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Constraints Faced by Farmers in Adoption of Recommended Technology of Jowar Crop

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted with its prime objective to study the constraints of the farmers in adoption of jowar technology and also the suggestions offered by them to overcome these constraints. The major constraints faced by progressive farmers were high prices of fertilizers and fluctuation of price in marketing of jowar. On the other hand, non-progressive farmers were facing the constraints like cumbersome credit procedures and lack of knowledge about improved technology of jowar. As the constraints of both the group were different, they offer different suggestions. The suggestions offered by progressive farmers were in following order : monopoly procurement may be considered; storage capacity of grains and taste of fodder of hybrid jowar should be increased by introducing new varieties. According to non-progressive farmers, farmers should be provided with the knowledge of improved jowar technology, complicated loaning procedure needs to be simplified and co-operative credit structure should be developed were the important suggestions.

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INTRODUCTION

Jowar is one of the main staple food grains of the world's poorest people. It is one of the four major cereal crops of the world. Maharashtra is one of the major jowar growing States in India. Jowar is grown both as Kharif and Rabi crop to the equal extent. The figures of the growth rates of kharif jowar area did not show any significant change. Thorat and Bhoite (1986) found that the farmers perceived the following major constraints regarding technology of cultivation of jowar were non-availability of seed in time, high prices of fertilizers and insecticides, high cost of weedicide, shortage of labour during harvesting period. The constraints pertaining to the institutional infrastructure were stringent recovery procedure, long term credits are not available with one agency, produce required to be sold out at lower prices, lack of technological information supply and service organisations were influenced by local leaders.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

1. To indentify progressive and non-progressive farmers amongst the jowar cultivators.
2. To study constraints faced by progressive and non-progressive farmers in adoption of recommended technology and suggestions as expressed by them to overcome these constraints.

The study was conducted in Parbhani district, a part of the Marathwada region of the

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Maharashtra State. In Maharashtra, jowar occupied a total area of 66 lakh hectares which is about 41 per cent of India's total area under this crop. Of the 10.36 lakhs of hectares gross cropped area in the district so selected, jowar occupies 41.2 per cent. Using the criteria developed by Reddy *et al.* (1974). Progressive and non-progressive farmers were identified amongst the jowar cultivators. Based on proportionate random sampling technique, final selection was made. The sample comprised of 220 respondents. Data were collected from farmers through personal interview.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(1) Constraints in adoption of recommended technology of jowar crop.

It is observed from Table-1 that 60.91 per cent progressive and 89.09 per cent non-progressive farmers perceived high prices of fertilizers as the main constraint. Other important constraints faced by progressive farmers were in following order: fluctuation of price in marketing of jowar (58.18 per cent), fodder of hybrid jowar is not liked by animals (49.09 per cent), non- availability of inputs in time (43.64 per cent) shortage of skilled labour for sowing purpose (41.82 per cent), cumbersome credit procedures (40.91 per cent), lack of knowledge about improved technology of jowar (37.27 per cent), lack of training facilities (30.91 per cent) and lack of knowledge regarding improved storage techniques (30.00 per cent). Whereas, cumbersome credit procedures (76.36 per cent), lack of knowledge about improved technology of jowar (75.45 per cent), lack of

TABLE 1

Constraints in adoption of recommended technology of jowar crop.

Sr. No.	*Constraints*	*Progressive farmers (n=110)*	*Non-progressive farmers (n=110)*
1.	Non-availability of inputs in time	48 (43.64)	57 (51.82)
2.	Lack of knowledge about improved technology of jowar (placement of fertilizers, irrigation at critical stage, inter-cropping, pest and disease management etc.)	41 (37.27)	83 (75.45)
3.	High prices of fertilizers	67 (60.91)	98 (89.09)
4.	Shortage of skilled labour for sowing purpose	46 (41.82)	33 (30.00)
5.	Fluctuation of price in marketing of jowar	64 (58.18)	58 (52.73)
6.	Lack of knowledge regarding improved storage techniques	33 (30.00)	62 (56.36)
7.	Fodder of hybrid jowar is not liked by animals (it is feeling of the respindents)	54 (49.09)	52 (47.27)
8.	Cumbersome credit procedures	45 (40.91)	84 (76.36)
9.	Lack of training facilities	34 (30.91)	55 (50.00)

(Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage)

TABLE 2

Suggestions as expressed by the farmers.

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Progressive farmers n=110	Non-progressive farmers n=110
1.	Storage capacity of grains and taste of fodder of hybrid jowar should be increased by introducing new varieties.	53 (48.18)	41 (37.27)
2.	Farmers should be provided with the knowledge of improved jowar technology use	37 (33.64)	81 (73.64)
3.	Co-operative credit structure should be developed	44 (40.00)	74 (67.27)
4.	Complicated loaning procedure needs to be simplified	40 (36.36)	78 (70.91)
5.	Monopoly of procurement may be considered	62 (56.36)	55 (50.00)
6.	Marketing committee should be governed by the representatives of farmers.	43 (39.09)	36 (32.73)

(Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage).

knowledge regarding improved storage techniques (56.36 per cent), fluctuation of price in marketing of jowar (52.73 per cent), non availability of inputs in time (51.82 per cent), lack of training facilities (50.00 per cent), fodder of hybrid jowar is not liked by animals (47.27 per cent) and shortage of skilled labour for sowing purpose (30.00 per cent), were another important constraints faced by non-progressive farmers in order to their importance.

(2) Suggestions as expressed by the farmers

It is revealed from the Table 2 that monopoly of procurement may be considered (56.36 per cent), storage capacity of grains and taste of fodder of hybrid jowar should be increased by introducing new varieties (48.18 per cent) co-operative credit structure should be developed (40.00 per cent) marketing committee should be governed by the representatives of farmers (39.09 per cent) complicated loaning procedure needs to be simplified (36.36 per cent) and farmers should be provided with the knowledge of improved jowar technology use (33.64 per cent) were the suggestions as expressed by progressive farmers in order of their importance.

Looking to the suggestions as expressed by non-progressive farmers were in following sequence : farmers should be provided with the knowledge of improved jowar technology (73.64 per cent) complicated loaning procedure needs to be simplified (70.91 per cent), co-operative credit structure should be developed (67.27 per cent), monopoly of procurement may be considered (50.00 per cent), storage capacity

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Based on the findings of the study, it is implied that high priority needs to be given for the spread of knowledge about the improved technology of jowar crop. In order to overcome the constraint regarding availability of inputs in time at right place, it is suggested that village co-operative and agro-service centres should play active role to supply necessary inputs to the farmers.

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