



Socio-Economic Profile of Mithun Farmers of Nagaland

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Abstract | Socioeconomic status is a measurement of economic and social position of an individual in the society. It influences the accessibility to the resources, livelihood pattern, food and nutritional security. The investigation was conducted to review the situation of mithun rearing in Nagaland with the objectives to study the socioeconomic status of mithun farmers and its relationship to the number of mithun reared. Data for the present study was collected from a sample of 100 mithun farmers at four mithun rearing villages of two districts of Nagaland. A multistage random sampling technique was followed for the selection of mithun farmers. Significant percentage of the mithun farmers had medium level of socioeconomic status. Most of them belong to the age group up to 50 years; the agriculture along with animal rearing was their main occupation and education level of the mithun farmers was up to high school. Most of the mithun farmers were found to have low level of social participation, two third families of mithun farmers were nuclear type, had medium to small family and farm size. The houses of mithun farmers were made up of wood to wood and cement (mixed type) construction had medium to low materials possession and also had medium to low education status of family. The mithun farmers had medium annual income from mithun husbandry. It was also observed that the mithun farmers rearing more mithun had more annual income from mithun husbandry and had more total annual income. Relationship between socioeconomic status and number of mithun reared was significant and positively correlated. It was concluded that the mithun farmers were having more number of mithun have high socioeconomic status and vice-versa in mithun rearing area of Nagaland.

Keywords | Socio economic status, Occupation, Mithun farmers, Social participation, Annual income

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INTRODUCTION

Socio economic status (SES) is a combined measurement of economic and social position of an individual compared to others in society. It influences the accessibility to the resources, livelihood pattern, food and nutritional security (Naresh Prasad and Perumal, 2016). Mithun is considered to be the pride of North Eastern Hill States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. This animal plays an important role in the socio-cultural, economic and religious life of the tribal people inhabiting the region. Mithun is an indication of social status in which the richness of a person in the society is counted in terms

of number of mithun he possesses. Farmers mainly rear mithun for meat purpose. Besides, this animal is also used as marriage gift and sacrificial animal for different social and cultural ceremonies (Rajkhowa et al., 2008; Perumal et al., 2016). Though, at present farmers do not consume its milk, but this animal produces highly nutritious milk. Mithun produces around 1 to 1.5kg milk per day (Nath and Verma, 2000). However, due to gradual denudation of open grazing area in the forest and increasing trend of mithun population, the farmers are facing lots of difficulties in rearing this animal with economic viability. There is an urgent need for scientific intervention for proper management as well as conservation of this animal (Perumal