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Constraints encountered by the women self help group members in vegetable production

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Abstract

The diverse climate in India ensures all varieties of vegetables are available. India is the world's second-largest producer of fruits and vegetables, accounting for about 10 percent and 15 percent of total global production respectively. India produced 18,58,83.22 thousand metric tonnes of vegetables. The area under cultivation of vegetables stood at 10,09,9.82 thousand hectare. Mostly all vegetable crops are grown very well in Chhattisgarh state. Vegetable cultivation in Durg district has a vast potential of improving the economic status of farming community realizing the importance many of the Women SHGs are associated with vegetable production in Durg district this would help them to generate employment, income and provide them with nutritional value for themselves and their families. The present investigation was conducted in Durg district of Chhattisgarh state during 2019-20 to ascertain the constraints faced by women SHGs members in vegetable production. The study covered 12 women SHGs from all the three blocks in the Durg district. Data were collected from women SHG members growing vegetables that were selected randomly from each selected 12 women SHG to make a sample size of 120 with the help of pre tested interview schedule. Data collected included the constraints faced by women members in vegetable production and the suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by them in vegetable production. The result of study showed that about 79.16 per cent of the respondents faced difficulty in protecting the vegetables from adverse weather conditions. About 74.16 per cent of the respondents suggested that information of proper weather forecast through SMS should be provided.

Keywords: Women self help group, constraints, suggestions, vegetable production

Introduction

Women's participation rate in vegetable production is 39.13 per cent (Anonymous, 2009) ^[1]. Studies on women in agriculture particularly in India and other developing and developed countries all point to the final result that women participate far more to the generally accepted agricultural production. For women's empowerment, the government of India has initiated several programs and schemes in recent years to achieve its dream of widening women's horizons of autonomous decision-making and resource management, becoming equal partners with their men folk to achieve "the ultimate goal of complete development". In such a search, the women self-help groups (SHGs) are praiseworthy. The initial concept with the establishment of SHGs was to empower women economically and socially, so that they could become more positive, more assertive and more likely to take part in family and community decisions.

In several parts of the India, commercial vegetable production has expanded considerably over the past few decades as large-scale enterprises to cater for fresh market and export. There are some fairly small-scale women producers in rural communities striving for self-sufficiency in vegetables for sale or trade. As vegetables are essential in diet, provide fiber, trace minerals, vitamins, carbohydrates and proteins. Women play an important and vital role in growing vegetables but it is most unfortunate that we have yet to consider the role of women and their contribution in vegetable production activities. Mostly all vegetable crops are grown very well in the state, such as solanaceous crops, cucurbits, beans, cabbage, cauliflower, etc. The total area of the vegetable crops was reported in the state as 4,92,214 hectare in the year 2018-19 with the production of 68,90,529 metric ton (Anonymous, 2018) ^[2]. In Durg district the total area of vegetable crops is 40,673 hectare with the production of 7,47,900 metric ton. (Anonymous, 2018) ^[2]. Vegetable cultivation in Durg district has a vast potential purposively due to highest production of vegetables in the state, also largest area under vegetable production falls under Durg district after Bijapur which would help in improving the economic status of farming community, realizing the importance many of the Women SHGs are involved in vegetable production in Durg district this would help them to generate employment, income and provide them with nutritional value for themselves and their families.

Therefore, the study was carried out to determine the constraints faced by the women self help group members in vegetable production. So, that suitable intervention could be planned to improve their economic status.

Material and Methods

The present study, "Constraints faced by the Women self help group members in vegetable production" was conducted purposively in Durg district of Chhattisgarh state during 2019-20 due to having highest production of vegetables in the state, also largest area under vegetable production falls under Durg district after Bijapur. All the three blocks i.e., Durg, Patan, Dhamdha were purposively selected from Durg district. A block wise list of Vegetable producing women SHGs was prepared. From each block four women SHGs (4X3=12 Women SHGs) were selected randomly making a total of 12 women SHGs from all the three blocks. And from each Women SHGs 10 members were randomly selected. In this way, total of 120 respondents (10 X 12 = 120 respondents) were selected for the study. The data were collected by personal interview with the help of well prepared, structured and pretested interview schedule. The data collected were tabulated and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools and methods.

Result and Discussion

There are many factors that affect vegetable production. The constraints faced by the respondents in vegetable production and the suggestions given by them to overcome the constraints are shown in these tables.

The findings on various constraints faced by women's in vegetable production are presented in Table 1. The findings indicates that majority (79.16%) of the respondents faced difficulty in protecting the vegetables from adverse weather conditions followed by 70 per cent of them faced lack of sufficient credit facilities to purchase required horticultural commodities at reasonable rate, 66.66 per cent faced high fluctuation in market price, 57.50 per cent had lack of awareness about market news and intelligence, 45 per cent faced non-availability of proper inputs in the markets and their high cost, 44.20 per cent had lack of technical knowledge and guidance about improved cultivation practices, 40 per cent faced large number of middlemen in market, 38.30 per cent faced lack of storage facility, 34.20 per cent faced lack of improved implements and their high cost, 32.50 per cent thinks subsidy is not given on different horticultural inputs, 29.20 per cent faced lack of irrigation facilities and power shortage, 23.30 per cent had less knowledge about proper dose of

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to the constraints faced by them in vegetable production

S. No	Constraints	F	%	Rank
1.	Difficulty in protecting the vegetables from adverse weather conditions	95	79.16	I
2.	Lack of sufficient credit facilities to purchase required horticultural commodities at reasonable rate	84	70.00	II
3.	High fluctuation in market price	80	66.66	III
4.	Lack of awareness about market news and intelligence	69	57.50	IV
5.	Non-availability of proper inputs in the markets and their High cost.	54	45.00	V
6.	Lack of technical knowledge and guidance about improved cultivation practices	53	44.20	VI
7.	Large number of middlemen in market.	48	40.00	VII
8.	Lack of storage facility.	46	38.30	VIII
9.	Lack of improved implements and their high cost	41	34.20	IX
10.	Subsidy is not given on different horticultural inputs	39	32.50	X
11.	Lack of irrigation facilities and power shortage	35	29.20	XI
12.	Less knowledge about proper dose of chemicals	28	23.30	XII
13.	High cost and Non-availability of improved and reliable seed at the time of sowing	19	15.80	XIII
14.	Continuous adoption of traditional package of practices	15	12.50	XIV
15.	Lack of proper knowledge in Insect-pest management.	12	10.00	XV

*Data based on multiple responses

Chemicals, 15.80 per cent faced high cost and non-availability of improved and reliable seed at the time of sowing, 12.50 per cent faced continuous adoption of traditional package of practices and 10 per cent faced lack of proper knowledge in Insect-pest management respectively.

The findings regarding suggestions given by the respondents are compiled in Table 2. It was found that majority (74.16%) of the respondents suggested that information of proper weather forecast through SMS should be provided, followed by 69.20 per cent suggested that availability of timely credit facilities with less interest rate should be given, 62.50 per cent suggested that support price for the produce during price fluctuations should be provided, 55.83 per cent suggested that timely availability of market information and suitable marketing facilities should be provided, 47.50 per cent suggested that availability of different inputs like insecticides, fertilizers, HYV seeds etc. at low cost should be made

available, 44.16 per cent suggested that technical knowledge about different components of improved cultivation practices should be provided, 37.50 per cent suggested that various technological training and demonstration should be provided from time to time, 35 per cent suggested to eliminate middlemen in the market, 32.50 per cent suggested that training on storage and post-harvest technology to extend shelf life should be provided, 30.83 per cent suggested that fixed price for inputs and facility of subsidized inputs should be provided, 29.16 per cent suggested that timely availability of irrigation facilities and solar pumps facility should be provided at the farm, 21.70 per cent suggested on adoption of micro-irrigation techniques, 17.50 per cent suggested that good quality seeds of high yielding and hybrid varieties should be provided and 15 per cent suggested that control measures for diseases and pests should be demonstrated and training should be provided respectively.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to the suggestions given by them to overcome constraints faced in vegetable production

S. No.	Suggestions	F	%	Rank
1.	Information of proper weather forecast through SMS should be provided	89	74.16	I
2.	Availability of timely credit facilities with less interest rate should be provided	83	69.20	II
3.	Support price for the produce during price fluctuations should be provided	75	62.50	III
4.	Timely availability of market information and suitable marketing facilities should be provided	67	55.83	IV
5.	Availability of different inputs like insecticides, fertilizers, HYV seeds etc. at low cost	57	47.50	V
6.	Providing technical knowledge about different components of improved cultivation practices.	53	44.16	VI
7.	Various technological Training and demonstration should be provided from time to time	45	37.50	VII
8.	Procedure to eliminate middlemen in the market	42	35.00	VIII
9.	Training on storage and post-harvest technology to extend shelf life should be provided	39	32.50	IX
10.	Fixed price for inputs and facility of subsidized inputs should be provided	37	30.83	X
11.	Timely availability of irrigation facilities and solar pumps facility should be provided at the farm.	35	29.16	XI
12.	Adoption of micro-irrigation techniques	26	21.70	XII
13.	Good quality seeds of high yielding and hybrid varieties should be provided	21	17.50	XIII
14.	Control measures for diseases and pests should be demonstrated and training should be provided	18	15.00	XIV

*Data based on multiple responses

Conclusion

The study reveals that majority of the respondents (79.16%) faced difficulty in protecting the vegetables from adverse weather conditions. About 70 per cent of them faced lack of sufficient credit facilities to purchase required horticultural commodities at reasonable rate. And about 66.66 per cent faced high fluctuation in market price.

Most (74.16%) of the respondents suggested that information of proper weather forecast through SMS should be provided.

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