

Training Needs of Fennel Cultivators in Sirohi District of Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to ascertain the training needs of farmers regarding improved fennel cultivation technology. This study was conducted in Abu Road & Reodar tehsil of Sirohi district of Rajasthan. Total 240 respondents viz. marginal, small and large farmers were interviewed for this study. The study indicates that all categories of farmers were demanding more training on fennel cultivation practices in plant protection measures followed by harvesting and drying, nursery raising, post harvest technology for export quality, high yielding Variety seeds and selection of seed and seed treatment, whereas they need less training in irrigation and water management, marketing and field preparation.

Key words: Training needs; Fennel cultivation Technology; Mean per cent score;

Seed spices are mainly cultivated in the state of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Among these coriander, cumin, fennel and fenugreek are cultivated on sizable acreage as compared to other spices. The production of spices in India is largely in the hands of small and marginal farmers and the level of productivity of most of the spices in India is below the level as prevailing in other countries. Though Indian spices are preferred in the international market for its quality. Yet a lot of efforts are needed on the part of the farmers for enhancing their productivity and competitiveness in international market. To achieve these, various training programs are organized to increase knowledge and skills of the farmers. In order to make training more effective and purposeful, it should be based on felt needs, which vary from farmers to farmers. Considering these facts the study was conducted with the objective to ascertain training needs of fennel cultivators in Sirohi district of Rajasthan.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in two tehsils namely Abu Road and Reodar of Sirohi district of Rajasthan. These two tehsils were purposively selected on the basis of maximum area under fennel cultivation. Similarly four villages from each tehsil were selected

on the basis of maximum area under this crop. To select respondents, a comprehensive list of all the fennel growers of selected villages was prepared with the help of Gram patwaries and agricultural supervisors. The listed farmers of each village were categorized into three categories namely marginal (<1 ha land), small (1-2 ha land) and large (>2 ha land). Then a proportionate sample from each category was drawn randomly to have a total sample size of 240 fennel growers. Data were collected by personal interview technique through suitable structured schedule. Thereafter data were tabulated, analyzed and inferences were drawn in light of the objective.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Distribution of respondents according to size of land holding: On the basis of land holding, the respondents were grouped into three categories i.e. marginal, small and large farmers as given in table-1.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their land holding (N=240)

S.No.	Character	No	Per cent
1.	Marginal farmers (less than 1 ha land)	63	26.25
2.	Small(1-2 ha land)	107	44.58
3.	Large(more than 2 ha)	70	29.17
	Total	240	100

It is evident that majority of the respondents were small farmers (44.58%) followed by large (29.17%) and marginal farmers (26.25%).

Training needs of farmers about improved fennel cultivation practices: The data incorporated in table 2 indicates the mean per cent score of each of the practices of fennel cultivation and ranks were assigned to them in accordance of mean per cent score to fix up the priority of the training needs.

The review of table 2 indicates that all categories of respondent's i.e. marginal, small and large farmers were demanding more training on plant protection measures and ranked on top position with mean per cent score 78.14. Next in order of priority of training need were harvesting and drying, nursery raising, post harvesting technology for export quality, high yielding varieties and selection of seed and seed treatment, fertilizer and manure application which were assigned II, III, IV, V, VI and VII rank with MPS 75.88, 74.77, 72.63, 63.63, 63.31 and 60.46 respectively. This may be due to the reason that these aspects were considered to be most important for higher yield of fennel crop by the farmers. Least but not the last training needs were irrigation and water management, marketing, field preparation, method of sowing and transplanting and weed management, with their respective rank as XII, XI, X, IX, VIII with MPS 33.52, 39.20, 46.12, 53.09 and 56.72 respectively.

A close observation of table shows that training needs of marginal and small farmers were more than large farmers in all practices of fennel cultivation except post harvest technology for export quality and selection of seed & seed treatment. This might be due to the reason that large farmers need more training in post harvest technology & selection of seed & seed treatment to get better quality fennel which they can export and get good returns of their produce. It is concluded that marginal, small and large farmers had similar priorities to the major practices of fennel cultivation where they need training.

These findings are in line with the findings of Nikam et al.(1992) who found that tribal paddy cultivators training needs mainly focus on plant protection measures, weed control, seed treatment, improved varieties, drying of paddy, marketing, storages, nursery raising, transplanting, soil testing, water management and fertilizer are most essential aspects.

Therefore, it is recommended that need based training programme should be conducted well in advance before the commencement of the crop season to improve the skills and competencies of the farmers in adopting the improved fennel cultivation technology to increase production. Also organize exposure visit at progressive farmer's field and visit of agricultural research stations for fennel growers to enhance technical competency.

Table 2. Training needs of farmers about improved fennel cultivation practices

S. No.	Area of training	Marginal farmers		Small farmers		Large farmers		Pooled	
		MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank	MPS	Rank
1.	High yielding varieties	66.59	V	64.18	V	60.12	VI	63.63	V
2.	Selection of seed and seed treatment	62.47	VI	62.58	VI	64.89	V	63.31	VI
3.	Nursery raising	76.89	III	76.34	III	71.09	IV	74.77	III
4.	Field preparation	48.02	X	46.74	X	43.61	X	46.12	X
5.	Method of sowing and transplanting	54.67	IX	53.33	IX	51.27	IX	53.09	IX
6.	Irrigation and water management	35.15	XII	33.67	XII	31.75	XII	33.52	XII
7.	Quantity and method of fertilizer and manure application	61.07	VII	60.92	VII	59.39	VII	60.46	VII
8.	Weed control management	58.41	VIII	57.60	VIII	54.16	VIII	56.72	VIII
9.	Plant protection measures	80.14	I	79.67	I	74.63	I	78.14	I
10.	Harvesting and drying	78.42	II	77.13	II	72.10	III	75.88	II
11.	Post harvest technology for export	70.32	IV	73.41	IV	74.44	II	72.63	IV
12.	Marketing	40.72	XI	39.14	XI	37.74	XI	39.20	XI

CONCLUSION

The present study indicated that all categories of fennel growers i.e. marginal, small and large were demanding more training on plant protection measures

followed by harvesting and drying, nursery raising, post harvest technology for export quality, high yielding variety seeds and selection of seed & seed treatment, Whereas less training needs reported were irrigation and water management, marketing and field preparation.

Therefore, it is recommended that need based skill oriented training programme should be conducted well in advance before the commencement of the crop season to improve the skills and competency of the farmers in adopting the improved fennel cultivation technology.

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