

Adoption of organic farming practices and marketing behaviour of pigeonpea growers in Gulbarga district of Karnataka

SIDARAM, N. MANJULA AND ASHOKKUMAR BENNUR

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :

SIDARAM

Department of
Agriculture Extension,
College of Agriculture,
BIJAPUR
(KARNATAKA)
INDIA

ABSTRACT

Organic farming practice in India is an age old practice. Organic farming systems rely on large scale application of animal waste or FYM, compost, crop rotation, crop residues, green manuring, vermicompost biofertilizers, and biological control of pest and diseases. The present study conducted in pulse bowl district called Gulbarga involving 120 farmers growing pigeonpea, with the objective to know their extent of adoption of organic farming practices and marketing behaviour. The results indicated that, majority of respondents (69.17%) had medium level of adoption with respect to individual practice, majority have adopted variety, sowing time, vermicompost, application of FYM, use of Jeevamruth sowing within 15th July and application of NSKE, Most of the respondents sold the produce through commission agent, at regulated market when the price was reasonable.

INTRODUCTION

Krishi to naasti dhurbhikshsam”(famine vanishes through farming) thus said the Vedas, India has the 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 production levels of agriculture from sowing to harvest.

Pigeonpea ranks sixth among pulses production in the world and a major legume crop. Average world production of pigeonpea is 3.00 million tones in last six years. At present the area under cultivation (4.5 million hectares) is stagnant, pigeonpea accounts for 20 per cent of the total output of all pulses. India accounts for 90 percent of world output with an area of 3.23 million hectares and production of 2.37 million tones of grains. In Karnataka it is grown in an area of 5.83 lakh hectares with production of 2.57 lakh tones. It is largely grown in the northern party of the state especially in Gulbarga and it occupies an area of 349894 ha. and production of 136616 tonnes (Karnataka at a glance 2004-05), but productivity is 359kg/ha which is very low compared to the state average productively of 453 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2005). In terms of productivity the yields of principal crops are lesser than the state average. The variation in

rainfall, depleting soil productivity and endemic pest outbreak have affected the productivity of pigeonpea. Consumption of NPK nutrient is 39kg/ha in the district as against the overall India average of 36.2kg/ha in pigeonpea crop. Consumption of nitrogenous and phosphatic nutrient has steadily increased due to increase in the area of pulses, where as potash consumption has become stagnant ever last three years. In most of the pigeonpea growing areas, yields are either stagnant or declined due to decrease in organic matter content of soils. Efforts are also made to evolve organic farming practices for field and horticulture crops and also farmers are following their own methods of organic farming practices. Keeping this in view, the present study was taken up with the objectives to document the adoption of organic farming practices by pigeonpea farmers and know the marketing behaviour of organic pigeonpea growers.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in two Talukas namely, Gulbarga and Jeargi. They were selected based on the highest area under pigeonpea. From each Taluka, five villages were randomly selected and in each selected village, a list of farmers who had grown organic pigeonpea was prepared with the help of Agriculture Assistants of State Department of

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