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# Conversion of Agriculture to Horticulture in Kashmir: A Case Study of Baramulla District

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**ABSTRACT: Agribusiness is viewed as a low-tech industry with restricted flow ruled by various little family firms, which are for the most part centred around improving instead of doing new things. The Objective of the present study was to assess the reasons for agriculture to horticulture conversion in Kashmir with special reference to Baramulla district. The data was collected through a pre tested interview schedule from 200 respondents. The survey indicated that there is a shift from agriculture of horticulture sectors due to drop in agriculture commodity prices.**

**Keywords:** Agriculture, horticulture, shift, price.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Business of most of the number of inhabitants in the Jammu and Kashmir State spins around the farming and united segments [1]. These areas constitute the backbone of the State's economy and contribute about 50 for every penny to GSDP. More than 70 for every penny of the populace, of in excess of 1.25 crores depends, specifically or by implication, on agribusiness and its unified parts. The expansion in the physiographic highlights and agro-climatic variety at large scale and smaller scale level, including chilly dry, calm, halfway and sub-tropical zones, inside a little geological zone of 2.22 lakh sq. km shows the inborn agrarian capability of the State. The net sown region (NSA) of 7.35 lakh ha (2009-10) is 35 for each penny of the detailed zone as against the national normal of 46 for every penny. Around 70 for each penny of the net sown region is under the nourishment crops [2-4]. The normal size of holding is little (0.545 ha/holding) when contrasted with 1.66 ha at the national level with over 93% of proprietors of these ranch possessions subsisting on horticulture and united exercises. 1.2 Over the years, agriculturists and ranchers have embraced a few region particular and time-particular development practices to meet the necessity of their staple sustenance crops. Rice, maize, wheat, beats, grub, oilseeds, potato and grain are the primary harvests of the State. There is as of now a move towards developing low volume high-esteem money crops, for example, blossoms, vegetables, quality seeds, sweet-smelling and therapeutic plants, mushrooms and so on round the year. Nectar, Bee-keeping, feed heightening, generation of value saffron, 'Basmati' rice, 'Rajmash', off-season vegetables, potatoes and so on are likewise being developed in particular zones, belts and bunches relying on the agro-climatic appropriateness.

Agriculture in the slopes and heaps of the State experiences innate imperatives of remoteness and unavailability, periphery and delicacy as far as dampness stress and poor soil conditions and a short developing season. Added to this, are financial requirements that, fundamentally, incorporates little land possessions, poor profitability, poor generation administration, work deficiencies, poor post-collect administration, poor market systems (absence of market advancement) and absence of business enterprise. Every one of these components have prompted under usage of accessible asset base prompting restricted age of surpluses.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is blessed with fluctuated agroclimatic zones, communicating in a wide assortment of rural and plant deliver, some of which are exceptional to the State. While Jammu locale is home to top notch 'Basmati', 'Rajmash', Black Caraway ('zeera') and so on., Kashmir area is wealthy in superb Saffron, 'Zeera', new and dry mild foods grown from the ground gardening. Ladakh area is enriched with excellent apricots and seabuck-thistle berry and so forth. Huge potential exists for bio-enhancement because of differed agro-climatic and soil conditions.

Food-grain generation in the State has more than trebled, since the year 1950-51, when the creation was 4.53 lakh MTs. In spite of such critical steps, the state still imports around 40% and 20% of its necessities of nourishment grains and vegetables, individually. In the field of cultivation, the state has gained extraordinary ground in the post independence period. In the year 1953-54, region under organic product development was only 12.4 thousand

hectares with a creation of just around 16 thousand MTs. At display, a zone of 3.25 lakh hectares of land is under organic product development and the natural product creation has contacted an untouched igh of 22 lakhs MTs. The State has 60% offer in the creation of apples in the nation. Since, over the years the agriculture area is being converted to horticulture land by the farmers in Kashmir valley, it was the need of hour to find the reasons behind the conversion of agriculture land to horticulture land, hence, this study was undertaken.

## II. METHODOLOGY

### Collection of Data

The data was collected from the 200 respondents who were either practicing agriculture or horticulture from Baramulla District. The respondents included 56% Male and 44% female population. The questionnaire was translated in Kashmiri language.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1: Demographic characteristics of Entrepreneurs.**

| Gender | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage |
| Male | 112 | 56 |
| Female | 88 | 44 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |

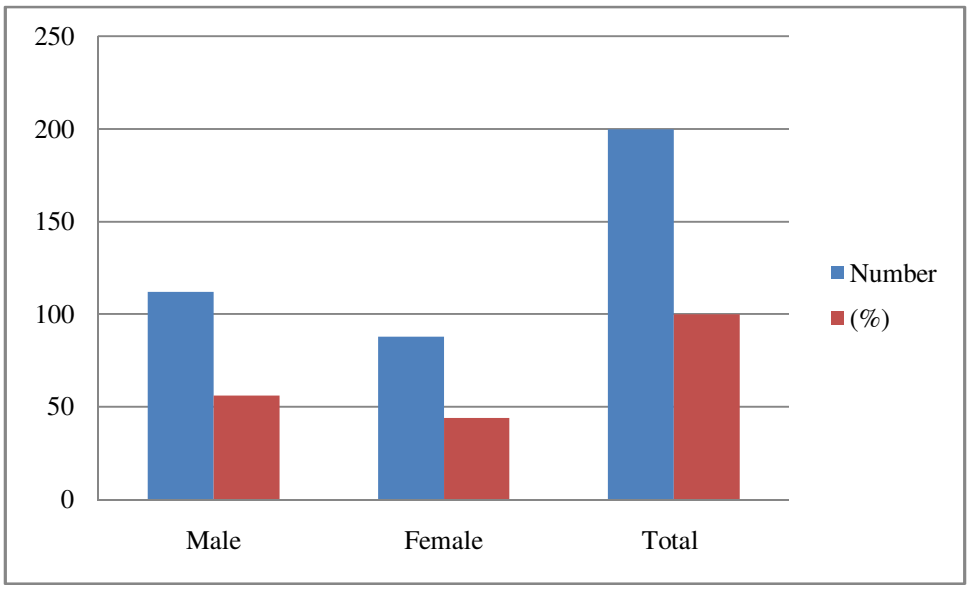


**Fig. 1.** Demographic characteristics of Entrepreneurs.

The demographic data of the present study revealed that (56%) of the participated population were males and other (44%) was females. Table 1, Fig. 1 this is an indication that in Baramulla district males and females contribute almost equally in different entrepreneurship programs which is a healthy sign for the economic development of the area.

**Table 2: Age group distribution of Entrepreneurs.**

| Years | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage |
| 25-35 | 84 | 42 |
| 35-45 | 82 | 41 |
| 45-55 | 32 | 16 |
| above 55 | 2 | 1 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |

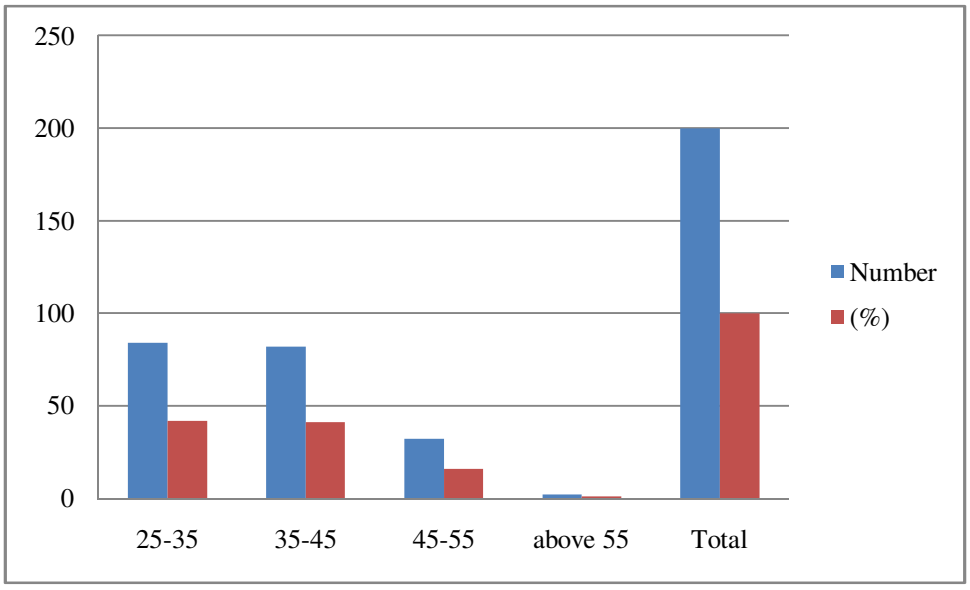


**Fig. 2.** Age group distribution of Entrepreneurs.

The data represented in table revealed that most of the entrepreneurs in district Baramulla are young, as 42 and 41 percent of entrepreneurs fall in the age group of 25- 35 and 35 – 45 age group, respectively (Table 2, Fig. 2).

**Table 3: Educational qualification of Entrepreneurs.**

| Qualification | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|
| | **Number** | **Percentage** |
| Uneducated | 38 | 19 |
| 12th | 96 | 48 |
| Graduation | 40 | 20 |
| post-Graduation | 26 | 13 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |

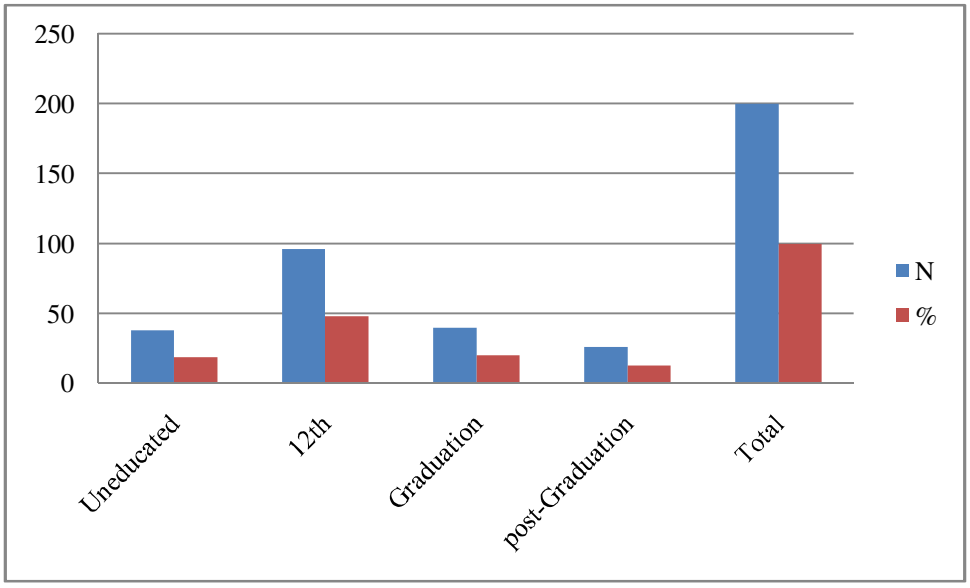


**Fig. 3.** Educational qualification of Entrepreneurs.

Educational background was classified into three groups that includes graduation, post-graduation and other qualification. The perusal of the above (Table 3, Fig. 3) indicates that majority (48%) of the entrepreneurs in Baramulla have education upto 12th standard Only 20 and 13 percent of the entrepreneurs have received education up to graduation and post graduation.

**Table 4: Marital status of respondents.**

| Marital Status | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage |
| Married | 140 | 70 |
| Un-married | 60 | 30 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |

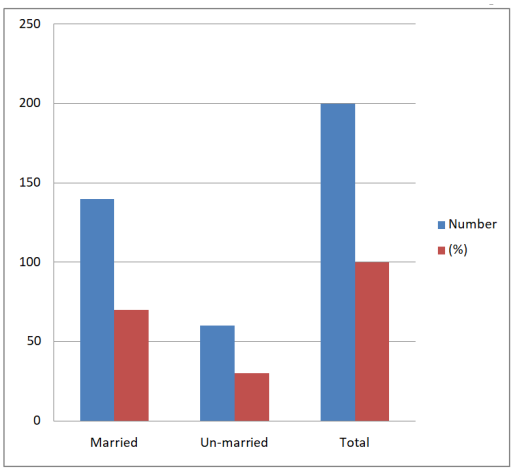


**Fig. 4.** Marital status of respondents.

Our study indicated that 70% of the entrepreneurs are married and only 30% of the entrepreneurs are unmarried. It is an indication that entrepreneurship starts mostly after marriage when one realizes the different burdens that one expects in future to meet the ends of family (Table 4, Fig 4).

**Table 5: Family status of Entrepreneurs of district Baramulla.**

| Family status | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage |
| Joint family | 80 | 40 |
| Nuclear family | 120 | 60 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |

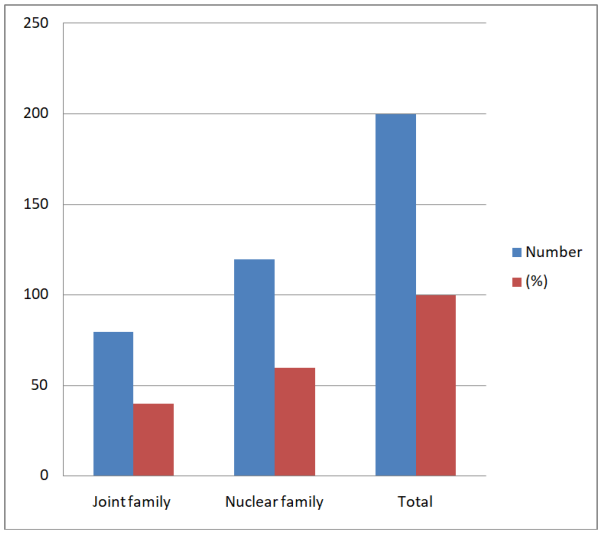


**Fig. 5.** Family status of Entrepreneurs of district Baramulla

40% and 60 % of the respondents in district Baramulla were from joint and nuclear family, respectively. People in Baramulla start entrepreneurship mostly in nuclear family as in joint families they are dependent on each other and do not start their own in nuclear family (Table 5, Fig. 5).

**Table 6: Income status of Entrepreneurs of Baramulla.**

| Income | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|
| | Number | Percentage |
| less than 50,000 | 10 | 5 |
| 50,001-100,000 | 56 | 28 |
| above 100,000 | 134 | 67 |
| **Total** | **200** | **100** |

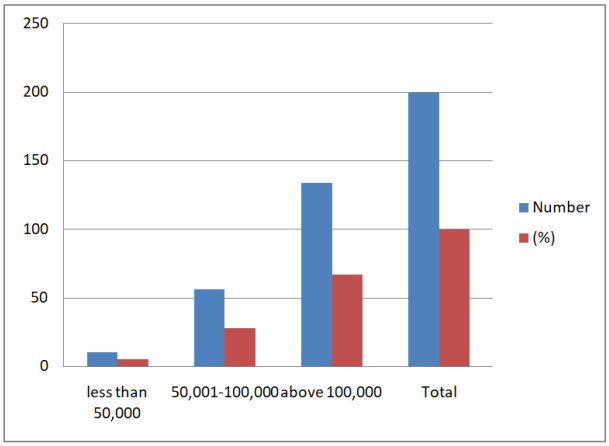


**Fig. 6.** Income status of Entrepreneurs of Baramulla.

On accounts of income 28% and 76% of entrepreneurs in Baramulla district have family income per annum more than 50,001-100,000 and above 100,000, respectively. This is an indication that most of the entrepreneurs were self sufficient to start their business on their business only few of them have to struggle hard to start their business and keep momentum with the current competitive market (Table 6, Fig. 6).

**Table 7: Respondents family occupation.**

| S.No. | Occupation | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | Agriculture | 154 | 77 |
| 2. | Business | 8 | 4 |
| 3. | Service | 18 | 9 |
| 4. | Labour | 20 | 10 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

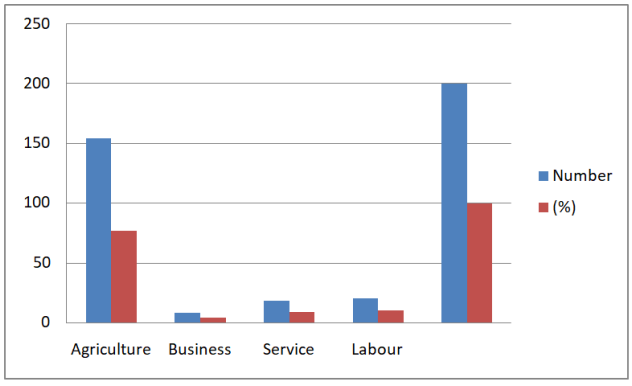


**Fig. 7.** Respondents family occupation.

The district Baramulla is dependent on agriculture as do other districts of Kashmir valley. However, with the shrinking of agriculture people have shifted towards other business related activities to meet their ends and feed their family. It is indicated in Table 7 and Fig. 7 that 77 % of the entrepreneurs have agriculture as their primary business and only a small percentage of them were doing some sort of business and few of them were in working in different government sectors and traditional labours.

**Table 8: Reasons for conversion of agriculture into horticulture.**

| S. No. | Reasons | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Parentage |
| 1. | To earn more profit | 200 | 100 |
| 2. | High cost production of seeds | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Low price | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | low credit | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Heavy burden of debt | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

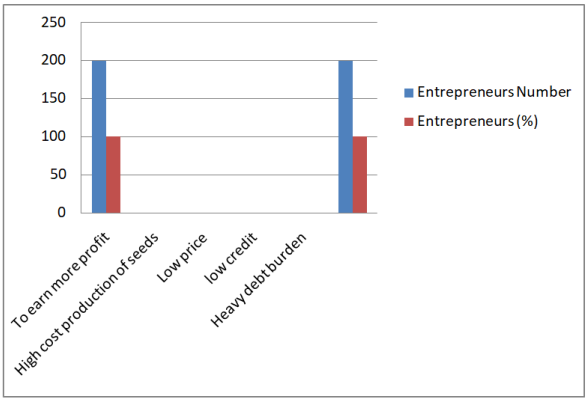


**Fig. 8.** Reasons for conversion of agriculture into horticulture.

The reasons that were cited by the 100 % of the entrepreneurs to convert agriculture land into horticulture was to earn more profit. High cost production of seeds, low price, low credit and heavy burden of debt were not supposed the reason for their conversion, although these factors are highly correlated.

**Table 9: Suggestions received by different persons to transform from agriculture to horticulture.**

| S. No. | Persons | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | Father | 200 | 100 |
| 2. | Mother | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Friends | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Relative | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Neighbor | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

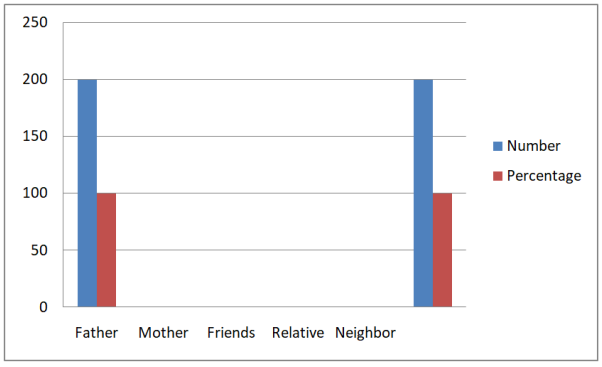


**Fig. 9.** Suggestions received by different persons to transform from agriculture to horticulture.

Since valley of Kashmir is quite different in terms of traditional and cultural ethos from the rest of India, hence people have their own taste and way of living. People are usually dependent on their parents for their decisions and the same has been also indicated by our study. Each and every entrepreneur reported that the suggestions received by their parents to transform from agriculture to horticulture were accepted and as such they have converted their land into horticulture produce.

**Table 10: Annual production of different horticultural produce.**

| S. No. | Quantity | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | Up to 10000 tons | 109 | 54.5 |
| 2. | 10001 to 20000tons | 31 | 15.5 |
| 3. | 20001 to 30000tons | 58 | 29 |
| 4. | Above 30000tons | 2 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

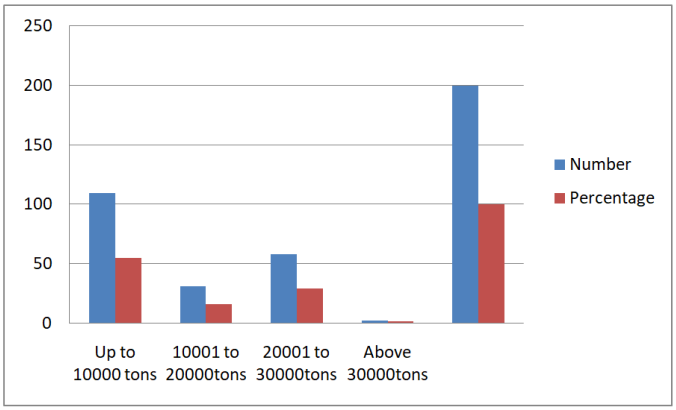


**Fig. 10.** Annual production of different horticultural produce.

The annual production generated by different entrepreneurs from horticultural products varied differently in the current study. 54.5 % of the entrepreneurs produced upto 10000 tons of horticultural produce and 29% of the respondents have produced the horticultural produce upto 10001 to 20000 tons. However, very less (1%) of the respondents have reached above 30000 tons in the Baramulla district.

**Table 11: Adaptation of new technology innovation in agriculture.**

| S. No. | Response | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | N | % |
| 1. | No | 24 | 12 |
| 2. | Yes | 176 | 88 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

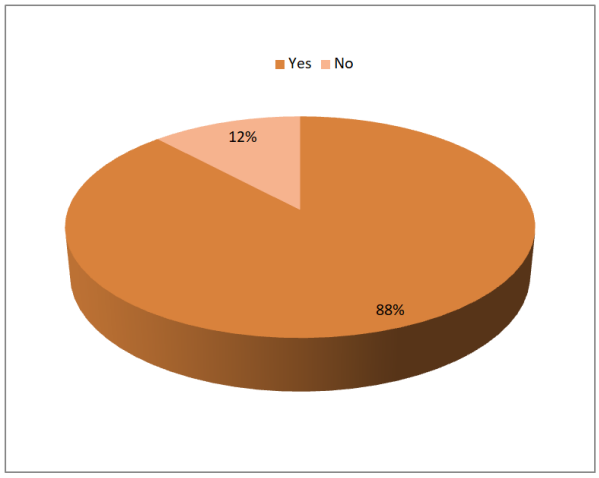


**Fig. 11.** Adaptation of new technology innovation in agriculture.

88 % of the farmers believed that they have Adapted new technologies of innovation in agriculture which is considered very good for the future of agriculture in Baramulla as adaptation of new technologies may boost the agriculture production in this area. However, there are about 12% of the sampled population that are still using traditional agricultural practices for the agricultural production that need to be tackled for the betterment of the population.

**Table 12: Training received for horticulture purposes.**

| S. No. | Training Organization | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | Agriculture Department | 117 | 58.5 |
| 2. | Horticulture Department | 83 | 41.5 |
| 3. | Government | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | From any other sources | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

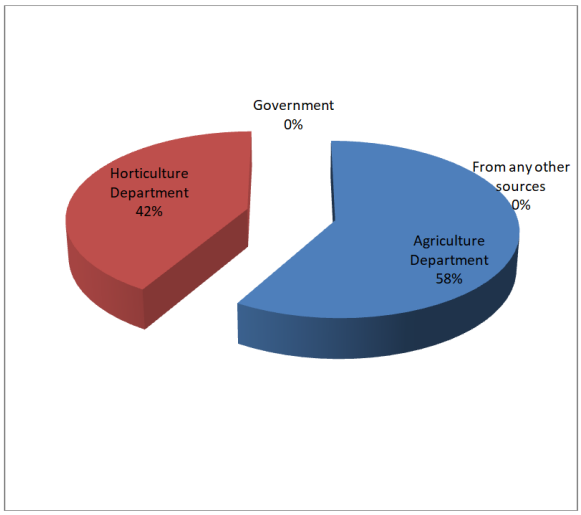


**Fig. 12.** Training received for horticulture purposes.

58% of the farmers have received proper training from agricultural department for the adaptation of new technologies in agricultural fields. 42% of the farmers have received training from horticultural departments. This is attributed to the fact that most of the farmers in the sampled area are agricultural farmers.

**Table 13: Crops produced in the agricultural fields.**

| S. No. | Crops | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | Apple | 158 | 79 |
| 2. | Cherry | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Walnuts | 42 | 21 |
| 4. | Any other sources | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

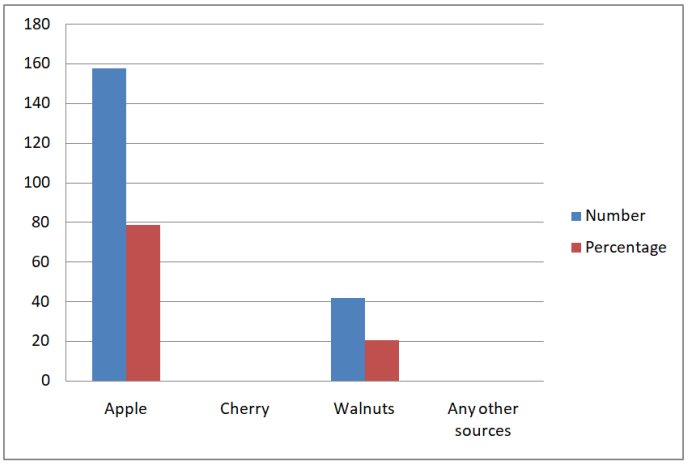


**Fig. 13.** Crops produced in the agricultural field.

From last few decades Valley has observed a shift from agricultural to horticultural produce, as a result of that most of the agricultural land has been converted to horticultural fields that is the reason 79% of the agricultural fields has been converted into apple orchards. Further the market value of apples has increased to some extent as compared to rice cultivation (Table 13, Fig 13).

**Table 14: Suggestions received by the kiths and kins for crop change.**

| S. No. | Kiths and kins | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | Father | 198 | 99 |
| 2. | Mother | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Relative | 2 | 1 |
| 4. | Friends | 0 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

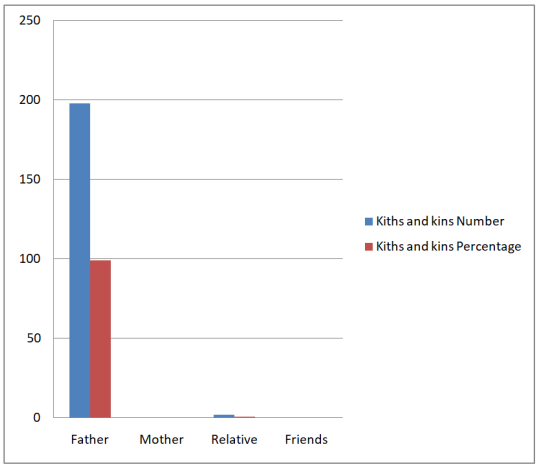


**Fig. 14.** Suggestions received by the kiths and kins for crop change.

The transformation of agriculture into horticulture was due to the suggestions received from the parents. 99% of the population has transformed their agricultural produce into horticultural produce by the directions of their parents in the sampled population (Table 14, Fig 14).

**Table 15: Benefits received by changing your crop pattern.**

| S. No. | Response | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | No | 44 | 22 |
| 2. | Can't say | 2 | 1 |
| 3. | Yes | 154 | 77 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

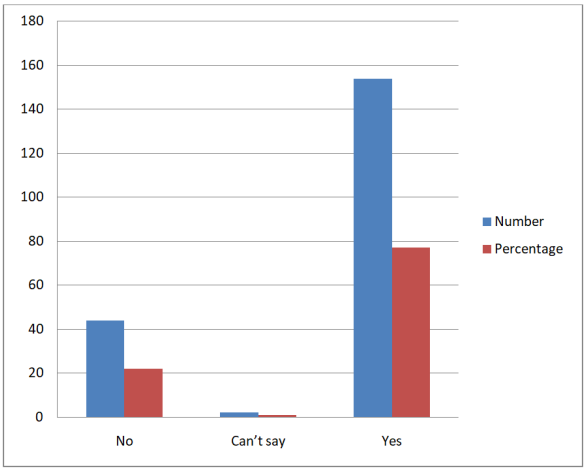


**Fig. 15.** Benefits received by changing crop pattern.

Most of the respondents (77%) believe that they have received different benefits in the transformation of crops. However, only 22% reported that they have not received any benefit from this transformation. There is a need of intervention in identifying the cause of their problem (Table 15, Fig 15).

**Table 16: Money invested that was received for agricultural crops.**

| S. No. | Money invested | Entrepreneurs | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | Number | Percentage |
| 1. | Agriculture | 195 | 97.5 |
| 2. | Household | 5 | 2.5 |
| **Total** | | **200** | **100** |

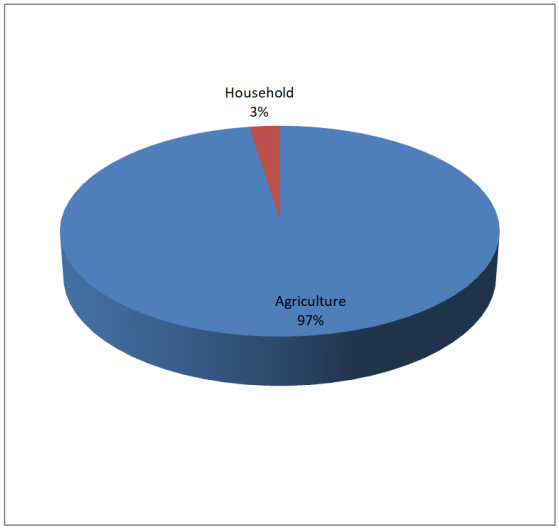


**Fig. 16.** Money used that was received for agricultural crops.

A good proportion of the sampled population have used the money for improvement of agriculture and few of them (2.5%) have utilized it for their household purposes. Out of 200 respondents 195 have used the money for agricultural extension that is a healthy sign for the betterment of agricultural productivity (Table 16; Fig 16).

## IV. CONCLUSION

Horticultural crops particularly apple, pear and cherry gained a prominent name and popularity from the last two decades in Kashmir due to their pretty economic benefits. Due to the quench of economic thirst farmers in Kashmir have transformed large areas of agricultural fields into horticultural lands. The lack of sufficient irrigation facilities, in addition to economic benefits, has also become a influential factor in turning field land into orchards. The agricultural department should hold the programs at the grass root levels to aware the farmers about the importance of food crops especially of rice which is a staple food in Kashmir. It should also provide the high yielding variety seeds, manures etc. to the farmers at free of cost so that they can make possible the large production of rice in small size agriculture lands. Government should also provide farmers with good market facilities where they can sell their surplus food grain production at reasonable prices. Finally, it is the responsibility of every Kashmiri farmer to understand that if the trend of turning agricultural land into horticultural and residential lands continues, time is not far away when the whole population will depend entirely on other countries.

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