

CONSTRAINTS PERCEIVED BY TRIBAL WHEAT GROWERS IN SCIENTIFIC WHEAT PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in Dahod district of Gujarat state to identify the constraints perceived by the farmers in adoption of various aspects of irrigated wheat production technology. Total 150 farmers were selected for final study. Results indicated that, major constraints faced by wheat growers were lower market price of produce at harvest followed by unaware about pest and disease infestation, high cost of pesticide, lack of regular and timely technical guidance about plant protection, unavailability of fertilizer in time, non availability of early producing variety, unavailability of farm machinery, non availability of certified seed in market, soil borne problem & lack of irrigation facility.

Key words: constraints, tribal, wheat, production technology

INTRODUCTION

India is among the few nations in the world for its tribal population. The tribal population of India is 51.6 million which constitute 7.76% of the total population. Gujarat accounts for 8.1% of the Scheduled Tribe population of the country. The tribal population of Gujarat, numbering 89.17 lakh, constitute 14.8% of the state's population. They are concentrated in the eastern districts, from Mt. Abu on the Rajasthan border in the north to Dahanu district on the Maharashtra border in the south. 74.3% of total population in Dahod district is tribal and majority of them engaged with agriculture and allied sectors (census 2011). After independence there was significant economic prosperity in the agricultural sector with programmes for high yielding varieties, poultry farming, livestock rearing, water management, improved fruit and vegetable production, farm mechanization, plant protection and information technology all playing a key part. The disparity is clearly seen with highly progressive and prosperous farmers of other district of Gujarat and poor tribal farmers of Dahod who seem to be totally unresponsive to any of the above programmes. Tribal farmers still grow indigenous crops with low yields, low marketed surplus and low farm incomes; they consequently find it hard to save. Tribal farmers of Dahod district cultivating wheat with traditional practices. The area of irrigated wheat crop 44328 ha but the productivity of irrigated wheat crop is

very low (1990 kg/ha) as compare to its potentiality. So, there is a need to find out their problems in adopting the scientific wheat production technology. Therefore, the study entitled "Constraints perceived by tribal wheat growers in scientific wheat production technology was undertaken.

OBJECTIVES

- (a) To study personal profile of tribal wheat growers
- (b) To ascertain the constraints perceived by tribal wheat growers in scientific wheat production technology

METHODOLOGY

Fifteen villages of Dahod district and ten tribal farmers from each village were selected randomly for the study. Thus, in all 150 tribal wheat growers constituted the sample for the investigation. The data of this study were collected by arranging personal interview and survey. The data were analyzed in light of objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the tribal wheat growers

The respondents were categorized into different groups on the basis of their some of the important personal, social, economic, and communicational characteristics of the livestock owner were selected and studied the findings are as follows.

Table 1: Profile of tribal wheat growers

n=150

Variables	Group/categories	Frequencies	Percent
Age	Young age (Up to 30 year)	37	24.67
	Middle age (31 to 50 year)	76	50.67
	Old age (Above 50 year)	37	24.66
Level of education	Illiterate	28	18.66
	Primary education (Up to VII Std.)	31	20.67
	Secondary education (VIII to X Std.)	64	42.67
	Higher Secondary education (XI to XII Std.)	21	14.00
	College and above education	6	04.00
Social participation	No membership	75	50.00
	Membership in one organization	61	40.67
	Membership in more than one organizations	09	06.00
	Holding position	05	03.33
Land holding	Marginal farmers (Up to 1.00 ha)	47	31.33
	Small farmers (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	92	61.34
	Medium farmers (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	09	06.00
	Large farmers (Above 4.00 ha)	02	01.33
Cropping intensity	upto 100	03	02.00
	101-150	21	14.00
	151-200	105	70.00
	201-250	12	08.00
	More than 250	09	06.00
Occupation	Only farming	51	34.00
	Farming + Animal Husbandry	48	32.00
	Farming + Animal Husbandry + Labour work	39	26.00
	Farming +Animal Husbandry + Service	01	0.67
	Farming +Animal Husbandry + Business	01	0.67
	Farming + Labour work	10	06.66
Annual income (₹)	Up to 25,000	43	28.67
	25,001 to 50,000	61	40.67
	50,001 to 75,000	30	20.00
	75,001 to 1,00,000	08	05.33
	1,00,000 and above	08	05.33
Extension participation	Low (< 0.43 score)	30	20.00
	Medium (Between 0.43 to 12.13 score)	96	64.00
	High (>12.13 score)	24	16.00
Sources of information utilised	Low (<4.43 score)	16	10.67
	Medium (Between 4.43 to 10.51 score)	109	72.67
	High (>10.51score)	26	17.33

It is evident from the Table 1 that majority of tribal farmers were in middle age, secondary education, no membership in any organization, small farmers, 151-200 per cent cropping intensity, farming + animal husbandry, annual income between 25,001 to 50,000, medium extension participation and medium sources of information utilized.

With hierarchy of constraints the data presented in Table 2 reveals that constraints faced by wheat growers were lower market price of produce at harvest (76.67 per cent) followed

by unaware about pest and disease infestation (51.33 per cent), high cost of pesticide (50.66 per cent), lack of regular and timely technical guidance about plant protection (44.67 per cent), unavailability of fertilizer in time (44.00 per cent), non availability of early producing variety (33.33 per cent), Unavailability of farm machinery (32.37 per cent), non availability of certified seed in market (26.00 per cent), Soil borne problem (22.67 per cent), lack of irrigation facility (16.67 per cent).

Table 2: Constraints perceived by tribal wheat growers in scientific wheat production technology

n =150

Sr. No.	Constraints	Number	Percent	Rank
1	Lower market price of produce at harvest	115	76.67	I
2	Unaware about pest and disease infestation	77	51.33	II
3	High cost of pesticide	76	50.66	III
4	Lack of regular and timely technical guidance about plant protection	67	44.67	IV
5	Unavailability of fertilizer in time	66	44.00	V
6	Non availability of early producing variety	50	33.33	VI
7	Unavailability of farm machinery	49	32.37	VII
8	Non availability of certified seed in market	39	26.00	VIII
9	Soil borne problem	34	22.67	IX
10	Lack of irrigation facility	25	16.67	X

CONCLUSION

As per results majority farmers were in middle age, secondary education, no membership in any organization, small farmers, 151-200 per cent cropping intensity, farming + animal husbandry, annual income between 25,001 to 50,000, medium extension participation and medium sources of information utilized. Major constraints faced by farmers were lower market price of produce at harvest and unaware about pest and disease infestation, high cost of pesticide.

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