

CONSTRAINTS AND STRATEGIES FOR SCIENTIFIC GUAVA PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Average production of guava per plant is low in Rajasthan. The study was undertaken to identify the constraints faced by guava growers and to suggest strategies to boost guava production in Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan. Sixty respondents, purposively selected from 4 villages. The study revealed that lack of storage and processing units, zinc deficiency and water stress during summer and problem of middlemen were the major constraints. There is a need to strengthen technical support, supply of quality seed material and other inputs, storage and marketing facilities for the guava growers.

Key words: Guava; Production; Constraints; Strategies

INTRODUCTION

Guava (*Psidium guajava* Linn) is one of the most popular fruit crops of Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan. Besides, it is commercially cultivated in Jaipur, Ajmer, Udaipur, Bundi and Dholpur districts of Rajasthan in about 1593 ha (1996-97) and production was 27255 MT (1995-96). In Sawai Madhopur it is being cultivated in 425 ha area and production is 10625 MT (2000-2001). It is rich source of vitamin 'C' which is two to five times more than fresh orange juice and a fair source of vitamin 'A', Calcium, Phosphorus, Pantothenic acid, Riboflavin, Thiamin and Niacin. Guava is best for making jelly, as it is rich in pectin. The leaves of guava also have medicinal values for curing diarrhoea. The yield per hectare in the area is comparatively lower than leading districts of the country because of lack of technical know-how about guava production technology among farmers. The fluctuating demand of guava in the market and its perishable nature is also responsible for poor production in the area. Keeping these points in view an attempt was made to find out the factors responsible for low production of guava fruits and strategies to increase production with following specific objectives:-

1. To identify the constraints being faced by selected guava growers.
2. To suggest strategies to boost guava production and export.

METHODOLOGY

Guava is mainly cultivated in 15 villages of Sawai Madhopur block of Sawai Mahopur district in Rajasthan. Out of which 4 villages namely, Karmoda, Pachipura, Khatupura and Dondari were purposively selected by KVK because large numbers of orchards are situated in these villages and these villages are near to KVK Sawai Madhopur. Responses were collected from 60 farmers of selected villages. They were equally

distributed in these villages i.e. 15 from each village. Data were collected by structured personal interview technique. Thus, the constraints were analyzed and interpreted in terms of ranks.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings on the constraints faced by guava growers as perceived by the respondents related to production, storage and marketing is given in Table 1. The data reveals the constraints as- non-availability of processing units at local level (96.66%, I rank), non-availability of adequate storage facilities (93.33% II rank), zinc deficiency results in poor quality fruits (86.66% III rank), water stress during summer (83.33%, IV rank), middlemen causes marketing problem (78.33%, V rank), high cost of transportation (76.66%, VI rank), high cost of plant protection chemicals (73.33%, VII rank), more pests (70%, VIII rank), more diseases (66.66%, XI rank), high cost of fertilizers (63.33%, X rank), fluctuation in market prices (58.33%, XI rank), non-availability of true to type seed material (51.66%, XII rank), lack of technical guidance (48.33%, XIII rank) delayed cash payment (43.33%, XIV rank), and distant location of markets (40%, XV rank). The findings are in line with the findings as reported by Chandra *et. al* (1990), Ravishankar and Katteppa (1998), Pawar and Gunjal (1999) and Saxena *et. al.* (1999).

STRATEGIES

Based on the constraints perceived by the guava growers, discussion with experts, experiences of the researchers here are some strategies to boost guava production & export.

1. Supply of true to type plants to farmers by Govt. Deptt. and authorized agencies at district level at reasonable prices.
2. Spraying of micronutrients in April & June months especially zinc sulphate (6 gm.) and hydrated lime (4 gm) dissolved in 1 litre water will result in good quality production of fruits.

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Table 1: Constraints faced by guava growers (N=60)

S.No.	Constraints	No. of Farmers	%	Rank
1	Non-availability of processing Units at local level.	58	96.66	I
2	Non-availability of adequate storage facilities.	56	93.33	II
3	Zn deficiency results in poor quality fruits.	52	86.66	III
4	Water stress during summer	50	83.33	IV
5	Middleman causes marketing problem.	47	78.33	V
6	High cost of transportation	46	76.66	VI
7	High cost of plant protection chemicals.	44	73.33	VII
8	More pests	42	70.00	VIII
9	More diseases	40	66.66	IX
10	High cost of fertilizers	38	63.33	X
11	Fluctuation in market price	35	58.33	XI
12	Non-availability of true to type seed material.	31	51.66	XII
13	Lack of technical guidance	29	48.33	XIII
14	Delayed cash payment	26	43.33	XIV
15	Distant location of markets	24	40	XV

3. Regional and state level efforts be made to give helping hands to the interested growers in export. The facilities given to cooperative sector should also be given to private and public limited companies.
4. Financial help and technical know-how must be provided in the development of infrastructural facilities like cold storage, establishment of processing units, regular supply of electricity at subsidized rates.

5. Popularisation of use of vermi-compost @ 5kg/plant will result in higher production of quality fruits. Recommended doses of fertilizers must be applied timely. It is beneficial to take winter season crop because fruits are sweet & free from diseases and pests. For taking winter season crop, apply FYM, full dose of super phosphate, potash and ½ dose of urea in April month and ½ dose of urea in the month of September.
6. Research studies must be undertaken on regular basis to find out the barriers in guava production and also to encourage other interested farmers to adopt scientific guava production technology. It will ultimately result in production and exports.
7. Formation of guava growers committee of interested and educated farmers at village/block level and by providing scientific technical know-how by experts from time to time will result in boosting the production and export of guava.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study revealed that lack of storage & processing facilities, Zn deficiency, water stress during summer & problem of middlemen were the major constraints. Similarly, high cost of transportation, plant protection chemicals, fertilizers, attack of diseases & pests & lack of true to type seed material were also the important constraints. Lack of technical guidance, delayed cash payment, distant location of markets are the least important constraints as perceived by the guava growers.

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