

Constraints Faced by Small Scale Horticultural Nursery Growers in South Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out in the Navsari and Valsad districts of south Gujarat to know the constraints faced by the small scale horticultural nursery growers in small scale horticultural nursery business. Majority of small scale horticultural nursery growers faced constraints of non-availability of labours as first ranked position, followed by high cost of labours, irregular supply of electricity, irregular supply of irrigation, lack of knowledge about plant protection were ranked second, third, fourth and fifth position, respectively. Valuable suggestions given by small scale horticultural nursery growers were prices of inputs should be minimized as first ranked followed by good and healthy planting material should be provided at proper time, sufficient electric power should be available for long time sufficient irrigation water should be available at proper time, sufficient knowledge should be provided regarding plant protection were ranked at second, third, fourth and fifth position, respectively.

Keywords: Constraints, Suggestions, Management efficiency,. Nursery growers

INTRODUCTION

Horticulture accounts for 30% of India's agricultural GDP (Gross Domestic Product) from 8.5% of the cropped area and it is a priority sector in agriculture by virtue of its potential in improving the socio-economical conditions of the farmers. The erratic rainfall pattern and excessive humidity created problem for efficient utilization of immense potential of horticultural crop in Gujarat. In era of commercial and high value agriculture, horticulture crops are front runners for betterment of small and marginal farmer in the Gujarat.

OBJECTIVES

- (i) To find the constraints faced by the small scale horticultural nursery growers in management efficiency of horticultural nursery.
- (ii) To seek the suggestions from the small scale horticultural nursery growers to overcome the constraints faced by them in management efficiency of horticultural nursery.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in South Gujarat

region. Out of seven districts of South Gujarat, Navsari and Valsad districts were purposively selected for the study because these two districts are the leading horticultural nursery crops growing districts of South Gujarat. Vandsa taluka and Valsad taluka were selected purposively from Navsari and Valsad district, respectively because in these talukas, villages farmers were engaged in small scale horticultural nursery business. Doldha and Kamboya villages from Vandsa taluka while Bhomapardi and Ronvel villages from Valsad taluka were purposively selected for the study because in these villages of Vandsa and Valsad taluka, most of the farmers doing small scale horticultural nursery business. A random sampling technique was followed for selection of respondents from selected village. Thereafter, 25 farmers from each village were selected randomly. Thus, total 100 small scale horticultural nursery growers were selected as respondents from four selected villages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by small scale horticultural nursery growers

Constraints in management efficiency of

horticultural nursery never end. However they can be minimized. The respondents were requested to express the constraints faced by small scale horticultural nursery growers in management efficiency of horticultural nursery. Frequency and percentage for each constraint was calculated and on that basis, the constraints were ranked and presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Constraints faced by respondents in management efficiency of small scale horticultural nursery
n = 100

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Per cent	Rank
1	Non-availability of labours	90	90.00	I
2	High cost of labours	86	86.00	II
3	Irregular supply of electricity	76	76.00	III
4	Irregular supply of irrigation	68	68.00	IV
5	Lack of knowledge about plant protection	60	60.00	V
6	High cost of inputs	54	54.00	VI
7	Unavailability of planting material at proper time	50	50.00	VII
8	High cost of transportation	48	48.00	VIII
9	Lack of timely technical advice	37	37.00	IX
10	Non-availability of credit in time	22	22.00	X

As seen from the Table 1, majority of small scale horticultural nursery growers faced constraints of non-availability of labours (90.00 per cent) as I ranked, high cost of labours (86.00 per cent) ranked II, irregular supply of electricity (76.00 per cent) ranked III, Irregular supply of irrigation (68.00 per cent) ranked IV, lack of knowledge about plant protection (60.00 per cent) ranked V, high cost of inputs (54.00 per cent) ranked VI, unavailability of planting material at proper time (50.00 per cent) ranked VII, high cost of transportation (48.00 per cent) ranked VIII, lack of timely technical advice (37.00 per cent) ranked IX and non-availability of credit in time (22.00 per cent) ranked X. The result presented here is partially matched with the previous results of Shitre (2010) and Patel *et al.* (2013).

Suggestions offered by small scale horticultural nursery growers

An attempt was also made to ascertain suggestions from small scale horticultural nursery growers to overcome

various constraints faced by them in management efficiency of horticultural nursery. The respondents were requested to offer their valuable suggestions against difficulties faced by them in management efficiency of horticultural nursery. The data were collected and summarized in Table 2.

Table 2: Suggestions given by respondents to overcome constraints faced by them
n = 100

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Number	Per cent	Rank
1	Price of input should be minimized	89	89.00	I
2	Good and healthy planting material should be provided at proper time	80	80.00	II
3	Sufficient electric power should be available for long time	65	65.00	III
4	Sufficient irrigation water should be available at proper time	54	54.00	IV
5	Sufficient knowledge should be provided regarding plant protection	48	48.00	V
6	Timely technical advice should be provided to the farmers	43	43.00	VI
7	Training on new technologies should be imparted to the farmers	41	41.00	VII
8	Guidance should be provided to adopt proper cultivation practices	21	21.00	VIII
9	Regular and timely visit of the farm should be necessary by horticultural officer	18	18.00	IX
10	Low cost farm mechanization is required	15	15.00	X

The data depicted in Table 2 shown that prices of inputs should be minimized (89.00 per cent) ranked I, good and healthy planting material should be provided at proper time (80.00 per cent) ranked II, sufficient electric power should be available for long time (65.00 per cent) ranked III, sufficient irrigation water should be available at proper time (54.00 per cent) ranked IV, sufficient knowledge should be provided regarding plant protection (48.00 per cent) ranked V, timely technical advice should be provided to the farmers (43.00 per cent) ranked VI, training on new technologies

should be imparted to the farmers (41.00 per cent) ranked VII, guidance should be provided to adopt proper cultivation practices (21.00 per cent) ranked VIII, regular and timely visit of the farm should be necessary by horticultural officer (18.00 per cent) ranked IX, Low cost farm mechanization is required (15.00 per cent) ranked X. The result presented here is partially in concurrence with the previous results of Badhe (2009), Darandale (2010) and Shitre (2010).

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that constraints faced by small scale horticultural nursery growers were non-availability of labours was ranked at first position, followed by high cost of labours, irregular supply of electricity, irregular supply of irrigation, lack of knowledge about plant protection were ranked at second, third, fourth and fifth position, respectively. whereas suggestions given by small scale horticultural nursery growers were prices of inputs should be minimized was ranked at first position, good and healthy planting material should be provided at proper time, sufficient electric power should be available for long time sufficient irrigation water

should be available at proper time, sufficient knowledge should be provided regarding plant protection were ranked at second, third, fourth and fifth position, respectively.

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