

## Training needs of banana growers in Hingoli district of Maharashtra

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### ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken by selecting 75 banana growers with the objectives to study the socio-economic characteristics of banana growers, their extent of knowledge and to obtain their suggestions in promoting banana plantation. The findings revealed that about 57.34 per cent of the growers were from middle age group having education upto 10<sup>th</sup> standard. Majority of them belonged to small size of families having medium level of socio-economic status and land holding. Most of them had medium level of income and experience. They used the least formal sources of information and were depended on informal sources *i.e.* mostly neighbours and friends. More than half (58.68 %) expressed medium level of training needs while 22.66 per cent expressed high level of training needs in banana cultivation. The independent variables like age, education, size of land holding, knowledge and annual income had significant and positive correlation with the training needs. Size of family, socio-economic status, experience in banana cultivation and sources of information did not show any significant relationship. All the respondents agreed that they seek more information from their local agencies regarding effective and efficient marketing system and timely credit supply. They also expressed that they should be informed about the market prices frequently the during the harvesting period.

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### INTRODUCTION

Training is very essential for improvement in the efficiency of Indian farming community. It is the function of helping others to acquire and apply knowledge, skills, abilities and attitude which they do not possess but are needed. It brings continuous improvement in the quality of work, performed by the individuals (Nikhade and Patki, 2005). Therefore, training is viewed as an investment of human resources. (Ingole *et al.*, 1993). The low consumption of fruits in our country is due to low yields per unit area and higher prices in the market. In Mahathwada region of Maharashtra state, banana is cultivated in Nanded, Parbhani, Hingoli and Aurangabad districts with 13000 ha and producing 6.76 lakh tones (Anonymous, 2006). In Hingoli district, Basmat taluka has maximum area under banana hence Basmat taluka was selected with the following objectives: to study the personal and socio-economic characteristics of the banana growers, to study the sources of information used by the banana growers, to study the knowledge of banana growers about banana cultivation, to ascertain the training needs of banana growers and to obtain the suggestions made by the respondents to overcome the problem

### Key words :

Banana grower,  
Banana cultivars,  
Training needs

### METHODOLOGY

The investigation was carried out during the year 2007-2008 on the basis of maximum banana area in six villages of Basmat tahsil of Hingoli district. From each village, 13 respondents were selected randomly. Age, education, size of family, size of land holding, socio-economic status, source of information knowledge, annual income and experience in banana cultivation were chosen as independent variables and training need of the banana growers was the dependent variable. These variables were measured with the help of standardized scales.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *Personal and socio-economic characteristic of the banana growers:*

The data of Table 1 revealed that maximum (57.34 %) banana growers belonged to middle age group, educated upto X Std. (29.34 %) having small size of family (62.66%), medium annual income (64%) and medium experience in banana cultivation (70.67 %).

#### *Sources of information used by the growers in banana farming:*

It is clear from Table 2 that in case of personal sources, maximum (58.66 per cent)

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