Research Note

EXTENT OF SOCIO ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS AND CONSTRAINTS FACED BY AONLA GROWERS

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Aonla is an important indigenous and one of the most ancient fruit of India. It is grown to a limited extent in selected locations in almost all states of India. The aonla, is a minor fruit and a crop of commercial significance, is quite hardy, prolific bearer and highly remunerative even without much care. [Bajpai and Shukla (1990)] It was necessary to know how far the aonla growers adopt the recommended practices. The adoption of improved technology by the farmers becomes imperative. Farmer's behaviour is conditioned by many factors that interact with each other. In such situation, it is essential to know how these factors influence adoption behaviour of farmers. A study was undertaken to study constraints in adoption of improved technology of aonla. The major objectives of the study were :–

(1) To know the suggestions of the aonla growers to overcome constraints.
(2) To find out relationship of socio-economic characteristics with level of knowledge and adoption of improved practices.

METHODOLOGY :

Present study was conducted in Majhgawan block of Satna District comprising 261 villages. Out of these, 20 villages were having aonla cultivation from which 10 villages were selected by suing random table. A sample 120 farmers were selected randomly for the present study. The data were collected from the selected farmers, processed and statistically analysed by applying Karl Pearson's correlation test between different characteristics of farmers, with knowledge and adoption of improved practices of aonla cultivation. Simple percentage were worked out to know the factors as well as constraints faced by growers regarding knowledge and adoption of improved practices of aonla cultivation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION :

Table 1. Constraints faced by growers in adoption of improved cultivation practices of aonla

Sl. No.	Constraints	No. of Respondent	%	Rank Order
1.	**Improved Seed :**			
	(i) Lack of seedlings.	105	87·50	II
	(ii) Lack of high quality planting material.	103	85·83	III
	(iii) Non availability of planting material from reliable sources.	106	88·33	I
2.	**Planting Operation :**			
	(i) Lack of knowledge about budding and grafting.	96	80·00	I
	(ii) Lack of knowledge about preparation of pits and their filling	71	59·17	II
3.	**Adoption of plant protection measures :**			
	(i) Lack of technical guidance towards plant protection.	97	80·88	II
	(ii) High cost of pesticides and fungicides	111	92·50	I
4.	**Inputs :**			
	(i) No availability of capital for purchase of inputs in time.	83	69·71	II
	(ii) Higher cost of fertilizers.	111	92·50	I
5.	**Others :**			
	(i) Poor marketing system	93	77·50	III
	(ii) Problem of Transportation	112	93·33	II
	(iii) Poor extension system	86	71·61	IV
	(iv) Complicated policy and Procedure of govt. loans.	113	94·71	I
	(v) Labour problem	41	34·17	V

N = 1

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It is revealed from Table 1 that constraints faced by aonla growers in use of improved varieties were non availability of seedlings, high quality planting material and seedlings form reliable source while constraints towards planting operation include lack of knowledge about budding and grafting. Whereas, high cost of pesticides, fungicides, fertilizers, complicated policies and procedures were other major constraints faced by the aonla growers.

Table 2 shows that majority of aonla growers i.e. 66·67 percent wanted transport facilities and popularization of high density orcharding and rejuvenation of old orchard were also demanded over by growers. It was very impressing that growers never narrated about sound extension services, it might be KVK, abode in area doing satisfactory function. Marketing guidance was also an important strategy envisaged by growers to overcome constraints for improved practices.

Table 2. Strategy made by aonla growers to overcome constraints N = 120

Sl. No.	Strategy	No. of Respondent	%
1.	Rejuvenation of old crchard	78	65·00
2.	Availability of quality planting materials	80	56·66
3.	Popularization of high density orcharding	76	63·33
4.	Supply of capitals and resources for purchase of inputs in time	72	60·00
5.	Ensured Transportation	82	66·67
6.	Marketing guidance	88	66·67

Table 3 clearly shows that out of 11 independent variables only size of family was found statistically non significant in relation to knowledge and adoption. Whereas, age, education, size of holdings, social participation, cosmopolitans, extension contact, socio-economic status, attitude, source of information and adoption of improved practices of aonla cultivation were positive and highly significant except relation between annual income, knowledge and adoption which are significant at one per cent level of probability. Thus, it might be observed that for knowledge and adoption of improved aonla cultivation practices all independent variables except size of family should encouraged. Similar finding was reported by Singh and Ratnakar (1970).

Table 3. Distribution of aonla growers in relationship of socio-economic characteristics with lavel of knowledge and adoption of improved practices

Sl. No.	Independent Variables	Dependent Variables	
		Knowledge "r" Value	Adoption
1.	Age	0·705**	0·683**
2.	Education	0·704**	0·682**
3.	Size of family	0·081	0·066
4.	Land holding	0·351**	0·329**
5.	Annual Income	0·205*	0·218*
6.	Social Participation	0·281**	0·287**
7.	Cosmopolitans	0·515**	0·485**
8.	Extension contact	0·593**	0·538**
9.	Socio-economic status	0·464**	0·445**
10.	Attitude	0·669**	0·626**
11.	Source of information	0·502**	0·475**

* Significant at 5% level, ** Significant at 1% level, df = 118

CONCLUSION :

Thus, it can be concluded that major constraints faced by aonla growers towards adoption of improved cultivation practices were non availability of planting materials, lack of knowledge about budding and grafting. For overcoming these constraints growers suggested to ensured transport facility, rejuvenation of old orchard and availability of quality planting material. Except size of family, all the independent variables were positively related and significant with knowledge and adoption of improved practices.

REFERENCE :

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