

Problems and suggestions of pomegranate cultivators of Solapur district of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Major problems of pomegranate cultivators were lack of knowledge about oily spot disease management practices, fluctuation in prices of market, lack of knowledge about application of plant protection measures, availability of guaranteed seedlings from disease free nurseries, lack of knowledge about fertilizer and micronutrient, 'middle man takes more commission. A majority (86.71 per cent) of the respondents pomegranate cultivator suggested, conduct of field demonstration regularly, assured and reasonable selling price for pomegranate (82.81 per cent), extending facility of crop insurance for pomegranate orchards (80.46 per cent). Technical guidance about application of plant protection measures by the village extension worker (76.56 per cent), availability of guaranteed planting material from the government disease free nursery (61.71 per cent), co-operative organization establish for marketing (60.93 per cent) were some of the suggestions made by pomegranate cultivars.

INTRODUCTION

India is the second largest fruit producing country in the world and produces about 50 per cent of world production of pomegranate. Total fruit production in India estimated up to 54.4 million tones from 5.9 million hectares of area (National Horticultural Board, 2005-06). Horticulture occupies an important place in the agriculture economy of India. The contribution of horticulture was estimated about 10 per cent of the total value of agriculture in the country. In India two lakh hectares are under pomegranate crop, which is mainly grown in states of Maharashtra, Gujarat followed by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. At present area under pomegranate is 89,930 ha *i.e.* 85 per cent of India and production was 509475 metric tones in 2006-07. The cultivation of pomegranate is mainly confined to districts like, Solapur (33028 ha), Sangli (5550 ha), Nashik (26011 ha), Ahmednagar (7138 ha) and Pune (4914 ha). Area under pomegranate is increasing very rapidly because of its hardy nature, excellent keeping quality of fruits and remunerative prices of export market. The present study was undertaken to study the problems faced by the pomegranate cultivators and to get the suggestions of the respondent pomegranate cultivators.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in 16 villages

of Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district of Maharashtra State. The data were collected from 128 respondents from sampled villages of Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district with the help of well-constructed and pre-tested interview schedule. In view of the objectives of the study, appropriate statistical tests were used for drawing the inferences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problems faced by the respondent pomegranate cultivators:

The information pertaining to the problems faced by the respondents in the adoption of pomegranate cultivation technology is presented in Table 1.

It was observed that majority of the respondent pomegranate cultivators faced the problem like, lack of knowledge about oily spot disease management (76.56 per cent), fluctuation in prices of fruits (71.09 per cent) and lack of knowledge about application of plant protection measures (66.40 per cent). Other problems were in availability of healthy seedlings from disease free nurseries (62.50 per cent), lack of knowledge and micronutrient (60.93 per cent), middle man takes more commission (60.93 per cent). The respondents also expressed the problems like high prices of plant protection measures (59.37 per cent), scarcity of water during summer (44.53 per

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