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Adoption of Shankhpushpi production technology by the farmers in Barmer district

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Abstract

Shankhpushpi is a Shankhpushpi rich medicinal plant. Shankhpushpi also plays important role in sustaining soil fertility by improving soil physical properties and leaves nitrogen effect for succeeding crops. The present study was conducted in Barmer, Chohtan and Baitu Tehsil of Barmer district of Western Rajasthan. Barmer district was purposively selected for the present investigation because it is one of the larger Medicinal crop district under dryland condition in Western region. Three talukas were selected based on maximum area under medicinal crop. From Chohtan Tehsil, 17 villages 52 respondents, and from Barmer Tehsil 5 villages 9 respondents were selected who were growing Shankhpushpi. The respondents expressed the constraints such as high cost of seeds which are also not available at village level, higher prices of labour and seed of Shankhpushpi and Marketing. Therefore to overcome to all these constraint, it is suggested that medicinal crop grows as a additional income of farmers and also give subsidy of inputs in this cultivation.

Keywords: Shankhpushpi, medicinal crop, cultivation, western etc.

Background and Objectives

Shankhpushpi (*Convolvulus pluricaulis*) commonly known as Santer is one of the short duration medicinal crop of world. Shankhpushpi is a Shankhpushpi rich medicinal plant. Shankhpushpi also plays important role in sustaining soil fertility by improving soil physical properties and leaves nitrogen effect for succeeding crops. It has also helped in achieving socio-economic upliftment of the farmers of Rajasthan state. The present study was undertaken to know the extent of adoption level and constraints, which are responsible for non-adoption of recommended Shankhpushpi production technology. The Specific objectives of the study are given below:

- To study the adoption of Shankhpushpi production technology by the Shankhpushpi growers,
- To find out relationship of personal and socio-economic characteristics with adoption of Shankhpushpi production technology.
- To identify the constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of Shankhpushpi production technology.

Resources and Methods

The present study was conducted in Barmer, Chohtan and Baitu Tehsil of Barmer district of Western Rajasthan. Barmer district was purposively selected for the present investigation because it is one of the larger Medicinal crop district under dryland condition in Western region. Three talukas were selected based on maximum area under medicinal crop. From Chohtan Tehsil, 17 villages 52 respondents, and from Barmer Tehsil 5 villages 9 respondents were selected who were growing Shankhpushpi. Thus, respondents growing Shankhpushpi. The data were collected by specially designed interview schedule. In order to facilitate the analysis and interpretation of data, statistical tools like mean, frequency, percentage, standard deviation and correlation coefficient were used. For apprising the level of adoption, three point scale was used i.e. fully adopted, partially adopted and not adopted practices. Score two was for assigned for fully adopted practices, score one was assigned for partially adopted practice and Score zero was assigned for no adoption of practice. On the basis of total score obtained, the respondents were further categorized into three categories i.e. low (score up to 30), medium score (30 to 50) and high (score 51 and above).

Observation and Analysis

The result obtained from the present investigation has been discussed below:-

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Adoption level of Shankpushpi Production Technology:-

It could be observed from Table 1 that majority of the respondents (40 per cent) had medium level of adoption, 31.66 per cent of the respondents had low level of adoption and 28.33 per cent of the respondents had high level of adoption regarding Shankpushpi by the Shankpushpi growers.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to level of overall adoption of recommended Shankpushpi production technology

S. No.	Level of knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low (Upto 50)	19	31.66
2	Medium (30 to 50)	24	40.00
3	High (51 and above)	17	28.33
	Total	60	

Relationship of personnel characteristic of Shankpushpi growers with adoption of recommended Shankpushpi production technology:

It is seen from Table 2 that, education, land holding, annual income, sources of information and economic motivation had shown positive and significant relationship with adoption of recommended Shankpushpi production technology by the Shankpushpi growers. Whereas, farm experience, social participation and risk preference had shown non-significant relationship with adoption of recommended Shankpushpi production technology. This shows that if education, I and holding, annual income, sources of information and economic motivation are increased adoption will also increase.

The reason behind it might be that the low level educated persons cannot understand the technologies quickly and easily. The big land holders can cultivate different crops in their different pieces of land in such cases, the risk of failure of one crop can be covered by another one.

Table 2: Relationship of adoption about Shankpushpi production technology with personal characteristic of Shankpushpi growers

S. No.	Independent variables	Correlation coefficient 'r'
1	Farm experience	0.148
2	Education	0.362**
3	Land holding	0.312**
4	Annual income	0.312**
5	Social participation	0.107
6	Sources of information	0.471**
7	Economic motivation	0.453**
8	Risk preference	0.003

* and ** indicate significance of values at P=0.05 and 0.01, respectively

With an increase in the annual income of the respondents' farmers, adoption of the recommended Shankpushpi production technology increases and vice versa.

The reason behind it might be that the rich farmers are always prepared to take risk to invest in a new practice. Persons using more sources of information in more extent can make their information and knowledge rich which results in more adoption of recommended Shankpushpi production technology. Respondents are becoming more aware and trying to maximize their profit by motivating to earn more and increase their income by adopting modern technology on their farms.

Constraints in adoption of recommended Shankpushpi production technology

Table 3 indicates the constraints faced by the farmers in adoption of Shankpushpi production technology. Cent

percent of the respondents expressed the constraints such as high cost of seeds and seeds are not available at the village level and in time in market, non-availability of the labour at proper time and high cost of wages of labour.

Further higher seed cost (88.21 per cent), Scientific method of production technology (74.16), non-availability of seeds at proper time (52.34), Marketing were some of constraints faced by the Shankpushpi growers. Have also made the some contributions on knowledge and adoption of cotton Cultivation technology by the farmers in Maharashtra state.

Conclusion

From the above findings it could be concluded that majority of the farmers had medium adoption level of the Shankpushpi production technology. Most of the respondents had medium adoption level with regard to Shankpushpi production technology. Hence, more number of training programmes should be arranged with demonstrations and frequent field visits by the concerned Scientist to enhance the level of adoption of Shankpushpi production technology practices by the farmers. The respondents expressed the constraints such as high cost of seeds which are also not available at village level, higher prices of labour and seed of Shankpushpi and Marketing. Therefore to overcome to all these constraint, it is suggested that medicinal crop grows as a additional income of farmers and also give subsidy of inputs in this cultivation.

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