

## FARM LABOUR REQUIREMENTS OF FRUIT GROWERS IN HOSHIARPUR DISTRICT OF PUNJAB

V.K. Rampal\* and L.S. Sehgal

*Department of Extension Education, Punjab Agricultural University, Punjab-141004*

*\*E mail: rampalvk@pau.edu*

**ABSTRACT** : The present study was conducted in selected villages of Bhunga and Hajipur blocks of Hoshiarpur district of Punjab to know about the farm labour requirements of fruit growers. After finalizing the research instruments into permanent, family and casual labour, the data were collected through personal interview method from a sample of 90 farmers. Simple analytical tools such as percentage and range method were used for analyzing the data collected. Findings revealed that for a majority (73.33 per cent) of Kinnow growers of Bhunga block, requirement of permanent farm labour varied from 0 to 76 man days per acre whereas fairly large litchi growers (75.56 per cent) of Hajipur block, requirement of permanent farm labour varied from 0 to 82 man days per acre. As it is evident that Kinnow and Litchi growers provide an ample amount of opportunity for farm labour reducing the percentage of unemployment, the cultivation of Kinnow and Litchi in the two blocks of Hoshiarpur district should be mooted.

**Keywords** : *Farm labour, permanent labour, family labour, casual labour.*

Horticultural crops form a significant part of total agricultural produce in the country and have become key drivers of economic development in many of the states in the country. They contribute 29.5 per cent to agricultural GDP. This calls for technology led development. Horticultural crops play a unique role in India's economy by improving the income of the rural people. (Meena and Yadav, 3) Cultivation of these crops is labour intensive and as such they generate a lot of employment opportunities for the rural population.

Employment generation is another way of showing relative importance of post-harvest technology. Within the food distribution systems, agriculture and processing, however, are shrinking in relative terms, whereas all the food distribution stages are generating jobs at a relatively fast pace in USA due to continuation of a process that started with the Industrial Revolution. Services like security, plant cleaning; engineering design, accounting etc. are now performed for processors by employees of service sector companies. Secondly, the rates of labour, productivity, change in agricultural production and processing are considerably higher than the food distribution and the labour has been replaced by machinery, energy and other inputs in farming and processing (Connor and Schiek, 2).

Farm labour forms a constituent part of fruit cultivation. Right from sowing of an orchard to its upbringing as a mature orchard, labour forms an integral and inseparable part of fruit cultivation.

Therefore, it was considered to conduct a research on the requirement of farm labour in the orchards. It was assumed that a clear view of this aspect will help us in evaluating the required amount of labour and the employment opportunities being created by fruit growers.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in the Hoshiarpur district of Punjab. Fruit crops which were selected included Kinnow (*Citrus nobilis* × *Citrus deliciosa*) and Litchi (*Litchi chinensis*). The selected fruit growers of Bhunga block cultivated Kinnow while the fruit growers of Hajipur block cultivated Litchi.

Three villages from two blocks each with maximum area under fruit crops were selected randomly. Blocks selected were Bhunga and Hajipur. Sikri, Janauri and Hariana were the villages selected from Bhunga block, while from Hajipur block the villages selected were Budawarh, Tanda Churian and Charing.

A list of fruit growers having area under fruit crops was prepared. A sample of 90 fruit growers was selected with fifteen fruit growers from each village, by applying proportional allocation method to number of fruit growers in each fruit crop grower's category. After finalizing the research instruments, the data were collected through personal interview method from a sample of 90 farmers of three selected villages of two blocks each.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The labour at expense of fruit growers was evaluated in man days per acre and subsequently the maximum-minimum range method was employed. The data is presented in Tables 1 for Bhunga block where only Kinnow is cultivated and in Table 2 for Hajipur block where only Litchi is cultivated. The total man days per acre for permanent labour and family members were calculated for a period of 365 days while for casual labour the involvement in block Bhunga was for 90 days while for Hajipur block it was for 30 days, respectively.

### Status of requirement of farm labour in Bhunga block

The data in the Table 1 indicated that for a majority (73.33 per cent) of Kinnow growers in Bhunga block, requirement of permanent farm labour varied between 0 and 76 man days per acre while for 15.56 per cent of Kinnow growers, the requirement for permanent farm labour varied between 152 and 250 man days per acre.

In addition, 57.78 per cent of Kinnow growers involved family members as farm labour which varied between 4 and 154 man days per acre while 31.11 per

**Table 1: Distribution of fruit growers according to requirement of farm labour in Bhunga block.**

Sr. No.	Labour type		Range in man days per acre	n=45 f (%)
1	Permanent		0-76	33 (73.33)
			76-152	5 (11.11)
			152-250	7 (15.56)
2	Family members		4-154	26 (57.78)
			154-304	14 (31.11)
			304-454	5 (11.11)
3	Casual Labour	Harvesting	0-75	32 (71.11)
			75-150	12 (26.67)
			150-225	1 (2.22)
4	Casual Labour	Washing	0-15	23 (51.11)
			15-30	18 (40.00)
			30-45	4 (8.89)
5	Casual Labour	Sorting	0-15	22 (48.89)
			15-30	15 (33.33)
			30-45	8 (17.78)
6	Casual Labour	Packing	0-15	24 (53.33)
			15-30	17 (37.78)
			30-45	4 (8.89)

**Table 2: Distribution of fruit growers according to requirement of farm labour in Hajipur block.**

Sr. No.	Labour type		Range in man days per acre	n=45 f (%)
1	Permanent		0-82	34 (75.56)
			82-165	4 (8.89)
			165-250	7 (15.55)
2	Family members		4-154	35 (77.78)
			154-304	5 (11.11)
			304-454	5 (11.11)
3	Casual Labour	Harvesting	7-31	27 (60.00)
			31-55	10 (22.22)
			55-80	8 (17.78)
4	Casual Labour	Washing	0-20	27 (60.00)
			20-40	13 (28.89)
			40-60	5 (11.11)
5	Casual Labour	Sorting	0-20	27 (60.00)
			20-40	13 (28.89)
			40-60	5 (11.11)
6	Casual Labour	Packing	0-20	33 (73.33)
			20-40	9 (20.00)
			40-60	3 (6.67)

Note: Numbers in parenthesis indicate percentage

cent of Kinnow growers involved family members as farm labour which varied between 154 and 304 man days per acre.

The involvement of casual labour in different post-harvest management operations was also worked out and it was found that largely, 71.11 per cent of Kinnow growers required casual farm labour ranging between 0 and 75 man days per acre for the purpose of harvesting of Kinnow in Bhunga block. It was also found that in Bhunga block a majority (51.11, 48.89 and 53.33 per cent) of Kinnow growers required casual farm labour varying from 0 and 15 man days per acre for the purpose of washing, sorting and packing of Kinnow, respectively.

Most of the involvement of casual labour was seen in harvesting than in other operations such as washing sorting and packing. From this it can be inferred that, proper post-harvest management of the produce provides ample opportunities for employment to the unemployed during the harvesting period of the Kinnow fruit crop. Similar findings have also been reported by Batoile and Thorat (1), and Sonaria (4).

#### Status of requirement of farm labour in Hajipur block

A close examination of data in Table 2 reveals that a fairly large per cent (75.56 per cent) of litchi growers required permanent farm labour which varied between 0 and 82 man days per acre while only 15.55 per cent of Litchi growers required permanent farm labour ranging between 165 and 250 man days per acre.

It also becomes clear from the Table 2 that 77.78 per cent of litchi growers involved family members as farm labour which varied between 4 and 154 man days per acre while only 11.11 per cent of litchi growers involved family members as farm labour varying between 304 and 454 man days per acre.

Table 2 further makes it quiet evident that 60.00 per cent of litchi growers in Hajipur block required casual farm labour varying between 7 and 31 man days per acre for the purpose of harvesting of litchi while an equal majority (60.00, 60.00, and 73.33 per cent) of litchi growers required casual farm labour varying between 0 and 20 man days per acre for the purpose of washing, sorting and packing of litchi, respectively.

Hence, from the above discussion it is quite clear that Kinnow and Litchi growers provide an ample amount of opportunity for the purpose of employment in

the two selected blocks of Hoshiarpur district which helps in reducing unemployment to a great extent.

#### CONCLUSION

It has been concluded that the farm labour requirement of the two blocks of the Hoshiarpur district were categorized into permanent, family and casual labour. The results show that that the more than 70.00 per cent of Kinnow growers in Bhunga block, requirement of permanent farm labour varied between 0 and 76 man days per acre. In addition, about 58.00 per cent of Kinnow growers involved family members as farm labour which varied between 4 and 154 man days per acre. The involvement of casual labour in different post-harvest management operations was also worked out and it was found that largely, majority of Kinnow growers required casual farm labour ranging between 0 and 75 man days per acre for the purpose of harvesting of Kinnow in Bhunga block. Similarly, above 75.00 per cent of litchi growers in Hajipur block required permanent farm labour which varied between 0 and 82 man days per acre. 77.78 per cent of litchi growers involved family members as farm labour which varied between 4 and 154 man days per acre. It is quiet evident that 60.00 per cent of litchi growers in Hajipur block required casual farm labour varying between 7 and 31 man days per acre for the purpose of harvesting of litchi. It is quite clear that Kinnow and Litchi growers provide an ample amount of opportunity for the purpose of employment in the two selected blocks of Hoshiarpur district which helps in reducing unemployment to a great extent.

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