CHAPTER VI
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this chapter, a nutshell description of the study in respect of the summary, conclusion, implication and suggestions for the further research is included. This chapter has been divided into the following subheads.

6.1 Summary
6.2 Major findings and conclusions
6.3 Implications
6.4 Suggestions for the further research

6.1 SUMMARY

6.1.1 Introduction

Few years ago, agriculture was preferred as the best occupational choice, business as second choice and service or job as the lowest choice by rural people as livelihood occupation. Now a days the situation is totally reversed and rural people have started preferring service or job as the best livelihood choice, business as second and farming as the lowest choice.

Agriculture generally, involves five stages viz., production, processing, storage, marketing and consumption. In most of these stages, rural youth can actively be involved. But now a day, the picture is somewhat different. The wide spread illiteracy in rural areas, unemployment among the educated youth, lack of proper guidance, ‘brain drain’ of educated rural youth to urban areas are some of the major problems. It is disturbing to note that youth are losing interest and confidence in agriculture and allied activities; hence, they are not willingly involved in agricultural operations.

The tragedy for that reason is two-fold, as the rural areas are being vacated, moving the population into the urban areas is leading to the collapse of the cities. It is projected that probably after two decades; roughly half of India's population will be urban based. Secondly, the population shift from rural areas along with prime farmland being diverted for non-agriculture purposes will create a food shortage thereby leading
to an unexpected disaster on the food security front. With agriculture becoming unrewarding over the years and with the farm incomes steadily declining, a majority of the farmers want to quit farming if given as alternative. It is crystal clear that if proper care is not taken by Government of India, India will soon return to the days of ‘ship-to-mouth’ existence when food came directly from the ships into the hungry mouths.

It is high time to stop urban migration of rural farmers and understand reasons or issues for avoiding farming as livelihood occupation by them. Such understanding will be helpful to make changes in the image of farming to attract more young rural people as a career.

Keeping this view, the present study entitled “Avoidance of agriculture as a profession by the farmer of North Saurashtra agro climatic zone” was carried out with following specific objectives.

6.1.2 Review of literature

A brief account of literature reviewed were presented under different heads viz., selected respondents, attitude of the farmers towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession, relationship between characteristics of farmers and their attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession, factor related for avoidance of agriculture as a profession, sustainability of agriculture as a profession and suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by them were included in review of literature.

6.1.3 Methodology

*Ex-post facto* research design was followed for carrying out the study. For drawing the sample for the study multistage simple random sampling technique was used. The study was in conducted Rajkot and Jamnagar district of Gujarat state because both the district place having the industrial factory, small scale industries and other industrial units are functioning so that employment in their factory available. Rajkot and Jamnagar consisted nine and six talukas respectively. Out of total fifteen talukas two talukas were selected from each district. From each selected taluka four villages were selected randomly. Total sixteen villages from four talukas were selected randomly and ten respondents from each village were selected. Thus a sample of total 160 respondents from sixteen villages was considered for the study.

The dependent variables undertaken in this study were attitude of respondents towards avoiding of agriculture as a profession To measure the attitude of respondents
towards avoiding of agriculture as a profession, a teacher made scale developed for the purpose was used.

The thirteen independent variables undertaken in this study viz: age, education, type of family, size of family, occupation, annual income, land holding, social participation, mass media exposure, risk orientation, achievement motivation, economic motivation, and self confidence were measured with the help of suitable scale and procedures with due modification. To measure the factor for avoidance of agriculture as a profession, sustainability of agriculture and suggestions from the respondents to attract new generation towards agriculture as an occupation.

An interview schedule was developed in accordance with the objectives of the study and it was pre-tested and translated into Gujarati. The data of this study were collected with the help of structural interview schedule. The collected data were classified, tabulated, analyzed and interpreted in order to make the findings meaningful. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean, standard deviation and correlation co-efficient were used in the study.

6.2 MAJOR FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions which were drawn based on the findings of the study are as under.

6.2.1 Characteristics of respondents

Majority of the respondents belonged to middle age group nearly half (50.63 per cent), about 33.13 per cent of respondents belonged to middle school (9th to 10th standard) level of education, two-third (61.25 per cent) of the respondents had nuclear type of family and 38.75 per cent of respondents belonged to 3 to 4 members of family.

Whereas in respect to characteristic of respondents more than half (55.63 per cent) belonged to farming + allied occupation, slightly more than one-third (35.62 per cent) respondents had annual income ₹ 1,00,001 to ₹ 1,50,000, slightly less than half (48.75 per cent) respondents belonged to small size land holding (1 to 2 ha.) and 65.00 per cent of respondents belonged to medium social participation.

As regards to 68.13 per cent of respondents belonged to medium mass media exposure, more than half (58.13 per cent) respondents had medium risk orientation,
slightly less than two-third (61.25 per cent) respondents had medium achievement motivation, more than half (58.13 per cent) respondents had medium economic motivation and 57.50 per cent of respondents belonged to medium level of self confidence.

6.2.2 Attitude of respondents towards avoiding of agriculture as a profession

More than half (63.13 per cent) of the farmers had medium attitude towards avoidance agriculture as an occupation, followed by 23.13 per cent of them had low and 10.63 per cent of them were with high and 03.12 per cent of the farmer very low attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession, while none of them was with very high attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession.

6.2.3 Relationship between attributes of respondents and their attitude towards avoiding of agriculture as a profession

The characteristics of the respondent’s viz., education and risk orientation had positive and highly significant relationship with the attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession.

The characteristics of the respondents like occupation, social participation, mass media exposure and achievement motivation were positively and significantly related with the attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession.

The characteristics of the respondents like age and self confidence were negative and significant relationship with the attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession.

There was no significant relationship with the attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession with their type of family, size of family, annual income, land holding and economic motivation.

6.2.4 Factors related for avoiding of agriculture as a profession

It was observed that the some factor for avoiding of agriculture as a profession like, economical (rank I), situational (rank II), personal and social (rank III), marketing (rank IV) and environmental (rank V), psychological (rank VI), tconomic (rank VII) and governmental (rank VIII).
The respondents faced the personal and social factor i.e. agriculture occupation creates problem in marriage (WMS 4.731), high input cost (WMS 4.243) and agriculture cannot provide sustainable livelihood to farmer (WMS 2.993) with rank first, second and third respectively. The respondents faced the economic factor i.e. unavailability of MSP for agricultural commodity (WMS 4.756), have hampered status in society (WMS 3.943), land fragmentation (WMS 3.881) with rank first, second and third respectively. In psychological factor i.e. agriculture is stressful due to uncertain environment (WMS 3.621) and agriculture is our ancestral occupation (WMS 3.568) with rank first and second respectively.

The respondents faced the situational factor i.e. some product forced sell due to perishable nature (WMS 4.506), non availability of labour (WMS 4.431) and expensive modern technology (WMS 4.162) with rank first, second and third respectively. In marketing factor i.e. low price of agriculture product (WMS 4.781) followed by price fluctuation (WMS 4.662) and higher commission of middleman in marketing (WMS 3.818) with rank first, second and third respectively. In technological factor i.e. irrigation problem with rank first (WMS 4.287) followed by crisis of available input (WMS 3.661) and lack of support services (WMS 2.806) with rank second and third respectively.

The respondents also faced the environmental factor i.e. uneven distribution of rainfall with rank first (WMS 4.450) followed by uncertain climatic condition (WMS 4.156) and early and late onset of monsoon (WMS 4.118) with rank second and third respectively. In governmental factor i.e. governmental programmes fells to reach at grass root level with rank first (WMS 4.025) followed by complicated process of getting subsidy (WMS 3.743) and government not provide sufficient subsidy (WMS 2.918) with rank second and third respectively.

**6.2.5 Sustainability of agriculture as a profession**

About 64.38 per cent of the respondents had medium level of sustainability of agriculture as a profession. The considerable amount (19.37 and 16.25 per cent) of respondent was in low and high sustainability group.
6.2.6 Suggestions from the respondents to attract new generation towards agriculture as an occupation

Out of 17 suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints in avoidance of agriculture occupation, the most important suggestions expressed by respondents were based on percentage and rank.

1. Support price of the production should be higher.
2. Chemical fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides should be provided at reasonable rates.
3. Farmer should be protected by crop insurance during crop failure by pest.
4. Market facilities should be strengthened for remunerative price.
5. Sufficient electric power should be provided regularly in day time.
6. Need to ensure that government schemes are benefitted by every eligible farmer.
7. Middle man commission should be decreased.
8. Training programmes on latest technology should be organized.
9. Disease and pest resistance variety should be developed.
10. Need to improve linkages between farmers and bank/financing agencies for credit.

6.2.8 Empirical model

The tentative paradigm was developed in the beginning of the thesis while arriving at the conceptual framework of this study. Now final form of paradigm based on the findings of this study is presented in the Fig. 6 showing only those independent variables which had significant relationship with respondents’ attitude towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession.
Summary & conclusion
6.3 IMPLICATIONS

1. The study facilitate in knowing the characteristic of the farmers and it would help to serve as guideline for policy makers, planners and extension workers to implement such type of study.

2. The findings of this study would facilitate in knowing the existing level of attitude of the farmers towards avoidance of agriculture as a profession. The study concluded that majority of farmers had favourable to most favourable attitude towards avoiding farming. Thus more efforts should be made from grass root level in popularizing the mixed farming system instead of mono farming through training programmes, subsidizing the supply of inputs, organized farmers visit etc. so that sustainable development of agriculture can be received.

3. The scale developed by the researcher in the present investigation is reliable and valid. Hence, the same would be used elsewhere by any investigator. It would serve as a guideline for the planners and extension agencies in planning and implementing programmes related to promote agriculture related activity.

4. The results of the study indicated that farmers faced difficulty factor like personal, social, economical psychological, situational, marketing, technological, environmental and governmental. This divulged the need to formulate special agricultural zones to improve agricultures’ image and emphasize on farmer as entrepreneur and farming as business.

5. The study disclosed that majority of the farmers belonged to middle to old age group, thus more efforts should be taken to popularise and convince benefits of agriculture as an occupation among youth farmers.

6. The farmers background factors which influence the attitude of the respondents in terms of change in behavioural components must be reckon within any training programme.

7. The outcome of the study indicated that majority of the farmers had education from secondary to higher secondary level. Thus, modern techniques to be adopted in farming can be popularised amongst the farmers through printing materials and media like leaflets, folders, agricultural magazines, newspapers, television, mobile and internet.
8 The psychological variables such as risk orientation and achievement motivation contributed significantly to change the attitude of the farmers towards agriculture occupation. It is therefore, recommended that more efforts should be made by the government, non-government and other organizations so as to enable the farmers to change their psychology in positive direction. Education, training, personal visits, effective communication through mass media and demonstrations are some of the important and effective ways of changing farmers’ psychology from traditional to modern way of thinking.

6.4 SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FURTHER RESEARCH

The present study has thrown light on some of the new areas in which future research work may be undertaken; these are as under:

1 This type of study should be conducted in different areas to assess the attitude of farmer towards avoidance of agriculture as an occupation.
2 The area of research should be extended to large number of farmers to draw valid conclusions.
3 Similar type of study can be conducted with more variables which have not been included in this study.
4 Such studies should be repeated after some lapse of time on large sample size to increase its validity.
5 The area of research may be extended further to large number of farmers to draw valid and general conclusions.