

Technological impact analysis on sesamum production performance in India with special focus on Punjab

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ABSTRACT

Sesamum is one of the major nine oilseed crops grown in India. The present study was designed to examine the trends in area, production and yield of sesamum in India and Punjab and to bring out the impact of various oilseed development programmes on the area, production and yield of sesamum. The analysis brought out that in Gujarat, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh significant increase in sesamum area was observed while there was significant growth in yield in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and other major growing states. So, emphasis should be laid to develop high yielding varieties suitable for rainfed areas to further strengthen the sesamum production base in these states. In Punjab, area under sesamum had declined significantly due to better returns from major competing crop *i.e.* paddy. Thus, technological breakthrough is required to enhance the productivity and provide effective price support to make sesamum relatively more profitable than paddy so as to increase area under the crop in the state. There is a need to start extension programmes directed to bring more area under sesamum crop in those states where acreage of sesamum had declined significantly as in case of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh.

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INTRODUCTION

India is one of the largest producers of oilseeds in the world. But due to relegation of oilseed crops to less fertile and marginal and sub marginal lands, edible oil production is not in commensurate with demand of vegetarian majority of the country (Kaur, 1998) and Punjab (Gupta, 2001; Kaur *et al.*, 2001). In the year 2003-04 domestic availability of edible oils was about 57 % of the total demand which was subsequently fulfilled through imports. In order to achieve self-sufficiency in oilseed production, the Government of India launched a series of oilseed development programmes towards the end of sixth plan. These included National Oilseed Development Project (NODP) started in 1985-86, and 'Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO)' in May 1986. The objective of TMO was to improve the production technology and marketing mechanism for the oilseeds in the country. Since initiation of oilseed development measures, the oilseed production in the country has picked up but its momentum has declined after mid nineties (Singh and Singh, 1997). Sesamum is the fifth most important oilseed crop after soybean, groundnut, rapeseed-mustard and sunflower in terms of acreage, accounting for nearly 8 % of total oilseeds produced in India during 2003-04. Similarly, in

Punjab, sesamum had been grown on 13.5 % area constituting 4.1 % of the total oilseeds produced in the state during 2006-07. The present paper aims to study the trends and technological impact on the acreage and yield performance of sesamum in India with special reference to Punjab. The specific objectives of the study were to study the trends in area, production and yield of sesamum in India and Punjab, to bring out the impact of various oilseed development programmes on production performance of sesamum in India and Punjab and to suggest policy measures to strengthen the production base of sesamum in India in general and in Punjab in particular.

METHODOLOGY

This study was based on secondary data, obtained from various sources. Time series data on area, production and yield of sesamum crop for major growing states in India were obtained from Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) from 1970-71 through 2003-04 while for Punjab, district wise data from 1965-66 to 2004-05 were collected from various issues of 'Statistical Abstract of Punjab'. The data for sesamum crop were divided into two periods *i.e.* pre TMO (before 1985-86) and post TMO (after 1985-86).

The analysis of data was undertaken by

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