

A Study on Problems and Constraints Perceived By The Vegetable Growers of Manipur

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Abstract:

The present study was conducted on 150 vegetable growers in 5 under Sawombung block of Imphal East district of Manipur. Stratified random sampling procedure was followed for the selection of respondents. The study reveals that non-availability of insurance when crop fails contributes about 92% in economic constraints followed by lack of cold storage system was

the main constraint expressed by 88 per cent of the respondents in technological constraints. 78 per cent of the respondents have inadequate demonstration of new technologies in extension-communication constraints. Therefore the extension agencies and other information sources should motivate and educate about the importance and potentialities of scientific vegetable production technology.

Keywords: constraints, vegetables, importance

Introduction

Vegetables comprises of a large number of plants, mostly, annual of which different part like leaf, stem, flowers bud, flower, fruits, root, etc. are eaten. They are one of the cheapest sources of natural nutritive foods. Their consumption in sufficient quantity provides taste, palatability and increase appetite for safeguarding of better health and is helpful in defending against some deteriorating diseases. These vegetables play main task in nullifying the acids released during digestion of proteinous foods.

Vegetables are rich and comparatively cheaper source of vitamins and minerals. Major minerals elements which are obtained from vegetables are calcium, iron and phosphorous. Some of the leafy-vegetables are abundant in micro-elements such as manganese, copper, etc. Vitamin A is produced in our body from carotene which is present in higher amount in leafy vegetables, carrot, sweet-potato, pumpkin, colocasia, turnip-green, knol-khol leaves, etc. (Sheela, 1999). Vitamin B is present in appreciable amount in pea, beans, garlic, tomato, asparagus, etc. Vitamin C rich vegetables are cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, drumstick, knol-khol. Most of the leafy vegetable are abundant in minerals like carotene, riboflavin. As per diet, daily

requirement of vegetable is 75-125g of green leafy, 85g of other vegetable and 85g of roots and tubers with other food .

Vegetables are grown throughout the year both in summer and winter season. Crops grown in summer season are known as *kharif* season crops and those grown during winter season are called *rabi*-season crops.

Rabi means ‘spring’ in Arabic and those crops are grown from month of October to February. Some important *rabi* vegetable crops in Manipur are: Cabbage, Cauliflower, Tomato, Chilli, Rape-seed, Mustard, potato, Peas, etc. More varieties of vegetables are found during *Rabi*-season as compared to *Kharif* season. But, in our state, most agricultural practices are rainfed condition.

In state of Manipur, total area under vegetable production is 7254 ha with a production of 55936 metric-tonnes. However, less number of farmers cultivate *rabi* vegetable in certain part of our state, the manufacture doesn't satisfied the need .The cultivation of *rabi* crops in our state is inadequate, mostly, due to absence of providing appropriate irrigation approaches /practices of crops and vegetables are imported from other states.(Singh,1993)

Keeping in view of these reasons, it is the right time to study production constraints, difficulties of area expansion and adoption of new technology of vegetable farming.

Objective of the Study

A Study on Problems and Constraints Perceived by the Vegetable Growers of Manipur

Methodology

Imphal –East district is one of the major vegetable growing district and majority of the respondents depends on agriculture depends on agriculture for their livelihood, so it is selected purposively. Data were subjected to and interpreted in terms of their frequency and percentage. Percentage was used for making simple comparisons. For calculating percentage, the frequency of a particular cell was divided by the number of respondents in that category and multiplied by 100.

Sampling procedure:

Stratified random sampling procedure was followed for the selection of respondents. It is used when the population is homogeneous with respect to the characteristics under study. In this, first we divide the heterogeneous population into some homogenous sub-population. These sub-population are called strata. If the sample from each strata are selected by simple random sampling, then the method is called stratified random sampling.

Selection of blocks:

In Manipur, there are nine districts. Among them Imphal-east is one of the district. There are three blocks in Imphal-east district namely Sawombung, Keirao- bitra and Jiribam but Jiribam is geographically isolated from the other two blocks. For my study, Sawombung block is

selected purposively as majority of the population are cultivating vegetables and depends on agriculture for their livelihood.

Selection of Villages:

In Sawombung block, there are 25 Gram Panchayat. Out of these, 5 Gram Panchayat is selected randomly. Again from each Gram panchayat, 5 villages are selected randomly.

Selection of respondent:

A sample size of 150 respondents are selected separately from each villages based on proportional random sampling method

Result and Discussion

Mostly, farmers are not in the position to adopt all the technologies transferred to them. So, there is an urgent need to channelize our efforts to increase the farm yield and it is possible by identifying the problems and constraints. In the present study, an attempt was made to find out the constraints that prevent the farmers from using the recommended package of practices capable of giving potential farm yield. Based on the field experience of research coupled with discussion with the vegetable growers, experienced scientists of various field, field level extension functionaries and books and journals, constraints were enumerated and classified into economic, technological, extension-communication and administration constraints. The respondents were asked to indicate the constraints experienced by them in adoption of new technologies. Their responses were tabulated after calculating the frequencies and percentage indicating each of the constraints as shown in Table-1.

1. Economic constraints

The data revealed that Non-availability of insurance when crop fails was the important institutional constraints expressed by (92%) of the respondents followed by lack of adequate remunerative price of output (83.33%). Other constraints lack of timely availability of fund for arranging inputs (76.6%) lack of proper marketing facilities (65.33%) low profit from sales of vegetable crops (63.3%) and high cost of inputs (49.33%).(Singh,2010)

2.Technological constraint

It was observed that lack of cold storage system was the first constraint expressed by 88 per cent of the respondents. The second technological constraints expressed by respondents was lack of improved irrigation system (85.37%).Lack of accountancy management which was expressed by 54.66% respondents was the third constraint followed by followed by lack of knowledge of vegetable farming expressed by 38 per cent and lack of knowledge of vegetable farming expressed by 36.6 per cent of the respondents.

3. Extension communication constraints

The first constraints expressed by 78 per cent of the respondents were inadequate demonstration of new technologies. The second constraints which were expressed by 56.6 per cent of the respondents were the visit of extension workers/scientists and VLWs are not regular.(Singh,1983) The other constraints were lack of mass-media contact 25.33 per cent followed by lack of knowledge about recent technologies 24per cent, respectively.

Conclusions

This calls for attention of Department of Horticulture, Manipur and other related agencies to eliminate these constraints so as to have greater adoption of improved innovation technologies of vegetable cultivation for higher production and also to improve the economic condition of the farmers. The results of the work indicated that the generalmost of the farmers are still in lack of of complete knowledge resulting in medium adoption of recommended production technology. Therefore the extension agencies and other information sources should motivate and educate them about the importance and potentialities of scientific vegetable production technology. Further exertions were made by the extension assistances to create in detailed extension connection with farmers. Demonstration, Field trips, etc should be planned at rural community level.

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Table-1. Problems and constraints perceived by the farmers in adoption of rabi vegetable crops cultivation practices.

Sl no	Problems and constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
A. Economic constraints				
1	High cost of inputs	74	49.33	VI
2	Lack of timely availability of fund for arranging inputs.	115	76.6	III
3	Lack of adequate remunerative price of output	125	83.33	II
4	Lack of proper marketing facilities	98	65.33	IV
5	Non-availability of insurance when crop fails	138	92	I
6	Low profit from sale of vegetable Crop	95	63.3	V
B. Technological constraints				
1	Lack of knowledge of vegetable farming	55	36.6	V
2	Lack of improved vegetable Practices	128	85.3	II
3	Lack of cold storage system	132	88	I
4	Lack of accountancy management	82	54.66	III
5	Lack of knowledge of IPM/INM	57	38	IV
C. Extension-communication constraints				
1	Lack of knowledge about recent technologies	36	24	IV
2	The visit of extension workers are not regular	85	56.6	II
3	Inadequate demonstration of new technologies	117	78	I
4	Lack of mass-media contact	38	25.33	III

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