

Original Research Article

Constraints faced by Exported and Non Exported Onion Growers in Ahmednagar District

S. A. Chaudhari*, D. S. Perke and S. D. Choudhari

Department of Agricultural Economics, Vasantrya Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth,
Parbhani, Maharashtra, India

*Corresponding author

ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to assess Constraints faced by Exported and Non Exported Onion Growers in Ahmednagar District. Onion (*Allium cepa L.*) belongs to the family alliaceous. It is cultivated in country by small and marginal farmers. Presently onion is cultivated in various countries of the world. The objectives of present investigation was comparatively study constrains and suggestions in onion production. Study was conducted in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra. Multistage sampling design was adopted in selection of district, tehsils and villages. Ahmednagar district was purposively selected as district ranks second highest in area and production in Maharashtra. In second stage Parner and Rahuri tehsils were selected purposively. Four villages were selected randomly from each tahsil. So the data was collected from 96 onion growers out of which 48 were exportable onion growers and 48 were non-exportable onion growers through pre-tested interview schedules for the year 2019-20. The unpredictable weather conditions, price uncertainty and high cost of seed were serious problems in onion production. The onion growers suggested to provide minimum support price and proper weather forecasting. Similarly, contract farming and increased seed production in the area to reduce the seed cost.

Keywords

Onion,
Constraints,
exportable and non
exportable

Introduction

Onion (*Allium cepa L.*) belongs to the family alliaceae. It is cultivated in country by small and marginal farmers. Presently onion is cultivated in various countries of the world. Major onion producing countries are China, India, USA, Russia, Turkey, Iran etc. India is second largest producer of onion with 23 per

cent share in global production after China which is having 27 per cent share. Onions are cultivated almost in all states of India. The pioneer onion producing states are Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat etc. Maharashtra rank first in area and production of onion followed by Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar and Rajasthan. Nashik,

Ahmednagar, Solapur, Pune are major onion growing districts in Maharashtra. Ahmednagar district is famous in onion production having second rank in area and production after Nashik district. Ahmednagar district contributes about 20 to 22 percent of the state onion production. The catchment areas of market on Ahmednagar are Sangamner, Rahuri, Parner, Newasa, Pathardi and Shrigonda. There are many problems in production and marketing of onion. It adversely affects the economy of the onion grower. Assured reasonable price for the onion is an important demand of onion growers by regulating flow of onion in the state. In the light of above, the present study was undertaken to know the constraints in production of exportable and non-exportable onion and suggestions to overcome them.

Materials and Methods

In order to fulfill the objectives of the study, Multistage sampling method was adopted in the selection of district, tehsils, villages and onion growers. In first stage, Ahmednagar district was selected purposely because production of exportable onion is maximum. At second stage, two tehsils namely Parner and Rahuri were selected purposely among the fourteen tehsils of Ahmednagar district, because these tehsils are well known for production of exportable onion. At third stage four villages from each tehsils were selected purposely on the basis of maximum production of exportable onion. At last stage of sampling design, from each selected villages, six onion growers who produce exportable onion and six onion growers who do not produce exportable onion were selected randomly for the study. As such, the total sample comprises of 96 onion growers in which 48 growers took production of exportable onion and 48 growers not produce exportable onion. The data covering complete agricultural year 2019-20 were collected

through personal interviews by the survey method with the help of pretested questionnaire. The objective, to study the socio economic characters of exportable and non-exportable onion growers, was achieved by tabular analysis.

Results and Discussion

Onion growers were facing many problems in production of exportable and non-exportable onion. To solve such problems, suggestion of the sample farmers of both the categories must be considered. The problems and suggestions of growers were arranged in frequency and percentage form and some problems and suggestion were discussed as follows.

Constraints of exportable and non-exportable onion growers

Constraints faced by exportable and non-exportable onion growers were calculated in frequency, percentage form and presented in Table 1. The result revealed that, unpredictable weather conditions were expressed by 100 per cent growers and hold first rank. Price uncertainty was severe problems which were expressed by 97.91 per cent exportable and non-exportable onion growers, had second rank. Timely unavailability of labour and high wage rate was another major problem at third rank and faced by 93.75 per cent farmers. Problem of severe attack of sucking pests and insects at fifth rank was expressed by 87.5 per cent growers. High cost of fertilizers and pesticides had fourth ranks which were expressed by 91.66 per cent onion growers. High cost of seed was expressed by 86.45 per cent growers and it was at sixth rank. Non availability of storage structure and non-availability timely electricity was expressed by 81.25 per cent at rank seventh and 75 per cent growers at eight rank, respectively.

Inadequate irrigation problem had ninth rank was faced by 60.41 per cent farmers. Non availability of quality seed at tenth rank was pointed by 36.45 per cent growers. Similar results were found by Aher, Patil, Yashodhara and Sharma.

Suggestions of onion growers

Suggestions of onion growers were recorded in the form of frequency and percentage and presented in Table 2. Result revealed that, 100 per cent of the onion growers suggested to provide proper weather forecasting and it was at first rank. Followed by minimum support price at second rank which was expressed by 95.83 per cent growers.

Likewise, at third rank 89.58 per cent onion growers were suggested, development of sucking pests and diseases resistant varieties to reduce crop yield and production cost. Availability of fertilizers and pesticides at minimum price at fourth rank was suggested by 88.54 per cent growers. Increase seed production in locality to reduce high cost of

seed was suggested by 83.33 per cent growers and placed at fifth rank. Also contract farming was at sixth rank and suggested by 81.25 per cent of onion growers. It was observed that onion growers wanted to store onion so as to get highest profit in future, hence 76.04 per cent onion growers suggested that storage facilities should available at reasonable charges. Micro irrigation system and availability of quality seed were at eighth rank and ninth rank and suggested by 66.66 per cent and 50 per cent onion growers respectively. Many exportable onion growers suggested, government should prepare improved export policies to come ease in export of onion which is at tenth rank. Similar results were seen by Aher, Patil and Yashodhara.

The above discussion throws light on the fact that The Unpredictable weather conditions, price uncertainty and timely unavailability of labour and high wage rate were major constraints expressed by 100 per cent, 97.91 per cent and 93.75 per cent growers, respectively.

Table.1 Constraints of onion growers

Sr. No.	Problem	Frequency (n=96)	Percent	Rank
1.	Unpredictable climatic conditions	96	100	I
2.	Price uncertainty	94	97.91	II
3.	High insect and pest attack	84	87.5	V
4.	High cost of seed	83	86.45	VI
5.	High cost of fertilizers and pesticides	88	91.66	IV
6.	Labour problem	90	93.75	III
7.	Non availability of timely electricity	72	75	VIII
8.	Non availability of storage structure	78	81.25	VII
9.	Inadequate irrigation	58	60.41	IX
10.	Non availability of quality seed	35	36.45	X

(Figures in the parenthesis indicate percentage to total number of onion growers)

Table.2 Suggestions of onion growers

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency (n=96)	Percent	Rank
1.	Proper weather forecasting	96	100	I
2.	Minimum support price	96	100	II
3.	Develop insect and pest resistant variety	86	89.58	III
4.	Increase seed production in area	80	83.33	V
5.	Availability of fertilizers and pesticides at low price	85	88.54	IV
6.	Contract farming	78	81.25	VI
7.	Government should improve export policies	43	44.79	X
8.	Availability of storage structure	73	76.04	VII
9.	Micro irrigation system	64	66.66	VIII
10.	Availability of quality seed	48	50	IX

In order to cultivation of exportable onion on profitable line, some of the following policy implications based on present study are made. Labour saving technology must be adopted like use of weedicides, drip irrigation systems etc. to overcome problem of high wages and timely labour unavailability.

References

Aher, V.K., Shelke, R.D., Bhosale, M.Y. and Gharge, S.H. (2011). Constraints faced by Rabi onion growers in production and marketing and suggestions made by them in Ahmednagar district. *International Journal of Commerce and Business Management*, 4(2): 265-268.

Khandvi, R.C., Salame, S.P. and Wakle, P.K. (2013) Constraints faced by onion growers with regards to cultivation, storage and market. *Asian Resonance*, 2(4): 105-109.

Patil, N. and Rajasab, A.H. (2012). Studied constraints experienced by onion growers from Gulberga district of Karnataka, India. *International Journal Extension Education*, 8 (18): 48-50.

Salunkhe, R.S. (2013). A Study of problems and measures of economies of onion in Maharashtra. *International Journal of Research in Commerce, Economics and Management*, 3(09): 62-64.

Sangam, V. and Aski, S. G. (2018). Constraints faced by onion growers in adopting improved practices and suggestions from onion growers to overcome constraints. *Agriculture Update*, 13(3): 355-358

Sharma, S., Jain, R. and Shukla, R. (2015). Constraints faced by onion growers in production and marketing of onion in Rajasthan. *MultilogicIn Science*, 5(15): 231-234.