

## Adoption of groundnut production technology by growers of Dhule Taluka of Maharashtra

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### ABSTRACT

A large majority of groundnut cultivators were found to adopt the recommended practices of irrigating the crop at flowering, branching and at pod formation stages, hoeing of crop, dibbling method of sowing, following the advocated seed rate and control measures for Tikka disease. In general, the majority of cultivators had medium level of adoption. It was observed that the cultivators education, size of family, sources of information, knowledge, annual income, size of land holding, risk orientation and planning orientation had significant relationship with their adoption level. Majority of growers had to face the constraints of lack of labourers, higher labour charges, lack of knowledge about seed treatment, pest and disease control measures; unavailability of pesticides in the market and high cost of chemical fertilizers. However, to overcome the constraints faced by them, majority of cultivators suggested for providing remunerative price of groundnut, chemical fertilizers at subsidized rates, seeds and pesticides at cheaper rates and for adopting the concept of regulated market at local places.

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### INTRODUCTION

Oilseeds and oil economy in India during last decade has been characterized by over all shortage of supply in relation to its constantly increasing demand. To achieve the target of fulfilling the demand of oilseeds of increasing population, a compound rate of 87 per cent in production will have to be maintained.

During the decade ending 2001-02, groundnut has been the most important edible oilseed crop. It is cultivated as a major oilseed crop accounting for a little over 50 per cent and 56 per cent of the total oilseed production in Maharashtra and in India, respectively. The oil content of the seed varies from 44 to 50 per cent depending on the varieties and agro-climatic condition. Groundnut oil is edible oil and finds extensive use as cooking medium and in many other user.

The major groundnut growing districts in Maharashtra are Nagpur, Wardha, Dhule and Nandurbar. The productivity of groundnut crop in Maharashtra was 1081 kg/ha. as against 1046 kg/ha that of India during 2005-06. The productivity of this crop in Dhule district during the year 2005-06 was 649 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2006). It indicates that there is still much scope to increase the yield level by motivating growers towards adopting recommended groundnut production technology. It is therefore, felt necessary to undertake the

systematic investigation for identifying the reasons in adoption of selected groundnut production technology at farmer's level.

With this view, the study was undertaken. The general objective of study was to study the extent of knowledge and adoption of ground production technology by the farmers from Dhule taluka of Maharashtra. The Specific objectives of the study were to study the selected personal, social and psychological characteristics of the groundnut growers, to assess the knowledge of groundnut growers about selected groundnut production technology, to study the extent of adoption of selected groundnut production technology by the growers, to ascertain the relationship between the selected characteristics of growers and extent of adoption of the selected technology and to study the constraints faced and suggestion made by the groundnut growers with regards to adoption of selected groundnut production technology.

### METHODOLOGY

Dhule tahsil was purposively selected for study on highest area basis among the other tahsils of the district. Ten villages from the tahsil were selected on the random basis which had maximum area under groundnut cultivation. A total of 10 groundnut growers from each village were selected randomly from groundnut cultivators. Thus, totally 100

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