2000	3	5	10	10	5	33	33%		10	2	3	5	3	23	23%	56	28%
		2100-3000	10	4	3	4	5	26	26%		0	0	3	5	2	10	10%	36	18%
		3100-4000	2	9	0	2	0	13	13%		0	3	0	0	5	8	8%	21	10.5%
		4000 MORE THAN	0	0	2	0	0	2	2%		0	10	9	0	5	24	24%	26	13%
3	Income To Fulfill Daily Needs Of Family	YES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		NO	20	20	20	20	20	100	100%		20	20	20	20	20	100	100%	200	100%

1. Main Source of income of the family-

In research, it has been observed in the survey of Malla Johar region that in most of the selected women family's (67%) main source of income was woolen industry. And 33% family's main source of income was agriculture, labour, woolen industry, animal husbandry, herbs etc. 64% women families selected from Talla Johar region's main source of income was woolen industry whereas 36% women family's main source of income was agriculture, labour, animal husbandry, herbs etc. It has been observed from the survey area (Malla Johar and Talla Johar) that main source of income of around 65.5% selected women families were woolen industry, while 34.5% women family's main source of income was agriculture, labour, animal husbandry, herbs etc.

Family Main Source of Income

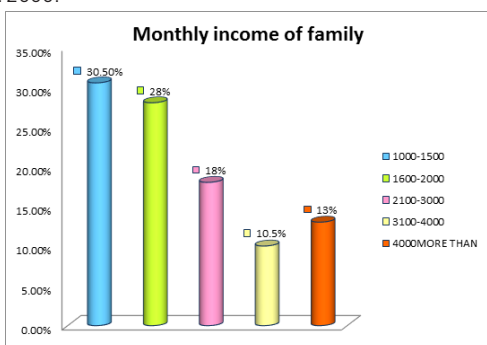


1. Monthly income of the family-

It has been observed from the survey that around 33% Women families selected from Malla Johar region's monthly income ranges were from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 2000, 26% family's monthly income ranges were from Rs. 2100 to Rs. 3000, 26% women family's monthly income ranges were from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500, 13% women family's monthly income ranges were from Rs. 3100 to Rs. 4000 and 2% women families monthly income was more than Rs. 4000.

Women families, selected from Talla Johar region's monthly income for around 35% families ranges from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500, monthly income for around 24% women families was more than Rs. 4000, around 23% women families monthly income ranges from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 2000, 10% women families monthly income ranges from Rs. 2100 to Rs. 3000 and 8% women families monthly income ranges from Rs. 3100 to Rs. 4000.

Around 30.5% selected women families from survey area (Malla Johar and Talla Johar) monthly income varies from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1500, 28% women families monthly income varies from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 2000.



18% women families monthly income varies from Rs. 2100 to Rs. 3000, 13% women families monthly income was more than Rs. 4000 and 10.5% women families monthly income ranges from Rs. 3100 to Rs. 4000.

1. Income required for fulfilling daily need of the family-

Selected 100% women families from Malla Johar region stated that the income was insufficient for fulfilling their daily needs. And selected 100% women families from Talla Johar region also stated that income was insufficient for fulfilling their daily needs.

All selected women families (100%) from survey area Malla Johar and Talla Johar region stated that monthly income was insufficient for fulfilling their daily needs. Families were not satisfied with their

income because they were not getting the requisite pay in accordance with their work.

CONCLUSION :

After the research and survey in Johar region, it is concluded that trade with Tibet was the main source of income for Johari Shoka community. Export and import of goods was the common practice between the Tibetan and the Shoka communities. Trades between Johari Shoka and Tibetan traders got extinct due to closing of Tibet trading which slowly affected the livelihood of the Johari Shoka families. Because these communities were mainly depends on the agricultural, animal husbandry, woolen industry, herbs etc. Even today, Johar Shoka communities are facing difficulty in getting the raw material for the production of their goods and increase in competition in selling their by-products is also a major problem. Availability of the raw material is utmost important for production and trading of these products. Due to the diminished trading with the Tibet, Johar communities were unable to get the raw materials and they were also not getting the goods required for their daily needs.

If these communities gets the financial assistance from the regional, district or state level, it will furnish their business again and so their livelihood.

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