

## Entrepreneurial behaviour and scientific orientation of organic pigeonpea growers

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### ABSTRACT

Pigeonpea is an important pulse crop grown under organic practices in recent past especially in North Karnataka. The present study was conducted in Gulbarga district of Karnataka State. The total sample for the study constituted 120 organic pigeonpea growers. The results revealed that majority of growers had medium level of entrepreneurial behaviour where as the individual entrepreneurial characteristics indicated that a good majority of respondents had medium level of innovativeness, achievement motivation, information seeking behaviour, leadership, scientific orientation and high decision making ability. Further the study also indicated that cent per cent of them followed manual grading, used jute bags to store the produce and none of the respondents had gone for certification of produce.

**KEY WORDS :** Entrepreneurship, Innovativeness, Decision making, Risk orientation, Scientific orientation and organic farming

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### INTRODUCTION

India has golden history of ancient agriculture and has the credit of having contributed ancient agriculture practices to other parts of the world over the years. This has led to a number of changes at various levels of cultivation practices from sowing to harvest. Research revealed that the efficiency of fertilizers use in India is only 30-35 per cent and the rest 65.70 per cent is lost in the soil. The intensity of their use in a few regions and for few crops are causes of serious concern to human health, soil, water, environment and thus to the sustainability of agriculture production in the country.

Sustainable agriculture is a set of farming practices which can continue to maintain the farm productivity, efficiency and productivity in long run, without depleting natural resources and environment (Hegde, 2000). The organic farming systems rely on large scale application of animal waste, compost, crop rotation, crop residues, green manuring, vermi compost, biofertilizers, bio-pesticides and biological control of pest and diseases.

Pigeonpea or *Tur* or Red gram [*Cajanus cajan* (L) Mill sp.] accounts for 20% of the total output of all pulses. India accounts for 90 per cent of world output with an

area of 3.23 million hectares and production of 2.37 million tones of grains (Singhal, 2003). In Karnataka pigeonpea is grown in an area of 5.83 lakh hectares with a production of 2.57 lakh tones. It is largely grown in the northern parts of the state especially in Gulbarga which is called "pulse bowl of Karnataka". In the recent past the pigeonpea grown under organic practices or organic cultivation (Anonymous, 2005). Farmers and scientists all over the world have recognized the limitations of modern agriculture. Efforts are being made to identifying alternative farming methods that are ecologically sound, viable and sustainable. In Northern Karnataka, especially in pulse grown areas, efforts are also made to evolve organic farming practices for field crops and the farmers are following their own methods of organic farming practices. There are no studies which throw light on such a shift of farmer's from inorganic farming to organic farming in pigeonpea and their entrepreneurial behaviour. Keeping this background in view, the present study was conducted with the following objectives to document the entrepreneurial behaviour of organic pigeonpea growers, to know the scientific orientation of organic pigeonpea growers and to understand post harvest operations carried

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