

## Constraints and suggestions of pearl millet grower in Maharashtra

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### ABSTRACT

Investigation was carried out during the year 2008-09. Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of the district, tehsil, villages and farmers. Overall ninety six pearl millet growers were selected for present study. The data were collected from the sample farmers by personal interview method with the help of pretested schedule. The frequency and percentage method was used to analyse the data. The results revealed that, higher rate of fertilizer (78.13 per cent), low market value of pearl millet (65.53 per cent), non-availability of fertilizers in time (60.42 per cent), lack of rainfall (55.20 per cent) and non-availability of labour at time of harvesting (53.12 per cent) were the major constraints of pearl millet growers. To overcome these constraints, the adoption of organic farming (65.62 per cent), selling of pearl millet through different types of tasty products (60.42 per cent), adoption of contract system of harvesting (58.33 per cent) early purchasing of fertilizers with availability at village level (57.29 per cent) were the suggestions of pearl millet grower.

### INTRODUCTION

Pearl millet (*Pennisetum typhoides*) belongs to the family Graminae. The origin of pearl millet has been traced to tropical Africa. pearl millet has a number of advantages that it is the traditional staple cereal crop in subsistence or low resource agriculture in hot semi-arid region. It is well adapted to the production system characterized by drought, low soil fertility and high temperature. In Maharashtra state, one-third of the cultivated area is under almost drought prone and famine hunted. This region receives scanty rainfall, which is having unpredictable and extremely variable in which pearl millet is grown extensively as staple food crop which has ability to withstand the adverse condition. Though the pearl millet crop is the major rainfed crop and it has some constraints in the production which are being faced by the pearl millet growers. There are problems for low production but on an overall assessment, some are the major area under the low yielding non-descript varieties. Such type of constraints of pearl millet growers can be occurred due to non-availability of fertilizers in time, non-availability of required seed in time, low market value for pearl millet and so on. There is necessity to overcome these constraints therefore, it has to take the suggestions of the farmers. Keeping in view the above aspects, the present study has been undertaken to know the constraints and the suggestions of pearl millet

growers.

### METHODOLOGY

Beed district was purposively selected for present study because of higher area under pearl millet. From the district the Georai tehsil was selected for the study due to highest area under pearl millet. Eight villages were selected randomly from the Georai tehsil. The list of pearl millet growers was obtained from each of eight villages. From one village, twelve farmers were randomly selected. In this way ninety six pearl millet growers were selected for present study. Cross sectional data were collected from the sample farmers by personal interview method with the help of pretested schedule. Data were related to constraints and suggestions of pearl millet growers for the year 2008-09. Frequency and percentage method was used to analyze the data in the present study.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented in Table 1 and 2.

#### *Constraints of pearl millet growers:*

Constraints faced by pearl millet growers were estimated in the form of frequency and percentage and are presented in Table 1. The results revealed that, higher rate of fertilizer was expressed by 78.13 per cent of pearl millet

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