

Constraints Faced by the Banana Growers in Adoption of Improved Banana Cultivation Practices

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ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in four talukas of Anand district of Gujarat state during the year 2005. From each taluka, five villages were selected having highest area under banana crop. From each village twelve banana growers (4- marginal, 4- small and 4- medium banana growers) from 20 selected villages constituted a total sample size of 240 respondents at random. The ex-post-facto research design was followed. The most important constraints faced by medium banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation technology were: Irregular supply of electric power Lack of cooperative/APMC market, Non availability of pesticide at village level, Uncertainty of price, Lack of own tube well, Difficulty in calculation of doses of fertilizer, Non availability of guarantor against loan, High cost of tissue culture plant and Insufficient training programme.

Keywords: *Banana growers, adoption, constraints*

INTRODUCTION

The recent advances in banana production technology have demonstrated that scientific management has great potential for increasing the banana production. Therefore, raising management efficiency is of paramount importance for banana producer. This will open up new vistas and make possible for banana growers to achieve substantial gains in income. Raising the management efficiency is the fundamental problem. This problem needs to be carefully tackled for long run solution of under developed banana growers. Therefore, the present investigation on to identify the constraints faced by the banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation technology was carried out.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in four talukas of Anand district of Gujarat state during the year 2005. From each taluka, five villages were selected having highest area under banana crop. From each village twelve banana growers (4- marginal, 4- small and 4- medium banana growers) from 20 selected villages constituted a total sample size of 240

respondents at random. The ex-post-facto research design was followed. An interview schedule was developed in accordance with the objectives of the study and it was pre-tested and translated in to Gujarati. The data of this study were collected through personal interview. The statistical measures such as percentage, mean, and factorial concept, were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There might be a number of constraints in the way of banana growers for adoption of improved banana cultivation practices. The constraints faced by the farmers hinder the production and hence desired results could not be achieved. Therefore, it was felt imperative to identify those constraints faced by the banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices. The respondents were asked to mention the constraints faced by them in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices. The constraints expressed by them were noted. The intensity of particular constraints was computed by calculating percentage according to their frequencies. Then, they were assigned rank on the basis of percentage.

Constraints faced by the banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices have been presented in Table 1.

On the perusal of data presented in Table 1 it can be observed that constraints faced by the marginal, small and medium banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices in descending order of rank for sucker/variety were high cost of tissue culture plant (Rank-I), unavailability of quality suckers (Rank- II) and non availability of diseases/pest resistant variety (Rank- III).

Constraints faced by marginal, small and medium banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices in descending order of rank for manures and fertilizers were difficulty in calculation of doses of fertilizer (Rank- I), high cost of fertilizer (Rank- II), non availability of manures and fertilizers at village level (Rank- III) and unawareness about recommended dose of fertilize (Rank- IV).

Constraints related to irrigation in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices in descending order of rank for irrigation of marginal banana growers were lack of own tube well (Rank- I), irregular supply of electric power (Rank- II), unavailability of canal irrigation (Rank- III) and high cost of irrigation on rent base (Rank- IV) while for small banana growers were lack of own tube well (Rank- I), irregular supply of electric power (Rank- II), high cost of irrigation on rent base (Rank- III) and unavailability of canal irrigation (Rank- IV) whereas for medium banana growers were irregular supply of electric power (Rank- I), lack of own tube well (Rank- II), high cost of irrigation on rent base (Rank- III) and unavailability of canal irrigation (Rank- IV).

Plant protection Constraints in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices for marginal banana growers in descending rank order were non availability of pesticides at village level (Rank- I), unawareness about preparation of solution (Rank- II), high cost of pesticides (Rank- III) and lack of own sprayer/duster (Rank- IV) while, for small banana growers were non availability of pesticides at village level (Rank- I), unawareness about preparation of solution (Rank- II), high cost of pesticides (Rank- III) and lack of

own sprayer/duster (Rank- IV) where as for medium banana growers were non availability of pesticides at village level (Rank- I), high cost of pesticides (Rank- II), lack of own sprayer/duster (Rank- III) and unawareness about preparation of solution (Rank- IV).

Constraints related to marketing in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices for marginal banana growers in descending rank order were uncertainty of price (Rank- I), lack of cooperative/APMC market (Rank- II), high cost of transportation (Rank- III), lack of local market at village level (Rank- IV) and high rate of labour charges (Rank- V) while for small banana growers were uncertainty of price (Rank- I), lack of cooperative/APMC market (Rank- II), lack of local market at village level (Rank- III), high cost of transportation (Rank- IV) and high rate of labour charges (Rank- V) whereas for medium banana growers were lack of cooperative/APMC market (Rank- I), uncertainty of price (Rank- II), high cost of transportation (Rank- III), lack of local market at village level (Rank- IV) and high rate of labour charges (Rank- V).

Constraints related to technical guidance in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices for marginal banana growers in descending rank order were insufficient training programme (Rank-I) and insufficient availability of technical guidance (Rank- II) while for small banana growers insufficient availability of technical guidance (Rank-I) and insufficient training programme (Rank-II) whereas for medium banana growers insufficient training programme (Rank-I) and insufficient availability of technical guidance (Rank- II).

Lack of information about sources of loan and subsidy (Rank-I) and non availability of guarantor against loan (Rank- II) were constrain related to crop loan and subsidy in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices for marginal banana growers while for small banana growers were lack of information about sources of loan and subsidy (Rank-I) and non availability of guarantor against loan (Rank- II) whereas for medium banana growers non availability of guarantor against loan (Rank- I) and lack of information about sources of loan and subsidy (Rank-II).

Table 1 : Constraints faced by the banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation practices n=240

Sr. No.	Constraints	Category of banana growers											
		Marginal (n =80)			Small (n =80)			Medium (n =80)			Pooled		
		No.	Per cent	Rank	No.	Per cent	Rank	No.	Per cent	Rank	No.	Per cent	Rank
I	Suckers/Variety												
1	Non availability of diseases/ pest resistant variety	48	60.00	III	37	46.25	III	55	68.75	III	140	58.33	III
2	Un availability of quality suckers	55	68.75	II	62	77.50	II	58	72.50	II	175	72.92	II
3	High cost of tissue culture plant	74	92.50	I	70	87.50	I	61	76.25	I	205	85.42	I
II	Manures & fertilizers												
1	Non availability of manures & fertilizers at village level	38	47.50	III	32	40.00	III	28	35.00	III	98	40.83	III
2	Unawareness about recommended dose	28	35.00	IV	26	32.50	IV	22	27.50	IV	76	31.67	IV
3	High cost of fertilizers	64	80.00	II	60	75.00	II	62	77.50	II	186	77.50	II
4	Difficulty in calculation of doses of fertilizer	70	87.50	I	68	85.00	I	65	81.25	I	203	84.58	I
III	Irrigation												
1	Irregular supply of electric power	78	97.50	II	75	93.75	II	78	97.50	I	231	96.25	II
2	High cost of irrigation on rent base	72	90.00	IV	73	91.25	III	72	90.00	III	217	90.42	III
3	Lack of own tube well	80	100.00	I	78	97.50	I	75	93.75	II	233	97.08	I
4	Unavailability of canal irrigation	73	91.25	III	71	88.75	IV	68	85.00	IV	212	88.33	IV
IV	Plant protection												
1	Non availability of pesticide at village level	75	93.75	I	74	92.50	I	77	96.25	I	226	94.17	I
2	High cost of pesticides	71	88.75	III	68	85.00	III	65	81.25	II	204	85.00	II
3	Lack of own sprayer/duster	64	80.00	IV	65	81.25	IV	62	77.50	III	191	79.58	IV
4	Unawareness about preparation of solution	74	92.50	II	70	87.50	II	58	72.50	IV	202	84.17	III
V	Marketing												
1	Lack of local market at village level	71	88.75	IV	70	87.50	III	71	88.75	IV	212	88.33	III
2	Lack of cooperative/APMC market	75	93.75	II	73	91.25	II	78	97.50	I	226	94.17	II
3	High cost of transportation	70	87.50	III	68	85.00	IV	72	90.00	III	210	87.50	IV
4	High rate of labour charges	58	72.50	V	60	75.00	V	70	87.50	V	188	78.33	V
5	Uncertainty of price	78	97.50	I	78	97.50	I	75	93.75	II	231	96.25	I
VI	Technical guidance												
1	Insufficient availability of technical guidance	55	68.75	II	58	72.50	I	45	56.25	II	158	65.83	II
2	Insufficient training programme	60	75.00	I	47	58.75	II	60	75.00	I	167	69.58	I
VII	Crop loan & subsidy												
1	Lack of information about sources of loan & subsidy	75	93.75	I	70	87.50	I	56	70.00	II	201	83.75	I
2	Non availability of guarantor against loan	68	85.00	II	63	78.75	II	62	77.50	I	193	80.42	II

CONCLUSION

The most important constraints faced by medium banana growers in adoption of improved banana cultivation technology were: Irregular supply of electric power (97.50 per cent), Lack of cooperative/APMC market (97.50 per cent), Non availability of pesticide at village level (96.25 per cent), Uncertainty of price (93.75 per cent), Lack of own tube well (93.75 per cent), Difficulty in calculation of doses of fertilizer (87.25 per cent), Non availability of guarantor against loan (77.50 per cent), High cost of tissue culture plant (76.25 per cent) and Insufficient training programme (75.00 per cent).

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