

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY THE GRAM GROWERS IN ADOPTION OF IMPROVED CULTIVATION PRACTICES OF GRAM CROP

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ABSTRACT

Gram is the important legume crop of Gujarat state. Dahod, Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Patan, and Porbandar are the major gram producing districts. However, it was observed that there is a wide gap in adoption of improved cultivation practices. Looking to the importance of the problem, a study was conducted in Jhalod and Garbada taluka of Dahod district were purposively selected. Total six villages were purposively selected from each taluka and 10 farmers were randomly selected from each village. Thus, total sample size was 120 farmers. It was observed that majority of gram growers faced constraints of high cost of farm inputs (95.00 per cent) followed by shortage of labours (90.83 per cent), unavailability of plant protection appliances (85.83 per cent). In the present investigation 90.00 per cent gram growers suggested that, supply of production inputs at subsidize rate, Technical information should be given in time (85.00 per cent), establish village information centre or kiosk in each village (65.00 per cent)

Keywords: gram growers; constraints; suggestion

INTRODUCTION

The pulses are an integral part of the cropping systems of the farmers all over the country. Pulses are important constituents of the Indian diet and supply a major part of protein requirement. Among the grain legumes, chickpea (*Cicer arietinum L.*) is an important and unique food legume because the variety of food products like snake food, sweets, condiments and vegetables are prepared from its world-wide. India is a premier gram growing country in the world, accounting 76 % of total area and production of the world. In India, it occupies about 9.21 million hectare area with an average production of 8.25 million tones and productivity of 896 kg/ha. (Anonymous, 2011a). In Gujarat, *chana* is grown in an area of 0.13 million hectares producing 0.13 million tones with productivity of 947 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2011a). It occupies about 1.62 percent of the total pulses cultivation in India which is very low as compared to other states. In Gujarat, Dahod is one of the leading gram producing district. The average yield of gram in Dahod district was 941 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2013). The potential yield of gram crop is 1307 kg/ha and 2535 kg/ha in rainfed and irrigation condition, respectively. This shows the wide gap between existing yield and potential yield in gram production. In spite of the importance of this crop in our daily diet and in agricultural production, productivity of this crop is very low in India as

well as in the Gujarat. The low productivity of this crop due to wide gap in adoption of improved gram cultivation practices. Looking to the importance and urgency of the problem, a study was carried out to know the constraints faced by gram growers in adoption of improved gram cultivation practices.

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To know the constraints faced by gram growers in adoption of improved gram cultivation practices
- (b) To know the Suggestions offered by gram growers to overcome constraints faced by them

METHODOLOGY

Gujarat state has 33 districts out of which Dahod district was selected for this study. Dahod district is one of the agriculturally important districts of the state. It is not only a potential area but also one of the major gram growing districts of the state. Dahod district is comprise of seven talukas, among which Jhalod and Garbada taluka were selected purposively for study because it is productivity potential region of gram crop and have maximum area under gram cultivation due to assured irrigation facility available and favourable soil and climate condition. Further, six villages from each taluka having the maximum area under

gram cultivation were selected purposively. Thus; the total twelve villages were selected for this study. There after 10 farmers from each village were selected randomly. Thus, total 120 gram growing farmers were selected as respondents from 12 selected villages. The interview schedule was designed for

collecting the data and analyzed on the basis of frequency and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by the gram growers

Table 1: Constraints faced by gram growers in adoption of improved gram cultivation practices

n = 120

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percent	Rank
1	High cost of farm inputs	110	91.61	I
2	Shortage of labours	103	85.83	II
3	Unavailability of plant protection appliance	91	75.83	III
4	Lack of knowledge about disease control	82	68.33	IV
5	Fluctuation in the price	72	60.00	V
6	Unavailability of inputs in time	65	54.16	VI
7	Financial constraints	60	50.00	VII
8	Heavy risk due to failure of monsoon rains	58	48.33	VIII
9	Information not available in time	45	37.50	IX
10	Unavailability of drought tolerant varieties	25	20.83	X
11	Market facility is not available nearby village	24	20.00	XI

From table 1 it was observed that majority of gram growers faced constraints of high cost of farm inputs (95.00 per cent) followed by shortage of labours (90.83 per cent), unavailability of plant protection appliances (85.83 per cent), lack of knowledge about disease control (68.33 per cent), fluctuation in the price (60.00 per cent), unavailability of inputs in time (54.16 per cent), financial constraints (50.00 per cent), heavy risk due to failure of monsoon rains (48.33 per cent), information not available in time (37.50 per cent), unavailability of drought tolerant varieties (20.83 per cent)

and market facility is not available nearby village (20.00 per cent).

The possible reason for these might be that majority of the gram growers were not aware about many practices. Further, due to many reasons like lack of knowledge and technical guidance, lack of finance, high cost of chemical fertilizers and insecticides and shortage of labour were their limitations and hence they could not adopt many improved cultivation practices of gram crop.

Suggestion offered by the gram growers

Table 2: Suggestions offered by gram growers to overcome constraints faced by them

n = 120

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percent	Rank
1	Supply of production inputs at subsidize rate	108	90.00	I
2	Technical information should be given in time	102	85.00	II
3	Establish Village Information Centre or Kiosk in each village	78	65.00	III
4	The produce should be purchased by the government at reasonable rate	65	54.16	IV
5	Easy availability of plant protection appliances	58	48.33	V
6	Agricultural inputs should be available in time	52	43.33	VI
7	Training should be given for improved cultivation practices of gram crop	49	40.83	VII
8	Technical knowledge of insecticides and fungicides should be provided	25	20.83	VIII
9	Market facility should be available at village level	20	16.67	IX

Valuable suggestions given by gram growers are presented in Table 2. It can be concluded from the Table 2 that the gram growers suggested supply of production inputs at subsidize rate (90.00 per cent), Technical information should be given in time (85.00 per cent), establish village information centre or kiosk in each village (65.00 per cent), the produce should be purchased by the government at reasonable rate (54.16 per cent), easy availability of plant protection appliances (48.33 per cent), agricultural inputs should be available in time (43.33 per cent), training should be given for improved gram cultivation practices (40.83 per cent), Technical knowledge of insecticides and fungicides should be provided (20.83 per cent) and market facility should be available at village level (16.67).

The possible explanation, as could be known during the field survey, might be that majority of the gram growers had small size of land holding and small size of herd size as their main income source which might have put them in low to medium level of annual income group and hence they were not able to efforts a high cost of farm inputs and technical information regarding improved cultivation practices of gram crop.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority of gram growers faced constraints of high cost of farm inputs, shortage of labours, unavailability of plant protection appliances, lack of knowledge about disease control, fluctuation in the price and unavailability inputs in time. The majority of gram growers suggested for supply of production inputs at subsidize rate,

technical information should be given in time, establish Village Information Centre or Kiosk in each village and the produce should be purchased by the government at reasonable rate.

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