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Pulses are the important crops grown in India. The different pulses grown in the country are an integral part of subsistence farming. The different pulses play an important role in sustainable production system and household nutritional security. Chickpea or chana is a very important pulse crop in the world after peas and beans named as Cicer arietinum L. of the Fabaceae family. Indian name 'channa' has most probably derived from the Sanskrit word 'chahakam'. Gram is commonly known by various names in different states of India such as, 'chaha', 'harbhara', 'chhole', 'Bengal gram'etc. The light brown coloured pulse is considered to be a good source of protein (25 to 29 per cent) and is also called by the name of 'Garbanzo beans'. Chana is used as an edible seed and is also used for making flour throughout the globe. It is also used in making snacks, namkeen, sweet product etc. Saponin content in chickpea is high and its inclusion in human diet lowers the plasma cholesterol and reduces the risk of heart disease. Chickpea also enriches the soil by fixing nitrogen through its root nodules.

In India major states growing chickpea are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh etc. Among these states, Maharashtra ranks third in acreage under chickpea after Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh produces the major share of 40 per cent in the Indian production. In Maharashtra it constitutes 13.08 lakh ha area producing 9.24 lakh tones with the productivity of 706 kg/ ha in 2007-08. The area under chickpea in Maharashtra contributes about 17.49 per cent of total area under chickpea in India, and production of chickpea has share of 14.53 per cent in the total production in chickpea in India (Economic Survey of Maharashtra 2007-08).

Chickpea is grown in drier areas of the country as they are best suited for its production. Area under chickpea in Vidarbha was 6.14 lakh hectares with production 5.224 lakh tones with productivity of 850.26 kg per hectare during the year 2007-08. In Vidarbha Akola, Amravati, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Nagpur and Washim are the major districts which are growing chickpea on large area.

The present study was concentrated in mainly two districts of Vidarbha *i.e.* Akola and Washim. The area under chickpea in Akola district is 85.4 thousand hectares, with production of 75.6 thousand tones and the productivity is 885 kg/ha in the year 2007-08, similarly in Washim district area under chickpea was 795 thousand hectares, with production of 610 thousand tones and the productivity was 767 kg/ha in the year 2007-08.

Agriculture production has increased manifold due to the introduction of high yielding varieties along with the use of improved production practices. The new agricultural