

Original Research Article

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## Economics and Adoption of Recommended Cultivation Practices by Sesamum Growers

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted during 2018-19 in Mandya district of Karnataka State, India. The pre-tested interview schedule was used to collect the data from 120 Sesamum growers through personal interview method. The collected data was tabulated and analyzed using percentages, correlation and regression. As high as 44.17 per cent of Sesamum growers belonged to medium level adoption category, 35.00 per cent to low adoption category and 20.83 per cent belonged to high adoption category. Majority of the Sesamum growers completely adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, selection of suitable soil, time of planting, recommended depth of planting, inter cultivation, hand weeding, thinning for maintaining plant population, time of harvesting and post harvest practices. Further, majority of Sesamum growers partially adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, recommended quantity of seed rate, application of recommended quantity of FYM, time of application of FYM / compost, application of recommended quantity of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium fertilizers, recommended spacing, recommended yield and recommended storage practices. In addition, majority of the Sesamum growers not adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, recommended varieties, application of recommended quantity of micro nutrients, seed treatment with recommended fungicide and application of recommended herbicide. The return per rupee of expenditure was 1.14. The major constraints expressed by Sesamum growers were low price, non availability of recommended varieties, non availability of high yielding varieties, lack of market information, lack of minimum support price, non availability of micro nutrients in smaller quantities and un scientific crop insurance.

### Keywords

Sesamum, Adoption, Recommended cultivation practices, Returns, Constrains

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### Introduction

Sesamum called as 'queen' of oilseeds by virtue of its excellent oil quality and

considered as one of the oldest oilseed crop. Sesamum is highly beneficial as it contains 42-50% oil and the oil contains 42.00 per cent essential Linoleic acid, 25% Protein and 16-

18% Carbohydrates. Moreover premium quality edible and medicinal oil can be extracted from *Seasamum*, which can be conserved for a long time. *Seasamum* oil cake is good feed for poultry, fish, cattle, goat and sheep. Unfortunately, the major obstacle to *Seasamum* crop expansion is low seed yield which results due to lack of non-shattering, water logged, disease and insect resistant varieties. The crop is now grown in a wide range of environments, extending from semi-arid tropics and subtropics to temperate regions. Consequently, the crop has a large diversity in cultivars and cultural systems. India is the largest producer (890,000 metric tons) of *Seasamum* in the world. It also ranks first in the world in terms of *Seasamum* growing area (24%). Perhaps the productivity increase is 7 kg/ha per year in India, 13 kg/ha per year in Ethiopia and 22 kg/ha per year in China. Clearly, the level and rate of increase of yield per hectare of *Seasamum* in China is more than 50% higher than in Ethiopia.

The potential yield of *Seasamum* is still much higher than actual yield, as much damage occurs by pests and diseases, insufficient weed control, high levels of mono cropping, lack of mechanization. The major *Seasamum* growing states in India are Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Karnataka. In Karnataka *Seasamums* being grown in an area of 0.45 lakh hectare with a production of 0.22 lakh tones. The major *Seasamum* growing districts are Mysore, Gulbarga and Mandya. In general, average productivity of *Seasamum* continues to be lower (144 to 234 kg/ha) than expected from agricultural technology for the last 20 years, mainly due to its cultivation on marginal lands, poor management and without inputs except seed. The major factors responsible for lower yield are inappropriate production practices. Hence, the present study was undertaken with following specific objectives. Further, it will helps in understanding and

devising appropriate practices to tackle the problems more efficiently.

To analyze profile characteristics of *Seasamum* growers.

To study the Adoption of Specific Recommended Cultivation Practices by *Seasamum* growers.

To know the Relationship between Profile Characteristics of *Seasamum* growers and Adoption of recommended *Seasamum* cultivation practices.

To Analyze the Economics of *Seasamum* Cultivation; and

To document the Constraints Expressed by *Seasamum* growers

## **Materials and Methods**

The study was conducted during 2018-19 in Mandya district of Karnataka State, India. The district was purposively selected because it is one of the major *Seasamum* growing district in Karnataka.

In the district Pandavapura and Nagamangala taluks were purposefully selected since these are major *Seasamum* growing taluks. In each selected taluk, three villages were randomly selected. In each selected village the list of *Seasamum* growing farmers was prepared in consultation with the officials of Karnataka State Department of Agriculture (KSDA) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Mandya.

From such a list 20 *Seasamum* growing farmers were randomly selected from each village. Thus, a total of 120 respondents constituted the sample for the study. The schedule was developed in consultation with scientists and extension workers. The pre-tested interview schedule was used to collect the data through personal interview method. The collected data was tabulated and analyzed using percentages, correlation and regression.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Profile characteristics of Sesamum growers**

The data in Table-1 reveals that as high as 45.00 per cent of Sesamum growers belonged to middle age group, 50.00 per cent had studied up to primary school, 54.16 per cent were belonged to medium family size group, 85.83 per cent mainly dependent on agriculture, 68.34 per cent belonged to smaller livestock (1-4 animals) group, 56.67 per cent were marginal farmers, 48.33 per cent were belonged to medium annual income group. 47.50 per cent had medium level of farm experience, 43.34 per cent had medium level of economic motivation, 46.67 per cent had low level of cosmopolitaness, 37.50 per cent had low extension contact, 45.83 per cent had medium level of mass media participation, 40.84 per cent had low level of organizational participation and 46.67 per cent had medium level of aspiration.

### **Overall adoption of recommended cultivation practices by sesamum growers**

The data in Table-2 reveals that as high as 44.17 per cent of Sesamum growers belonged to medium level adoption category followed by 35.00 per cent belonged to low adoption category and 20.83 per cent belonged to high adoption category.

### **Adoption of specific recommended cultivation practices by sesamum growers**

The results in Table-3 reveals that majority of the Sesamum growers completely adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, selection of suitable soil (65.00 %), time of planting (91.67%), recommended depth of planting (73.33%), inter cultivation (69.16%), hand weeding (82.50%), thinning for maintaining plant population (65.83%), time

of harvesting (92.50%) and post harvest practices (79.17%). Further, majority of the Sesamum growers partially adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, recommended quantity of seed rate (90.00%), application of recommended quantity of FYM (82.50%), time of application of FYM/compost (84.67%), application of recommended quantity of nitrogen fertilizers (73.33%), phosphorus (72.50%) and potash (85.83%), recommended spacing (89.17%), recommended yield (74.17%) and recommended storage practices (58.33%). In addition, majority of the Sesamum growers not adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, recommended varieties (67.50%), application of recommended quantity of micro nutrients (91.67%), seed treatment with recommended fungicide (83.34 %) and application of recommended herbicide (100.00 %).

### **Relationship between profile characteristics of sesamum growers and adoption of recommended sesamum cultivation practices**

The data in Table-4 reveals that there was a positive and significant relationship at one per cent level of probability between occupation, farming experience, economic motivation, cosmopolitaness and level of aspiration with their adoption of recommended cultivation practices by Sesamum growers. Further the variables such as live stock possession and annual income had positive and significant relationship at five per cent level with their adoption of recommended cultivation practices by Sesamum growers. Where as age, education, family size, size of land holding, extension contact, mass media participation and organizational participation had non significant relationship with their adoption of recommended cultivation practices by Sesamum growers.

**Contribution of Profile characteristics of Sesamum growers and Adoption of recommended cultivation practices**

The Table-5 explains the contribution of independent variables in extent of adoption of recommended cultivation practices by Sesamum growers to their adoption. The results accounted that independent variables viz., age, live stock possession, economic motivation, cosmopolitaness and level of aspiration had significantly contributed to the extent of adoption of recommended cultivation practices in Sesamum by Sesamum growers. The R2 value specified that all the 14 independent variables had contributed to the tune of 0.344 per cent of variation in extent of adoption of recommended cultivation practices by Sesamum growers.

**Economics of sesamum cultivation**

A close look at Table 6 reveals that on an average the cost of Sesamum production per hectare was Rs.15,570 /-. The gross returns was Rs.33,750/- and net returns was Rs.

17,980 per/ hectare. The return per rupee of expenditure was 1.14. The cost on land preparation was (24.82 %) ranked first, farm yard manure (18.38%) ranked second, fertilizers (10.85%) ranked third, harvesting (10.78%) ranked fourth, sowing (8.47%) ranked fifth, plant protection measures and packing and transportation (6.98%) ranked sixth, inter cultivation (5.70%) ranked seventh, weeding (4.45 %) ranked eighth and seeds (2.59%) ranked ninth.

**Constraints expressed by Sesamum growers**

The major constraints expressed by Sesamum growers in production of sesamum (Table–7) were low price (Rank I), non availability of recommended varieties (Rank II), non availability of high yielding varieties (Rank III), lack of market information (Rank IV), lack of minimum support price (Rank V), non availability of micro nutrients in smaller quantities (Rank VI) and un scientific crop insurance (Rank VII).

**Table.1 Profile Characteristics of Sesamum growers**

(N=120)

Sl. No	Variable	Characteristic	Respondents	
			Number	Per cent
1	Age	Young = (<30)	20	16.67
		Middle = (30-50)	54	45.00
		Old = (>50)	46	38.33
2	Education	Illiterate	10	8.33
		Primary school	60	50.00
		High school	38	31.67
		PUC	9	7.50
		Graduation and Above	3	2.50
3	Family size	Small (upto 4 members)	43	35.84
		Medium (5-6members)	65	54.16
		Big (>6members)	12	10.00
4	Occupation	Agriculture	103	85.83
		Agriculture and subsidiary enterprises	17	14.17

5	Live stock possession	Small =(1-4)	82	68.34
		Medium=(5-10)	21	17.50
		Large=(>10)	17	14.16
6	Size of land holding	Marginal= (<2.5 Ac)	68	56.67
		Small =(2.5-5Ac)	42	35.00
		Big =(>5Ac)	10	8.33
7	Annual income	Low=(<35,000.Rs)	33	27.50
		Medium= (35,000.Rs-77,000Rs)	58	48.33
		High= (>77,000Rs)	29	24.17
8	Farming experience	Low=(<4.89 years)	11	9.16
		Medium=(4.89-6.87years)	57	47.50
		High=(>6.87years)	52	43.34
9	Economic Motivation	Low =( <19.20)	38	31.66
		Medium=(19.20-24.49)	52	43.34
		High (> 24.49)	30	25.00
10	Cosmopolitaness	Low =( <7.58)	56	46.67
		Medium=(7.59-12.35)	41	34.16
		High= (> 12.35)	23	19.17
11	Extension contact	Low=( <2.54)	45	37.50
		Medium= (2.54–4.51)	42	35.00
		High =( >4.51)	33	27.50
12	Mass media participation	Low=( <2.44)	46	38.33
		Medium= (2.44 - 4.07)	55	45.83
		High= (>4.07)	19	15.84
13	Organizational Participation	Low=( <1.39)	49	40.84
		Medium= (1.39 -2.56)	45	37.50
		High =( >2.56)	26	21.66
14	Level of aspiration	Low=( <12.1)	44	36.67
		Medium =(12.1-15.83)	56	46.67
		High =( >15.83)	20	16.66

**Table.2** Overall Adoption of Recommended cultivation Practices by Sesamum growers

<i>Adoption categories</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Per cent</i>
<b>Low</b>	42	35.00
<b>Medium</b>	53	44.17
<b>High</b>	25	20.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Mean =101.16; Standard Deviation =6.07

**Table.3:** Adoption of Specific Recommended Cultivation Practices by Sesamum growers  
(N=120)

Sl. No.	Recommended cultivation practices	Adoption level					
		Complete Adoption		Partial Adoption		Non-adoption	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1	Selection of suitable soil	78	65.00	0	0.00	42	35.00
2	Time of planting (April – May)	110	91.67	10	8.33	0	0.00
3	Recommended varieties	39	32.50	0	0.00	81	67.50
4	Recommended quantity of seed rate	12	10.00	108	90.00	0	0.00
5	Application of Recommended quantity of FYM	21	17.50	99	82.50	0	0.00
6	Time of Application of FYM/ Compost	19	15.83	101	84.67	0	0.00
7	Application of recommended quantity of micro nutrients	0	0.00	10	8.33	110	91.67
8	Application of recommended quantity of fertilizers						
	a. Nitrogen	32	26.67	88	73.33	0	0.00
	b. Phosphorus	33	27.70	87	72.50	0	0.00
	c. Potash	17	14.16	103	85.83	0	0.00
9	Recommended spacing	13	10.83	107	89.17	0	0.00
10	Seed treatment with Recommended fungicide	0	0.00	20	16.66	100	83.34
11	Recommended depth of planting	88	73.33	32	26.67	0	0.00
12	Application of recommended herbicide	0	0.00	0	0.00	120	100.00
13	Inter cultivation	83	69.16	37	30.84	0	0
14	Hand weeding	99	82.5	21	17.50	0	0.00
15	Thinning for maintaining plant population	79	65.83	39	32.50	2	1.67
16	Time of harvesting	111	92.50	9	7.50	0	0.00
17	Post harvest practices	95	79.17	25	20.83	0	0.00
18	Recommended yield	31	25.83	89	74.17	0	0.00
19	Recommended storage practices	37	30.83	70	58.33	13	10.84

**Table.4** Relationship between Profile characteristics of Sesamum growers and Adoption of recommended cultivation practices

(N=120)

Sl. No.	Variables	Correlation coefficient 'r' value
1	Age	0.036
2	Education	0.128
3	Family size	0.101
4	Occupation	0.257**
5	Live stock possession	0.197*
6	Size of land holding	0.017
7	Annual income	0.190*
8	Farming experience	0.240**
9	Economic Motivation	0.282**
10	Cosmopolitaness	0.228**
11	Extension contact	0.131
12	Mass media participation	0.146
13	Organizational participation	0.157
14	Level of aspiration	0.206**

\*\* = significant at 1% level of probability; \* = significant at 5% level of probability

**Table.5** Contribution of Profile characteristics of Sesamum growers and Adoption of recommended cultivation practices

(N=120)

Sl. No.	Variables	Regression coefficient 'b' value	Standard error regression coefficient	't' value
1	Age	0.223	0.107	2.076*
2	Education	1.007	1.458	0.690
3	Family size	6.118	3.831	0.158
4	Occupation	0.689	0.884	0.779
5	Live stock possession	0.425	1.178	2.376*
6	Size of land holding	0.351	1.254	0.280
7	Annual income	-1.769	1.154	-1.533
8	Farming experience	0.169	0.408	0.415
9	Economic Motivation	0.000	0.000	3.273*
10	Cosmopolitaness	0.244	0.139	1.246*
11	Extension contact	0.956	1.168	0.818
12	Mass media participation	0.210	0.779	0.270
13	Organizational participation	0.081	0.348	0.235
14	Level of aspiration	0.885	0.280	3.239*

\*\* = significant at 1% level; \* = significant at 5% level; R<sup>2</sup>=0.344; F =3.149

**Table.6** Economics of Sesamum Cultivation / hectare

Sl. No	Items	Rupees	Per cent	Rank
<b>I. Cost of production</b>				
1	Land preparation	3915	24.82	I
2	Farmyard manure	2900	18.38	II
3	Sowing	1335	8.47	V
4	Seeds	410	2.59	IX
5	Fertilizers	1710	10.85	III
7	Plant protection measures	1100	6.98	VI
8	Weeding (hand weeding)	700	4.45	VIII
9	Inter cultivation	900	5.70	VII
10	Harvesting	1700	10.78	IV
11	Packing and transportation	1100	6.98	VI
<b>Total</b>		<b>15770</b>		
<b>II. Returns</b>				
1	Yield (quintals/ha)	4.50		
2	Gross Returns (Rs/ ha)	33750/- @ Rs.7,500 / quintal		
3	Net Returns (Rs/ha)	17980/-		
4	Benefit - Cost Ratio	1.14		

**Table.7** Constraints expressed by Sesamum growers

(N=120)

Sl. No	Constraints	Number	Per cent	Rank
1	Low price	108	90.00	I
2	Non availability of recommended varieties	90	75.00	II
3	Non availability of high yielding varieties	84	70.00	III
4	Lack of market information	81	67.50	IV
5	Lack of minimum support price	79	65.83	V
6	Non availability micro nutrients in smaller quantities	76	63.33	VI
7	Un scientific crop insurance	68	56.67	VII

Majority of the Sesamum farmers studied up to primary school, their main occupation was agriculture, belonged to medium family size group, belonged to smaller livestock (1-4 animals) group and were marginal farmers.

This may be because of the reason that education is one of the important factor in determining status of the farmers. In addition many educational programmes were undertaken by the government to create



awareness among the farmers about the importance of education and creation of more infrastructure facilities in the rural areas. The family size plays an controversial role under the existing situations, the agriculture may not give continues income and it is a seasonal activity and depends on allied activities. The livestock possession is becoming costly affair. Majority were marginal farmers due to fragmentation and separation of families.

As high as 44.17 per cent of *Seasamum* growers belonged to medium level adoption category followed by 35.00 per cent belonged to low adoption category and 20.83 per cent belonged to high adoption category. The possible reason may be that the *Seasamum* being grown in rainfed situation and most of the farmers treated it as an alternative crop before taking main crop. In addition it is mainly grown for consumption purpose. Bharath (2014) reported that majority of the groundnut of farmers were belonged to medium adoption category followed by low and high adoption.

Majority of the *Seasamum* growers completely adopted recommended cultivation practices such as, selection of suitable soil, time of planting, recommended depth of planting, inter cultivation, hand weeding, thinning for maintaining plant population, time of harvesting and post harvest practices. Further, majority of the *Seasamum* growers partially adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, recommended quantity of seed rate, application of recommended quantity of FYM, time of application of FYM / compost, application of recommended quantity of nitrogen fertilizers, phosphorus and potash, recommended spacing, recommended yield and recommended storage practices. In addition, majority of the *Seasamum* growers not adopted the recommended cultivation practices such as, recommended varieties,

application of recommended quantity of micro nutrients, seed treatment with recommended fungicide and application of recommended herbicide. The above trend of results may be attributed to the fact that farmers had adopted low cost technologies more easily than the practices which requires more investment. Raikwar and Srivastva (2013) reported that the sesame farmers ploughed their lands using power tiller and followed recommended ploughing techniques. The broadcast method for sowing sesame seeds was followed by majority of the farmers and most of the farmers used either more or less amounts of seed than that of recommendation. Majority of the farmers did not irrigate their crop, but most of them weeded their crop and did not use any pesticide to control insects. Grover and Singh(2015) revealed that there is a scope of increasing yield value of *Seasamum* crop by employing more human labors for plant protection measures. Hence, it can be inferred that spending more on plant protection measures, human labor for pesticide spray would be worth to further enhance the value productivity of the *Seasamum* crop on all farm sizes.

There was a positive and significant relationship between occupation, farming experience, economic motivation, cosmopolitaness, level of aspiration live stock possession and annual income with their adoption of recommended cultivation practices by *Seasamum* growers. This is because of the reason that the majority of *Seasamum* growers occupation is agriculture. As the farmers experience increases their knowledge on improved *Seasamum* technologies will also increase. Further, Cosmopolitaness will expose the individuals to the external world. In addition aspiration, economic motivation and increase in annual income motivate the farmers to adopt innovations in agriculture. Live stock

possession helps to under take timely operations. Subhash Chand and Meena (2011) reveals that the selected independent variables viz.; education, social participation, socio-economic status, sources of information utilization and level of knowledge influences adoption of recommended groundnut production technology. Monayem, *etal* (2015) reported that the adoption of improved sesame varieties was likely to be influenced by different socioeconomic factors and the estimated coefficients of the availability of family labour, availability of improved seed, cosmopolitness of the farmer, and contract with different extension sources had positive and significant impact on the adoption of improved sesame varieties. Chandrika Sharma *et al.*, (2019) reported that the independent variables viz., education, size of land holding, land under sesame crop, socio-economic status, mass-media exposure, social participation, extension participation, scientific orientation, knowledge level and adoption level of sesamum growers in Madhya Pradesh were found statistically significant and associated with technological gap.

On an average the cost of Sesamum production per hectare was Rs.15,570 /-. The grass returns was Rs.33,750/- and net returns was Rs. 17,980 per/ hactare. The return per rupee of expenditure was 1.14. The cost on land preparation was ranked first, farm yard manure ranked second, fertilizers ranked third, harvesting ranked fourth, sowing ranked fifth, plant protection measures and packing and transportation ranked sixth, inter cultivation ranked seventh, weeding ranked eighth and seeds ranked ninth. This may be because of the reason that now-a-days majority of farmers were not rearing draught animals due to high maintenance cost and sesamum is being grown in marginal land with low investment. Sandeep Patel (2016) reported that the total fixed cost was higher at

large farms followed by marginal and small farms in groundnut cultivation.

The major constraints expressed by Sesamum growers in production of sesamum were low price, non availability of recommended varieties, non availability of high yielding varieties, lack of market information, lack of minimum support price, non availability of micro nutrients in smaller quantities and un scientific crop insurance. Grover and Singh (2015) reported the constraints faced by Sesamum growers like biotic (diseases, inset/ pest and weeds) and abiotic such as input availability constraints (seeds, 'irrigation, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, labour, machinery, credits), environmental constraints (drought, rain, temperature, frost) and marketing constraints (information related to price and its variability, storage losses, cost on transport, etc.)

In conclusion, majority of the farmers had adopted recommended Sesamum cultivation practices to a low – medium extent. This calls for intensive educational activities through training programmes, method demonstration, result demonstration, study tour to progress farmers field and research stations, field days and success stories in electronic and print media. Further, majority of sesamum growers expressed non availability of high yielding varieties and low price. Therefore, the government may take up necessary steps for scientific profitable crop insurance, minimum support price and daily market information in website. In addition, the research stations both private and government may concentrate to release more high yielding / hybrids in Sesamum.

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