

IMPEDIMENTS IN ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED ONION PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

With a view to studying the constraints faced by onion growers in adoption of onion production technology, 120 respondents were selected from the onion growing area. Major impediments observed in adoption of recommended onion production technology were shortage of irrigation water, problem of storage, low price of onion in market, high price of fertilizer, inadequate and irregular power supply, high cost of pesticides, poor economic condition and lack of knowledge about crop insurance. To overcome these constraints, the onion growers suggested that irrigation water, remunerative price, regular and sufficient electricity storage facility, sufficient and timely credit facility as well as training should be provided to the onion growers.

INTRODUCTION

Onion is an important bulb crop grown as vegetable all over the country and consumed by almost every family round the year. India is the second largest country in the world next to China in respect of production accounting 12 per cent and in export 13.6 per cent in the world. Due to its adaptability to a wide range of soil and climatic conditions, it is being cultivated in many states of India like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, U.P. and Andhra Pradesh. In Gujarat, Saurashtra region accounts 85.17 per cent of total production of onion in the state. However, the average yield of onion is 10 tones/ha against the potential yield of 30 tones/ha received in demonstration plot or on research farm. This wide gap between potential and average yield per ha of onion in Saurashtra region is indicative of the fact of poor or low adoption of recommended technology by the farmers, which in turn might be the resultant effect of certain constraints or problems in the way of adoption of recommended onion production technology.

MEHTODOLOGY

The study was under taken in Mahuva and Talaja talukas of Bhavnagar district where onion is grown in a large area. Six villages from each of these two Talukas were selected on the basis of area under onion cultivation. A list of onion growers from these selected villages was obtained and out of them total 120 farmers was selected by proportionate random sampling method. Thus, 120 onion growers constituted the sample respondents for this study. For measurement of constraints in onion cultivation a constraint index was developed. The interview schedule was prepared and administered to collect the information from these respondents through personal interview method. The respondents were asked about the technological constraints faced by them in adoption of recommended onion production technology and suggestions / solutions to overcome the constraints.

FINDINGS

1 Constraints in adoption

It is clear from the Table: 1 that shortage of

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irrigation water was the major constraint as expressed by 75.00 per cent of farmers followed by problem of storage (73.33 per cent), low price of onion in market (71.66 per cent), high price of fertilizer (67.50 per cent), inadequate and irregular power supply (66.66 per cent), high cost of pesticides (65.00 per cent) and poor economic condition (60.83 per cent). Apart from these,

some other constraints experienced by them were lack of knowledge about crop insurance (59.16 per cent), high price of compost (56.66 per cent), loss due to insect/pest (54.16 per cent), damage to bulb while harvesting (53.33 per cent), lack of knowledge about recommended onion production technology (50.83 per cent) and high price of wage laborers (50.00 per cent).

Table 1: Constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of recommended onion production technology n= 120

Sr. No.	Constraints	No. of respondents	Percentage
1	Lack of knowledge about crop insurance	71	59.16
2	Poor economic condition	73	60.83
3	Soil testing laboratory is far away from the village	55	45.83
4	High price of wage laborer	60	50.00
5	More need of labour in onion crop	51	42.50
6	High price of compost	68	56.66
7	High price of fertilizer	81	67.50
8	Lack of knowledge about seed treatment	31	25.83
9	Inadequate and irregular power supply	80	66.66
10	Shortage of irrigation water	90	75.00
11	High cost of pesticides	78	65.00
12	Low price of onion in market	86	71.66
13	Scarcity of skilled labour for spraying	45	37.05
14	Loss due to insect/pest	65	54.16
15	At time of harvesting, bulbs get damaged	64	53.33
16	Problem in storage	88	73.33
17	Lack of knowledge about recommended onion production technology	61	50.83

2 Suggestions from the onion growers to overcome the constraints

The data presented in Table: 2 reveal that provision of irrigation water emerged as the major suggestion given by 90.00 per cent of the respondents followed by provision of remunerative prices to onion growers (83.33 per cent), provision of regular and sufficient electricity supply (74.00) and provision of storage facility i.e. Govt. godown (70.00 per

cent). Some other important suggestions were: all inputs should be made available (55.00 per cent), training should be imparted to the onion growers (36.37 per cent), low cost onion technology should be evolved (29.17 per cent), recommended onion production technology should be convenient and easily adaptable (27.50 per cent) and credit / crop loan and insurance should be provided to onion crop (26.67 per cent).

Table 2 : Suggestions from the onion grower for overcome the constraints

n=120

Sr. No.	Suggestion	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Training should be imparted to the onion growers	44	36.37
2	Recommended onion production technology should be convenient and easily adaptable	33	27.50
3	Remunerative price should be given to onion growers	100	83.33
4	Provision of irrigation water	108	90.00
5	Sufficient and timely credit facility should be made available	06	05.00
6	Agricultural literature should be provided	25	20.83
7	Provision of storage facility i.e. Govt. godown	84	70.00
8	Low cost onion technology should be evolved	35	29.17
9	Regular and sufficient electricity should be supplied	89	74.16
10	All inputs should be made available	66	55.00
11	Credit / crop loan and insurance should be provided to onion crop	32	26.67

CONCLUSIONS

It could be concluded from the findings that majority of the respondents faced the difficulties like shortage of irrigation water, problem of storage, low price of onion in market, high price of fertilizer, inadequate and irregular

power supply, high cost of pesticides, poor economic condition and lack of knowledge about crop insurance. They suggested providing them irrigation water, remunerative prices, regular and sufficient electricity, storage facility, sufficient and timely credit facility as well as training on onion cultivation.

Science gives us knowledge but only philosophy can give us wisdom.

--Will Durant