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SK Jamanal
Ph. D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dharwad, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

Syed Sadaqath
Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dharwad, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

Correspondence
SK Jamanal
Ph. D. Scholar, Department of Agricultural Extension Education, College of Agriculture, Dharwad, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka, India

Constraints faced by the soybean growers

SK Jamanal and Syed Sadaqath

Abstract
The present study was undertaken during the year 2013-14 in Dharwad district of Karnataka. The study covered 15 villages from 3 taluks of Dharwad district to form a sample of 150 respondents were randomly selected. Data was collected from the selected sample through personal interview with the help of pretested structured interview schedule. The finding of the study revealed that seventy per cent of the farmers indicated that High cost of inputs followed by erratic behaviour of rainfall 65.33 per cent, high incidence of pest and diseases 53.33 per cent,. Marketing constraints like, price fluctuation 88.66 per cent followed by malpractice in weighment 77.33 per cent, non-availability of timely market information 63.33 per cent.

Keywords: soybean growers, constraints and production technology

Introduction
Soybean is known as "Golden bean", "Miracle crop" etc., because of its several uses. Soybean besides having high yield potential 20-25 qtl/ha, provides cholesterol free oil 20 per cent and high quality protein 40 per cent. It is a versatile crop with innumerable possibilities of improving agriculture and supporting industry. The soybean protein is rich in Lycine 4 per cent to 6 per cent and the oil extracted is edible one. India is in short supply of proteins and large portion of the population are vegetarians, under this situation crop like soybean with high protein content and high yield potential became an important crop in India.
Soybean protein is receiving more attention than any other sources of protein today. Besides, it contains several vitamins, calcium, phosphorous and iron. Utilization of soybean include beverages, fermented products like soya sauce and yoghurt, cheese analogous like fried and roasted nuts, sarouts etc. Small quantities of soybean flour are already being used in baked goods, primarily biscuits and in snacks. Soya flour is also used in substantial quantity in place of besan in sweets, papads and similar products.
Even though soybean was introduced to India in 1880 A.D., hardly it occupied an area of 9.95 million hectares with production of 10.18 million tonnes and a productivity of 1,234 kg per hectare (Indian. stat 2012). The area and production of soybean in Karnataka is 0.20 million hectares and 0.18 million metric tonnes, respectively, with an average yield of 900 kg per hectare (Directorate of Economics and Statistics). In Dharwad district, soybean crop is grown by large number of farmers on an area of 21,270 hectares and with the production of 8,349 tonnes. Due to its characteristics such as short duration, high yielding potential protein and oil content, good fodder and building soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen in the soil, it is becoming popular with the farming community. Hence, in this context the present study was undertaken to study the Constraints faced by the soybean growers.

Materials and Methods
The study was an *"expost-facto"* research carried out in Dharwad district of Karnataka State during the year 2013- 14. Dharwad district comprises of five taluks *viz.*, Dharwad, Hubli, Kalaghatagi, Kundagol and Navalagund. Among these three taluks *viz.*, Dharwad, Hubli and Kalaghatagi were selected based on highest area under Soybean crop cultivation. In selected taluks, seven villages were selected from Kalaghatagi based on highest area under Soybean crop, similarly five villages from Dharwad and three villages from Hubli taluks are selected. From each village, ten farmers were selected randomly.
Hence, the study covered 15 villages from 3 taluks of Dharwad district to form a sample of 150 respondents. A pre-tested structured interview schedule was used to collect the data from the respondents by personal interview method. Based on the responses obtained from the soybean growers were tabulated and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools such as frequency and percentage.

Results and Discussion

The data in Table 1 revealed that production constraints faced by farmers in adoption of recommended cultivation practices. In order of priority were; majority of the farmers 70.00 per cent indicated High cost of inputs, Erratic behaviour of rainfall 65.33 per cent, high incidence of pest and diseases 53.33 per cent, shortage of labours 47.33 per cent. Whereas, 45.33 per cent of the farmers expressed lack of knowledge of pest control. Non-availability of 'rhizobium, thiram and zinc sulphate 32.00 per cent and high wage rates 25.33 per cent.

In recent years, the prices of inputs have gone up and naturally it has attracted the attention of many farmers, especially the small and medium land holders, the cost of inputs does not commensurate with the low price they get for the produce. Erratic behaviour of rainfall it is quite genuine and is beyond human control. This might be due to if rainfall occur during harvesting time because of rain soybean grains quality is affected and also grains become black colour, if grains are in black colour, farmers get low price in market. Since many years the soybean crop was affected by bacterial leaf spot disease many farmers expressed that once disease enters into their field the next morning whole field is going to be affected and so, it reduces more than half of the yield.

Further, shortage of labours and high wage rates the possible reason might be many of the labours are shifting from rural areas to urban areas because of high wages. It is generally felt at the time of sowing and harvesting stages. The time available for sowing is very much limited as no such operations are advised beyond 45 days. It is still severe in under rain fed conditions as it has to be harvested simultaneously. Lack of knowledge about pest control this might be due to less education level and low extension contact. Non availability of Rhizobium, thiram and zinc sulphate it might be due to farmers have the feeling that only Department of Agriculture supply these inputs on subsidy basis, moreover, the corporations and agro kendras are mainly confined to the taluks head quarters or town ships, thus, depriving easy accessibility for interior villagers. Therefore, even though they are convinced about the merits of these inputs but they could not adopt these because of non-availability.

The next important constraints were marketing constraints like, majority of the respondents 88.66 per cent were facing the problem of price fluctuation followed by malpractice in weighment 77.33 per cent, non-availability of timely market information 63.33 per cent, non-availability of grading facility 52.00 per cent, higher commission charges 47.33 per cent, high cost of transportation were expressed by 41.33 per cent of soybean growers and 32.66 per cent farmers have also expressed more hamali charges.

The farmers expressed that there was lot of variation in the prices that prevail at the beginning of the season and that prevail at the time of harvesting. Since, there is no firm assurance of price in the initial stages; the farmers naturally hesitate to adopt improved production technologies which involve additional investment. Thus the government should think of announcing the price based on actual cost of cultivation well in advance of the season in order to enable the farmers to take up sowing and adopt the improved production technologies. Therefore, it necessitates creation of storage facilities in the villages itself and arranging credit facilities.

Malpractices in weighment was noticed by the majority of farmers particularly while selling their produce to village merchants who made unnecessary deduction like moisture content and unclean produce. Therefore, the farmers are required to take the clean the dried produce to the market. At the same time the market authorities have to exercise strict control and watch over the weighment of the produce in the regulated markets. Regulated marketing authorities should make a note of these problems of soybean grower and they should arrange for proper facilities like transportation, storage and help farmers in grading their produce. The findings are in accordance with Hanumnaikar (1995), Nijagonda (2000) [4] and Sureshkumar (2009) [6].

Conclusion

Regarding constraints faced by the farmers, Government should think of announcing the price based on actual cost of cultivation well in advance of the season in order to enable the farmers to take up sowing and adopt the improved production technologies and provide easy accessibility agricultural inputs for interior villagers. Therefore, it necessitates creation of storage facilities in the villages itself and arranging credit facilities. Regulated marketing authorities should make a note of these problems of soybean grower and they should arrange for proper facilities like transportation, storage and help farmers in grading their produce. Extension agency should work properly to educate farmers regarding pest and disease control, credit facility should provide at proper time and most require input should be supplied at proper time, were the major suggestion from the farmers' side.

Table 1: Production and marketing constraints faced by the soybean growers (n=150)

S. No	Statements	F	%
	Production constraints		
1.	High cost of inputs	105	70.00
2.	Erratic behavior of rainfall	98	65.33
3.	High incidence of pests and diseases	80	53.33
4.	Shortage of labors	71	47.33
5.	Lack of knowledge of pest control	68	45.33
6.	Non availability of rhizobium, thiram and zincsulphate	48	32.00
7.	High wage rates	38	25.33
	Marketing constraints		
1	Fluctuations in prices	133	88.66
2	Mal practices in weighment	116	77.33
3	Non –availability of timely market information	95	63.33
4	Non –availability of grading facility	78	52.00
5	Higher commission charges	71	47.33
6.	High cost of transportation	62	41.33
7.	More hamali charges	49	32.66

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