

CONSTRAINS FACED BY THE BRINJAL GROWERS IN ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED CULTIVATION PRACTICES IN AKOLA DISTRICT

Rajina Potsangbam¹, N. M. Kale² & N. P. Jangwad³

*¹Ex. PG Student, Department of Extension Education, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi
Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra, India*

*²Professor, Department of Extension Education, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi
Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra, India*

*³Assistant Professor, Department of Extension Education, Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi
Vidyapeeth, Maharashtra, India*

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted in Akola district of Maharashtra during 2016-17. With the help of random sampling method, 120 brinjal growers were selected and data were collected by personal interview method by using pre-tested interview schedule. The results revealed that high initial investment (86.66%), high cost of chemical fertilizers (96.66%), irregular supply of electricity (97.50%), high cost of labours (90.00%), lack of skilled labours (89.66%), unavailability of labours during harvesting season (75.00%) and lack of knowledge about marketing (79.16%) were the major constraints expressed by the brinjal growers in Akola district. The policymakers and developmental agencies should have to consider these constraints as the brinjal is the important cash vegetable crop of this region.

KEYWORDS: *Constraints, Knowledge, Unavailability, Brinjal*

Article History

Received: 20 Jun 2018 | Revised: 26 Jun 2018 | Accepted: 03 Jul 2018

INTRODUCTION

Indian subcontinent is endowed with the salubrious climate which permits growing vegetable like tomato, onion, potatoes, brinjal, raddish, cucumber, cauliflower etc.

Brinjal (*Solanum melongena* L.) belonged to the family Solanaceae and it is one of the important and popular vegetables, which had its origin in Indo-Burma region. Brinjal is being grown under diverse conditions, except in a place where rainfall and soil extremities prevail. It has emerged in this country as an important sector for diversification of agriculture with a view to improve the economic condition of the farming community. It has established its credibility through increased productivity, generating employment for rural and urban people and enhancing export to a considerable level. As per National Horticulture Database 2014-2015, the area under brinjal was 722.1 thousand ha, with a production of 13443.6 thousand MT which accounting as 7.8 per cent of the area and 8.3 per cent of the total vegetable production and its productivity was 18.6 MT/ha.

The constraints may sometime reduce the development of the entrepreneurs. As vegetable growing is the important activity of many entrepreneurs. Hence this study was conducted with the objective to study the constraints faced by the brinjal growers in Akola district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Study was conducted in Akola *Panchayat Samiti* of Akola district in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state as having a large area under brinjal cultivation. Exploratory research design of social research was used for the present study. The eight villages selected for the present study were namely Chandur, Changephal, Kumbhari, Dongergaon, Wasimba, Alanda, Sukoda, and Paisali (Sukuli). From each selected village, 15 respondents were selected randomly having brinjal crop. Thus, total 120 brinjal growers were the respondents for the present study.

Measurement of Constraints

The Oxford Dictionary meaning of the word constraints is confinement, restriction of liberty or compulsion of circumstances or compulsion put upon the behavior. Reading (1977) defined constraints as the use of force to influence or prevent an action or quality or state of being compelled to do or not to do something.

Constraints refer to the difficulties faced by brinjal growers in management, production and marketing aspects of vegetable production. Difficulties expressed by farmers were listed out. The frequency and percentage of each constraint were worked out for interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Constraints faced by the brinjal growers.

Table 1: Distribution of the Respondents according to the Constraints Faced by Brinjal Growers in Production and Marketing

Sl. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
A.	Production		
1.	High initial investment	104	86.66
2.	Plants/seedlings	32	26.66
3.	Manures	15	12.50
4.	High cost of Chemicals fertilizers	116	96.66
5.	Non-availability of appropriate plant protection chemicals	45	37.50
6.	Expensive nature of plant protection chemicals	24	20.00
7.	Pest and disease management	57	47.50
8.	Irregular supply of electricity	117	97.50
9.	Non-availability of fertilizers at required time	15	12.50
10.	High labour cost	108	90.00
11.	Lack of skilled labour	107	89.66
12.	Unavailability of labour during harvesting season	90	75.00
B.	Marketing		
1.	Lack of knowledge	95	79.16
2.	High transportation charges	73	60.34
3.	Lack of transportation facilities	32	26.66
4.	Low price	77	64.17
5.	Exploitation by middlemen	68	56.66

A perusal of the above-stated Table that 97.50 per cent of the respondents faced problem for the irregular supply of electricity. On the other hand, a majority (96.66%) of them faced a high cost of chemical fertilizers, high labor cost (90.00%), and lack of skilled labor (89.66%). With regard to other problems is a high initial investment (86.66%), and unavailability of labor during harvesting season (75.00%). It shows that they faced non-availability of appropriate plant protection chemicals (37.50%), expensive nature of plant protection chemicals (20.00%), non-availability of fertilizers at required time (12.50%) and pest and disease management (47.50%) but for plants/seedlings (26.66%) and only 12.50 per cent of them faced unavailability of manures problem. With respects to constraints in marketing of brinjal, they experienced lack of knowledge (79.16%), low price of the produce (64.17%), high charges of transportation (60.39%), exploitation by middlemen (56.66%) and lack of transport facility (26.66%) were the important constraints faced by the brinjal growers. Some of the findings are related to Sadanshiv (2006) and Wadekar (2016).

High investment, the incidence of the pests and diseases, non-availability of skilled labors, labor shortage, high expenses of labor, a high cost of the chemical fertilizers and lack of market knowledge were the important problems encountered by brinjal growers. The training needs revealed that the brinjal growers needed training in planting, plant protection, packing, transport, marketing and processing of brinjal and so on. This implies that the concerned agencies should take a greater interest in helping out the brinjal growers in order to overcome their training needs.

However, considering the problems faced by the brinjal growers, there is a need to conduct training programmes on plant protection measures and provide guidance regarding marketing aspects by the experts and scientist of SAUs. Also, there is a need to have the strong association of all the brinjal growers to address their problems and to develop a good marketing network for marketing of their planting material.

REFERENCES

1. Reading, H.F. 1971. *Simple dictionary of social sciences*. Ambika Publication, New Delhi.
2. Sadanshiv, B.A., 2006. *Socio-economic and enterprise analysis of floriculturist in Patur tahsil of Akola district*. M.Sc. Thesis (Unpub.) Dr. PDKV, Akola. (MS)
3. Ihuah, Paulinus Woka, and A. Benebo. "An assessment of the causes and effects of abandonment of development projects on real property values in Nigeria." *International Journal of Research in Applied, Natural and social sciences* 2.5 (2014): 25-36.
4. Wadekar, A. R. 2016. *Entrepreneurial attributes of nursery growers*. M.Sc. Thesis (unpub.) Dr. PDKV, Akola(MS).

