

Socio-Economic Status of Pomegranate Growers under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in Solapur District and Constraints Faced by Them.

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to study socio-economic status of pomegranate growers in Sangola and Malshiras tehsils of Solapur district. It observed that nearly two third (60.83%) of pomegranate growers belonged to middle age between 33 to 56 years. More than two third (71.66 %) of pomegranate growers had used medium sources of information. Maximum number of pomegranate growers (77.50%) had medium level of scientific orientation. A majority of pomegranate growers (63.33 %) were in the medium level of planning orientation category. Nearly two third (65.83%) of the pomegranate growers belonged to medium risk orientation. The study pointed out that 47.50 per cent of the respondents possessed favourable attitude towards NHM. A majority of respondents (66.67%) had medium area under pomegranate cultivation (1 to 4 ha.). More than one-third (37.50%) of pomegranate growers had medium land holding between 4.01 to 10 ha. A majority of pomegranate growers (91.66 %) and (87.50%) had used radio and TV as source of information respectively. Very high majority (74.16%) of the pomegranate growers obtained information from friends/relatives, while nearly two third (62.50%) of pomegranate growers had always received information through Radio, followed by Newspaper (56.66 %) and Television (50.83 %). It was observed that under supply constraints, majority (100.00 %) of pomegranate growers had faced the constraint of lack of availability of disease resistant varieties.

Key words: Pomegranate growers, NHM, socio-economic status, constraints, sources of information

INTRODUCTION

Horticulture crops play an important role in Indian diet and economy. Maharashtra is one of the most progressive states of country, it is considered as horticultural state of country because of its land mark achievement in horticulture. Government of Maharashtra has implemented National Horticulture Mission from 2005-2006 in order to increase the area under fruit cultivation and make available employment opportunities on massive scale. The goal of NHM is to double horticulture production from current level of 150 million tonnes to 300 million tonnes by 2011-2012. Therefore the present study entitled Socio-economic status of pomegranate growers under National Horticulture Mission in Solapur district was undertaken for study.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Sangola and Malshiras tahsils of Solapur district. Six villages from each tehsil were selected, list of pomegranate growers under NHM was prepared with help of Agricultural Assistant working at field level. Twelve pomegranate growers from each village were selected who availed benefits of NHM in 2005-2006. Thus total sample size of

study was 120 from 12 villages. Data collected by personally contacting the pomegranate growers through structured interview schedule. The independent and dependent variables were measured by assigning scores. Simple percentage and frequencies were worked out to describe the characteristics of pomegranate growers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Profile of the pomegranate growers

The data in Table 1 revealed that nearly two third (60.83%) of pomegranate growers belonged to middle age between 33 to 56 years Majority of pomegranate growers (39.17%) were having middle school education i.e. 5th to 10th standard. Nearly half (45.00%) of pomegranate growers had annual income between 1,50,001 to 5,00,000. It is observed that nearly two third (65.00%) of the pomegranate growers had joint family while, more than two-fifth (44.17%) of pomegranate growers had large size family and 30.83 per cent had medium sized family. Maximum number of pomegranate growers (77.50%) had medium level of scientific orientation. 63.33 per cent of the pomegranate growers were in the medium level of planning orientation category. Nearly two third (65.83%) of the pomegranate growers belonged to medium risk orientation. 47.50 per

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cent of the respondents possessed favourable attitude towards NHM, followed by 35.00 per cent and 17.50 per cent of the respondents possessed neutral and unfavourable attitude respectively. More than two third (66.67%) of pomegranate growers had medium area (1 to 4 ha.) under pomegranate crop and 37.50 per cent of pomegranate growers had medium land holding between 4.01 to 10 ha.

This should be added after age in before payageph It is seen from Table 1 that majority of pomegranate growers (91.66%) and (87.50%) had used radio and TV as a source of information respectively.

These findings are in conformity with the findings of anonymous (2002), Dhakane (2005), Nanda Atanu *et al.*

Table 1: Profile of pomegranate growers.

n=120		
Characteristics	Number	Per cent
Age		
a. Young (Up to 32years)	26	21.67
b. Middle (33 to 56 years)	73	60.83
c. Old (57 and above)	21	17.50
Total	120	100.00
Education		
a. Illiterate	3	2.50
b. Elementary (can read and write only)	5	4.17
c. Primary	18	15.00
d. Middle school	47	39.17
e. High school	15	12.50
f. Technical college	9	7.50
g. Non technical college	13	10.83
h. Professional (Medical/engineering/agriculture)	10	8.33
Total	120	100.00
Family type		
a. Single	42	35.00
b. Joint	78	65.00
Total	120	100.00
Family size		
a. Small (1 to 3 members)	9	7.50
b. Medium (4 to 6 members)	37	30.83
c. Large (7 to 9 members)	53	44.17
d. Very large (10 and above)	21	17.50
Total	120	100.00
Characteristics	Number	Per cent
Scientific orientation		
a. Low (Up to 16)	17	14.17
b. Medium (17 to 24)	93	77.50
c. High (25 and above)	10	8.33
Total	120	100.00
Planning orientation		
a. Low (Up to 3)	24	20.00
b. Medium (4 to 11)	76	63.33
c. High (12 and above)	20	16.67
Total	120	100.00
Risk orientation		
a. Low (Up to 5)	15	12.50
b. Medium (6 to 10)	79	65.83
c. High (11 and above)	26	21.67
Total	120	100.00
Attitude		
a. Unfavourable (Up to 33)	21	17.50
b. Moderately favourable (34 to 46)	42	35.00
c. Highly favourable (47 and above)	57	47.50
Total	120	100.00

Area under pomegranate		
a. Small (Up to 1 ha)	28	23.33
b. Medium (2 to 4 ha)	80	66.67
c. Large (5 ha and above)	12	10.00
Total	120	100.00
Size of land holding		
a. Marginal (up to 1.00 ha)	13	10.83
b. Small (1.01 to 2.00 ha)	34	28.33
c. Semi-medium (2.01 to 4.00 ha)	16	13.33
d. Medium (4.01 to 10.00 ha)	45	37.50
e. Large (Above 10 ha)	12	10.00
Annual income		
a. Upto Rs. 50,000/-	3	2.50
b. Rs. 50,001/- to 1,00,000/-	9	7.50
c. Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000/-	38	31.67
d. Rs. 1,50,001 to 5,00,000	54	45.00
e. Above 5,00,000	16	13.33
Total	120	100.00
Information sources		
a. No information sources	10	8.33
b. Books	9	7.50
c. Farm publications	21	17.50
d. Agricultural bulletins/magazines	9	7.50
e. News paper – daily/weekly/fortnight	48	40.00
f. Radio	110	91.66
g. TV – Black and White/coloured	105	87.50
h. Internet access (common)	-	-
Total	120	100.00

Different sources of information used by pomegranate growers

Personal contact: Majority (74.17%) of the pomegranate growers obtained information from friends/relatives, while 55.00 per cent and 54.17 per cent of them obtained information from Gramsevak and Agricultural Assistant or Agricultural Officer respectively.

Group contact: It is drawn from Table 2 that 25.00 per cent of respondents attended meetings, 19.17 per cent respondents received farmers advice, 14.17 per cent had seen demonstration and 10.00 per cent received training.

Mass contact: Nearly two third (62.50%) of pomegranate growers obtained information through Radio, followed by Newspaper (56.66 %) and Television (50.83%). It is observed from that more than two third (71.67%) of pomegranate growers had used sources of information up to medium level.

Table 2: Different sources of information used by pomegranate growers

Sources of information	Frequency of contact (n=120)		
	Always	Sometimes	Never
Personal contact			
Friends/relatives	89 (74.17)	22 (18.33)	9 (7.5)
Progressive farmers	56 (46.67)	33 (27.5)	31 (25.83)
Local leaders	19 (15.83)	42 (35.00)	59 (49.17)
Gramsevak	66 (55.00)	33 (27.50)	21 (17.5)
Agricultural Assistant/ Agricultural Officer	65	40	15

Taluka Agricultural Officers	(54.17)	(33.33)	(12.50)
	30	65	25
	(25.00)	(54.17)	(20.83)
Block Development Officer	7	19	94
	(5.83)	(15.83)	(78.34)
Agricultural University Scientist	4	23	93
	(3.33)	(19.17)	(77.50)
Group contact			
Demonstration	17	29	74
	(14.17)	(24.17)	(61.7)
Meeting	30	43	77
	(25.00)	(35.83)	(64.17)
Group discussion	-	-	120
	-	-	(100.00)
Training	12	38	70
	(10.00)	(31.67)	(58.33)
Educational tour/Visit	5	33	82
	(4.17)	(27.5)	(68.33)
Farmers advice	23	47	50
	(19.17)	(39.16)	(41.67)
Mass contact			
Newspaper	68	26	26
	(56.66)	(21.67)	(21.67)
Radio	75	35	10
	(62.50)	(29.17)	(8.33)
Television	61	41	18
	(50.83)	(34.17)	(15.00)
Farmers rally	23	22	75
	(19.17)	(18.33)	(62.5)
Krishi Darshani	25	38	57
	(20.83)	(31.67)	(47.50)
Agriculture Exhibition	15	23	82
	(12.50)	(19.17)	(8.33)

Table 3: Distribution of the pomegranate growers categories according to the different sources of information used by them

n=120		
Sources of information (score)	Frequency	Per cent
Low (Up to 7)	19	15.83
Medium (8 to18)	86	71.67
High (19 and above)	15	12.50
Total	120	100.00

Constraints faced by the pomegranate growers

Supply constraints

It is revealed from Table 4 that all (100%) of pomegranate growers the faced the constraints of unavailability of disease resistant varieties followed by 37.50 per cent unavailability of labour.

Economic constraints: Majority of pomegranate growers (79.16%) had faced the problem of unavailability of loan from bank at proper time followed by (76.66 %) delay in getting subsidy (Table-4).

Technological constraints: It is revealed from Table 4 that majority of pomegranate growers (90.00%) had faced the problem about lack of knowledge about oily spot disease management practices followed by lack of knowledge about processing and marketing of fruits (87.50%).

Extension constraints: It is observed from Table 4 that majority of pomegranate growers (54.16%) had faced the problem of untimely visits of extension workers.

Marketing constraints: Majority of pomegranate growers (84.16%) had faced the problem of more fluctuation in prices of fruits followed by 56.66 per cent faced the problem about unavailability of cold storage facility (Table-4).

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to constraints faced by them.

n=120		
Constraints	Frequency (n=120)	Per cent
Supply constraints		
Unavailability of disease resistant varieties	120	100
Seedlings supplied from the certified nursery are not of good quality.	27	22.50
Unavailability of labour.	45	37.50
Economic constraints		
Unavailability of loan from bank at proper time	95	79.16
Delay in getting subsidy	92	76.66
High cost of planting material, pesticides, insecticides.	85	70.83
Technological constraints		
Lack of knowledge about oily spot disease management practices	108	90.00
Lack of knowledge about processing and marketing of fruits.	105	87.50
More time required for sanction of proposal of scheme.	40	33.33
Extension constraints		
Proper guidance about scheme was not obtained.	45	37.50
Visits of extension workers are not in time.	65	54.16
Marketing constraints		
More fluctuation in prices of fruits	101	84.16
Unavailability of cold storage facility	68	56.66
Good market facility is not available for sale of fruits	38	31.66

Suggestions

It is All pomegranate growers (100%) suggested that disease resistant variety should be made available.

While, 95.00 per cent of pomegranate growers expressed that the rate of subsidy need to be increased considering price hike of input and wages, subsidy amount should be given in a single installment (87.50%), the government should fix the prices of fruits every year and purchase the same on the line of onion (81.66%)

Majority of pomegranate growers faced the constraints of lack of availability of disease resistant varieties, timely availability of loan from bank and lack of knowledge about oily spot disease management practices.

Table 5: Suggestions of pomegranate growers for effective implementation of NHM

Suggestions	Respondents (n=120)	Per cent
Timely subsidy should be given for pomegranate cultivation.	77	64.16
Provision of cold storage facility in locality.	70	58.33
High quality grafts/seedlings should be made available by Department of Agriculture	42	35.00
100 per cent subsidy should be given for drip irrigation.	23	19.16
Disease resistant variety should be made available.	120	100.00
Proposal should be sanctioned within specific time	65	54.16
Subsidy amount should be given in a single installment.	105	87.50
The government should fix the prices of fruits every year and purchase the same on the line of onion	98	81.66
Technical advice regarding plantation of pomegranate crop should be made available	80	66.66
The rate of subsidy need to be increased considering price hike of input and wages	115	95.00
Good market facilities should be available for sale of product	45	37.50

CONCLUSION

A majority of pomegranate growers were found to be young to middle aged. Most of them were using medium to high sources of information. While majority of them were having medium scientific orientation, medium planning orientation and medium risk orientation. A majority of pomegranate growers having medium area under pomegranate cultivation. Majority of pomegranate growers under National Horticulture Mission having medium socio-economic status, used medium sources of information from friends, relatives, radio, newspaper, TV., also obtained information from Gramsevak, Agricultural Assistant or Agricultural Officer

It is, therefore, essential to under-take suitable and appropriate measures like organizing training about processing and marketing of pomegranate, arrange visits of pomegranate growers to the universities and to the progressive farmers field, Government should fix the prices of all the fruits so they can perform better levels of cultivation practices and to overcome the constraints.

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