CONSTRAINTS IN ADOPTION OF QUALITY SEEDS

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan to identify constraints faced by the farmers in adoption of quality seeds of mustard and pearl millet. A total of 112 farmers were selected randomly from four villages of one gram panchayat of Bharatpur district of Rajasthan for the study purpose. The study revealed that that high cost of quality seeds, non- availability of quality seeds, non-availability of assured irrigation, discontinuation in electric supply, fluctuation in price of the produce, etc. were the major constraints reported by the majority of respondents in adoption of quality seeds of mustard and pearl millet. The majority of the respondents suggested to provide the irrigation facilities for farmers, training for quality seed production technique, assured timely supply of quality seeds, create the awareness about quality seeds, etc.

Key words : Mustard, Pearl millet, Adoption, Quality seeds, Constraints.

INTRODUCTION

To make India a food secure nation, it is necessary either to being more area under cultivation or increases the productivity of existing agricultural crop. But, due to increasing pressure of urbanization and industrialization cultivated land is shrinking day by day. Therefore, to increase the productivity of existing agriculture is the only possible solution to meet our food requirement. This aim can be possible as a result of the adoption of good quality seeds, enhanced use of fertilizer and plant protection practices, besides assured irrigation.

Seed is the basic input in agriculture and the most important catalyst for other inputs to be cost effective. Good quality seed plays a pivotal role in crop production. It is very important not only to higher yield but also to get high monetary returns. The introduction of quality seed of new varieties wisely combined with other inputs significantly increases yield levels. India is a vast country having different agro-climatic zones and hence it requires different varieties to suit different regions. This has increased the scope of potential research in the seed sector. There are evidences that the yield can be increased by 20-25 per cent by the use of high yielding varieties. Even though, Indian farmers are aware about the importance of good quality seeds in increasing production, they seldom translate in to the field due to various constraints.

The policy statement are designed towards making available to the Indian farmers, adequate quantities of seed of superior quality at the appropriate time and place at an affordable price so as to meet the nation's food and nutritional security goals.

Keeping in view the importance of adoption of quality seeds by the farmers, a study was carried out to find out the constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of quality seeds of mustard and pearl millet and suggest suitable measures for the availability and adoption of quality seeds.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. One Gram Panchayat namely "Vilothi" was selected in Bharatpur district on the random basis. Four villages, namely, Dhormui, Sainthra, Sahnavali and Vilothi of selected gram panchayat were randomly selected for the study. A group of 28 respondents from each of the selected village was drawn with the method of random sampling. Thus, a total of 112 farmers were finally selected for the purpose of collecting the information and necessary data required for this study. The interview method was adopted to collect the information from farmers using structural schedule.

The collected data were analyzed with suitable statistical tests.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Constraints faced by the farmers in adoption of quality seeds–The constraints faced by the farmers in adoption of quality seeds of mustard and pearl millet were categorized into three categories viz. socio-economic constraints, supply constraints and administrative constraints.

1. Socio-economic constraints–The study

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revealed (table 1) that majority (93.75 per cent) respondents faced the problem of 'more cost of quality seeds' followed by 84.82 per cent, 82.14 per cent, 72.32 per cent, 69.64 per cent, 65.17 per cent and 62.50 per cent respondents faced the problem of 'high cost of fertilizers', 'high rate of interest on borrowings', 'lack of finance to purchase the quality seeds', 'inability to take heavy risk', and 'lack of confidence in yield potential of quality seeds', respectively.

Table 1. Socio-economic constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of quality seeds (N = 112)

S. No.	Socio-economic constraints	No. of respondents	Percentage	Rank
1	Lack of finance to purchase the quality seeds	81	72.32	IV
2	High rate of interest on borrowings	92	82.14	III
3	High cost of fertilizers	95	84.82	II
4	More cost of quality seeds	105	93.75	I
5	Inability to take heavy risk	78	69.64	V
6	Lack of confidence in yield potential of quality seeds	70	62.50	VI

2. Supply Constraints–Supply constraints are directly connected to the availability of quality seeds, which affect the adoption. Table 2 reveals that 84.82 per cent of respondents reported the 'non-availability of assured irrigation' followed by 83.03 per cent, 73.21 per cent, 71.42 per cent and 67.85 per cent respondents to 'discontinuation in electric supply', 'non-availability of recommended varieties of seeds', 'high rate of labour wages' and 'non-availability of quality seeds in time', respectively as most important supply constraints.

Table 2. Supply constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of quality seeds (N=112)

S No.	Supply constraints	No. of respondents	Percentage	Rank
1	Non-availability of quality seeds in time	76	67.85	V
2	Non-availability of assured irrigation	95	84.82	I
3	Discontinuation in electric supply	93	83.03	II
4	High rate of labour wages	80	71.42	IV
5	Non-availability of recommended varieties of seed	82	73.21	III

3. Administrative constraints–Regarding administrative constraints, the study revealed (table 3) that majority of the respondents (94.64 per cent) faced the problem of 'fluctuation in price of the produce' followed by 84.82 per cent, 82.14 per cent and 63.40 per cent respondents who faced the problem of 'no timely guidance by agril. Agencies', 'Lack of awareness about quality seed' and 'complicated procedure for obtaining loan from banks' respectively.

Table 3. Administrative constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of quality seeds (N=112)

S. No.	Administrative constraints	No. oF respondents	Percentage	Rank
1	Complicated procedure for obtaining loan from banks	71	63.40	IV
2	Lack of awareness about quality seed	92	82.14	III
3	No timely guidance by agril. agencies	95	84.82	II
4	Fluctuation in prices of the produce	106	94.64	I

B. Suggestions of the respondents for high adoption of quality seeds–Table 4 revealed that 93.75 per cent respondents suggested to provide the irrigation facilities for farmers, followed 91.96 per cent, 87.50 per cent, 86.60 per cent, 80.35 per cent, 75.00 per cent and 66.07 per cent respondents who suggested for provide the training for quality seed production technique, assured timely supply of quality seeds, create the awareness about quality seeds, prevent the contamination in quality seed by the supplier, and avoid the mishandling of private quality seeds supplier, respectively for increasing the adoption of quality seeds of mustard and pearl millet.

Table 4. Suggestions of the respondents for high adoption of quality seeds (N = 112)

S No.	Suggestions	No. of respondents	Percentage	Rank
1	Provide the irrigation facilities for farmers.	105	93.75	I
2	Assured timely supply of quality seeds	98	87.50	III
3	Maintain the standards of quality seeds	97	86.60	IV
4	Provide the training for quality seeds production technique.	103	91.95	II
5	Avoid the mishandling of private quality seeds supplier	74	66.07	VII
6	Prevent the contamination in quality seeds by the supplier	84	75.00	VI
7	Create the awareness about quality seeds	90	80.35	V

These findings were also supported by Bhoite, and Thorat (1986), Singh (1990) Zotawna (1987).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that high cost of quality seeds, non-availability of quality seeds, non-availability of assured irrigation, discontinuation in electric supply, fluctuation in price of the produce, etc. were the major constraints

reported by the majority of respondents in adoption of quality seeds of mustard and pearl millet. The majority of the respondents suggested to provide the irrigation facilities for farmers, training for quality seed production technique, assured timely supply of quality seeds, create the awareness about quality seeds, etc.

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