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Future Prospects of Agripreneurship: A Study on Career Aspirations of State Agricultural University Students in Gujarat

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ABSTRACT This study examined the career aspirations of agricultural students and identified key personal, psychological and informational factors influencing them. Data were collected from undergraduate, postgraduate and Ph.D. students from State Agricultural Universities in Gujarat using a structured interview schedule, and weighted mean scores and Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) were applied for analysis. Results indicated a strong preference for secure and prestigious careers, particularly government jobs such as administrative services, nationalised banks, and UPSC positions, while private and NGO employment was less preferred due to perceived instability. Respondents showed moderate entrepreneurial orientation, favouring agribusiness activities like organic farming, food processing, and dairy enterprises. High economic aspirations were evident, with most aiming for monthly incomes above INR 1,00,000. SEM analysis revealed significant interactions among age, innovativeness, information sources, and critical thinking, influencing overall career aspirations.