

Original Research Article

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Assessment of Constraints Encountered by the Chilli Growers of Khammam District in Adoption of Recommended Chilli Production Technologies along with Suggestions

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to investigate the major constraints faced by the chilli growers of Khammam District of Telangana. Data were collected through personal interview from 112 selected respondents of the ten villages with the help of well-structured questionnaire. Frequency and percentage were used to analyse the collected data. The collected information from the chilli growers revealed that major constraints in adoption of recommended Chilli production technologies were high labour charges (91.07%), high cost of agricultural inputs (83.03%), low market price of chilli (100.00%), lack of training regarding recommended chilli production technology (100.00%), lack of knowledge about insects, pests and diseases (80.35%), electricity problem (100.00%) etc. Further more, the respondents imparted some suggestions to overcome the constraints such as, minimum support price should be attractive (96.42%), rate of agricultural inputs should be less (86.60%), crop loan should be provided timely (83.03%), timely agricultural information should be imparted by extension officers (78.57%) etc.

Keywords

Constraints, Chilli production, Suggestions

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Introduction

Among the states, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are highest chilli producing states. India is the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of chillies in the world. In Telangana the area under chilli during 2016-17 was 1.24 lakh hectares with annual production of 4.8 lakh tones. Khammam is one of the major chilli growing districts of Telangana.

According to the survey report of Telangana state horticulture department, it has been found that the sown area chilli has reduced by 20% in 2017-18. So, the present study was conducted to assess various problems encountered by the chilli growers which are the real set back for chilli production in the study area. The knowledge of constraints in production of chilli will be useful for the farmers, who want to substitute this crop for the traditional crops grown in the area. Again, the opinion of chilli growers in the form of their suggestions must be considered for the

solution of the problems. Hence, the study was conducted with the following research objectives:

To study the constraints faced by Chilli growers in adoption of recommended Chilli production technologies.

To suggest various feasible measures to overcome the constraints.

Materials and Methods

The present study pertains to Khammam district of Telangana State, where the production of chilli crop is higher than other districts in the state. Telangana state was purposively selected for the study. For this study purpose, multi-stage sampling was adopted. Khammam district consists of 22 mandals, out of which 5 mandals were selected randomly. In the second stage, from each of the mandals, 2 village Panchayaths were selected with more than twenty chilli growers. List of chilli growers of each selected village was prepared with the help of AEO and other officials. From each selected village about 12% of chilli growers were selected by using proportionate random sampling method. Overall 112 chilli growers were being selected for the study.

The researcher collects the required primary data on constraints of production by personal interview method with specially designed questionnaire. The data was collected for the year 2017-2018. The collected data was tabulated and analysed by using frequency and percentage.

Results and Discussion

The results obtained from the present study along with the relevant discussions have been summarized below:

Constraints in adoption of recommended practices as perceived by farmers

Constraints imply the problems or difficulties faced by chilli growers while adopting recommended cultivation practices. In Table 1 various constraints faced by chilli growers have been enlisted. The problems are grouped under various subheadings like economic problems, marketing problems, technical problems, situational problems, extension problems and institutional problems and are given rank according to the frequency and percentage of respondents facing them.

Economic problems

In terms of economical aspect majority of the respondents (91.07 %) opined that high labour charges was the major constraint for them. Due to increased opportunities in service and manufacturing sector labour force is shrinking day by day from agricultural sector which results in hike in labour charges. Again, High cost of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and implements was considered as second major constraint by 83.03 percent of the respondents. It is because most of the agricultural input dealers are profit oriented and they sell various agricultural inputs at a high price to the farmers. Lack of loan facilities (66.96 %) and lack of money to purchase useful agricultural materials (61.60%). More than half of the farmers opined that credit generation system for crop loan is troublesome and they didn't get money at proper time to purchase various agricultural inputs.

Marketing problems

It was found that all of the respondents (100%) were not satisfied with the prevailing price of chilli in local markets. Basically, high production of chilli compared to its market demand caused such deflation of price. Some

other market related problems encountered by the chilli growers are, lack of awareness about actual market price of chilli (51.78%), absence of nearby regulated market (10.71%), and Non-availability of seeds, pesticides and fertilizer in time (7.14%). Most of the growers were lacking of proper market intelligence which results in most of the problems.

Technical problems

All of the respondents (100%) reported that they never came across any training program regarding recommended chilli production technology. Most of the respondents were ignorant of various recommendations about improved cultivation practices of chilli like knowledge about seed treatment before sowing (89.46%), knowledge about insects, pests and diseases (80.35%) and knowledge about improved varieties of chilli (73.21%). To keep farmers updated about fast-moving advancement in agriculture sector, they require proper training, demonstrations etc. Hence, various private and Govt. extension agencies need to step forward to disseminate improved chilli production technologies among the farmers in the particular study area.

Situational problems

Regarding situational problems, it was found that all of the respondents (100%) were facing electricity problem. It might be because of the fact that, load shedding occurs during day time in the particular study area which hampers the scheduled irrigation activities. Whereas, 82.14 per cent of the respondents reported the constraint of non-availability of agricultural input materials in village. For purchasing various agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilizers, plant protection chemicals, farmers need to go far from their locality which is a hindrance for timely supply of agricultural inputs. Again, lack of nearby

market to sell the chilli and lack of transport facility to distribute the produce to the market, was conveyed as constraints by 50.89 per cent and 49.10 per cent of the respondents respectively.

Extension problems

About extension related problems, 72.32 per cent of the respondents opined that unavailability of agriculture related information in local language was a major constraint. Whereas, 60.71 per cent of the respondents stated that irregular visit of agricultural officers was another constraint for them. Agricultural information dissemination system needs to flow the recommended production technologies through various literatures and extension agents from research station to farmers field. So, it is advisable to publish agricultural information in local language so that literate farmers can grasp those technologies easily. Moreover, Agricultural officers need to reach out the rural farmers to bring them into limelight about various advancements of agricultural production system and to address their agriculture related problems.

Suggestions given by the chilli growers to overcome the major constraints faced by them

The suggestions given by the chilli growers to overcome some of the major constraints related to chilli production, has been enlisted in Table 2. Out of the total chilli growers, maximum number of respondents (96.42%) suggested that minimum support price should be attractive so that farmers can avail the remunerative price by selling the produce, followed by the suggestion that rate of various agricultural input (seeds, fertilizers, insecticides) should be less (86.60%) so that farmers can procure agricultural inputs at lower price. Thirdly crop loan should be

provided timely according to 83.03 per cent of the respondents which will help farmers to meet various farm expenses at proper time. Around 78.57 respondents suggested that timely agricultural information should be

imparted by extension officers and 67.85 per cent respondents expressed that proper training should be imparted regarding chilli production so that farmers will be acquainted with recommended production technologies.

Table.1 Constraints in adoption of recommended practices as perceived by farmers

Constraints	Chilli growers	
	Frequency	Percentage
(A)Economic problems		
(i) Lack of money to purchase useful agricultural material	69	61.60
(ii) High cost of seed, fertilizers, insecticides and Implements	93	83.03
(iii) High labour charges	102	91.07
(iv) Lack of loan facilities	75	66.96
(B) Marketing problems		
(i) Knowledge about actual rate of chilli	58	51.78
(ii) Regular market in nearest area	12	10.71
(iii) Non-availability of seeds, pesticides and fertilizer in time	8	7.14
(iv) Low price of chilli in the market	112	100.00
(C) Technical problems		
(i) Lack of information about improved varieties of chilli	82	73.21
(ii) Knowledge about seed treatment	89	89.46
(iii) Lack of training regarding recommended chilli production technology	112	100.00
(iv) Lack of knowledge about insects pest and diseases	90	80.35
(D) Situational problems		
(i) Non-availability of agricultural input materials in village	92	82.14
(ii) Remoteness of Market	57	50.89
(iii) Electricity problem	112	100.00
(iv) Lack of transport facility	55	49.10
(E) Extension problems		
(i) Unavailability of agriculture related information in local language	81	72.32
(ii) Irregular visit of agriculture officers	68	60.71

Table.2 Suggestions given by the chilli growers to overcome the major constraints faced by them

Sl.No.	Suggestion	Chilli Growers	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Rate of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, insecticides) should be less.	97	86.60
2	Electricity should be available during day time.	45	40.17
3	Demonstrations should be conducted on the farmers' field by Agriculture department.	43	38.39
4	Chilli production training should be given.	76	67.85
5	Regular visit of Agricultural Extension Officers.	73	65.17
6	Timely agricultural information should be imparted by extension officers	88	78.57
7	Crop loan should be provided timely.	93	83.03
8	Minimum support price should be attractive.	108	96.42

In further cases, respondents suggested that there should be regular visit of AEOs (65.17%) so that farmers can share their agriculture related problems and to avail timely advice from them. Electricity should be available during day time according to 40.17 percent of the respondents which will help the farmer to carry out daytime irrigation. According to 38.39 per cent of the respondents, demonstrations regarding advanced chilli production technologies should be conducted on the farmers' field by Agriculture department.

From the above findings it is concluded that high labour charges, low price of chilli in the market, lack of training regarding recommended chilli production technology, electricity problem, unavailability of agriculture related information in local language were some of the major constraints face by the chilli growers of Khammam district. Suggestions given by the respondents to overcome the constraints were minimum support price should be attractive, rate of input (seeds, fertilizers, insecticides) should be less, the crop loan should be provided timely, various agricultural information

should be given by extension officers, proper training should be imparted regarding chilli production, there should be regular visit of Agricultural Extension Officers, electricity should be available during day time and demonstrations should be conducted on the farmers' field by Agriculture department.

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