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Research Paper :

Constraints and suggestions of soybean growers in adoption of soybean production technology

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ABSTRACT

The productivity of soybean is far behind than other major soybean growing countries. Looking to this fact, the present study was undertaken on a purposive sampling of 109 soybean growers of Khadak Malegaon Village of Niphad tahsil of Nashik District with the objectives to study the personal and socio-economic profile of soybean growers and to ascertain the level of adoption and to invite constraints and suggestions of soybean growers. According to the study, it was reveled that majority of the soybean growers (58.71 per cent) were of middle age (26 to 45 years) group, received formal education up to higher secondary and diploma level, possessed medium size of land holding between 4.01 to 7.00 acres. Majority of the soybean growers (49.54 per cent) had medium farming experience *i.e.* 9 years to 17 years, having medium social participation group (*i.e.* score between 3 to 4) and medium annual income (Rs. 75,551 to Rs.1,50,765/-). The major constraints reported by the soybean growers were insufficient irrigation sources, high cost of compost and chemical fertilizers, low price of soybean crop in market and fluctuation in market rate, lack of knowledge about pest and diseases control measures and seed processing. It was observed that majority (60.55 per cent) of the soybean growers suggested for timely guidance of pest and diseases control measures should be provided and 49.54 per cent of the respondents suggested for high price of soybean crop in market should be obtained.

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Soybean has attained great importance as a pulse and oilseed crop because of its nutritional and industrial value. In India, the soybean occupied an important place in case of getting more foreign exchange from the export of soya powder due to its greater demand in international market. As a food item, soybean products are great significance to India, since the Indian diet is predominantly vegetarian and deficient in protein. Soybean has the potentiality to make significant contribution to fill the widening gap in the availability of edible oil in the country and has now emerged as an important oilseeds crop with a potential to narrow down the oil and protein gap. Besides edible oil, soybean produces deoiled flour, which contains high percentage of protein ranging between 44-60 per cent. Soybean is getting prominence in the new cropping pattern because of its higher price and less input requirement as compared to other crops. Soybean has an ability to grow in adverse ecological environment. It can grow well in a variety of soil conditions including heavy black cotton soils. It can also grow successfully under rainfed conditions on upland and sloppy land as it withstands a temporarily dry spell. Soybean crop is also helpful to improve soil condition especially for adding nitrogen as it fixes atmospheric nitrogen at the rate of 150-200 kg/ha and leaves 50 kg residual nitrogen per hectare, which may be available to the next growing crops.

It is always observed that there is huge gap between the recommended crop production technologies and farmers' practice. All the farmers do not adopt the recommended crop production technologies. Socio-economic and other behavioral aspects of farmer might be influencing the adoption of crop production technologies. Farmers might be facing certain constraints particularly securing of input and marketing of soybean. With this background the present investigation is focused towards these aspects.

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Khadak Malegaon village of Niphad tahsil of Nashik district. Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Nashik implemented the front line demonstration on soybean production technology at Khadak Malegaon