

Constraints experienced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Ratnagiri district of Konkan region to understand the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems and to seek suggestions of the farmers to overcome it. In all sample of 200 farmers were selected from four Tahsils by using nth number method of random sampling. The farmers experienced the constraints namely 'scarcity of water for irrigation', 'production cost is higher, hence the farming system is expensive', 'high labour cost', 'lack of technical skills', 'low price for milk', 'low milk yield', 'non-availability of veterinary facility' and 'high cost of poultry feed' in adopting different farming systems in both the farming systems. The farmers offered certain suggestions like, 'irrigation facilities may be created through government assistance to avoid scarcity of water', 'fertilizers and seeds should be provided at subsidized rate', 'low cost production technology should be developed, so that production cost is minimized', 'government should purchase the rice at proper price', and 'milk should be purchased at higher price'.

Key words : Farming system, Constraints and suggestions.

INTRODUCTION

It was noticed by various authors that, Konkan region of Maharashtra was under various farming systems from social, economic and employment generation point of view. Those were not found to be more efficient and economically viable to the farmers of this region. The inception of the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture, SAU and particularly launching of Horticultural Development Programme(H.D.D.) linked with Employment Guarantee Scheme (E.G.S.) has introduced various farming systems in the region. This has resulted into adopting various farming systems by the farming community but not to the extent that change their socio-economic status. This indicates that there are some constraints. For understanding the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting the different farming systems, this study was undertaken with specific objectives to understand the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems and to seek suggestions of the farmers to overcome the constraints in adopting different farming systems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Ratnagiri district of Konkan region was purposively selected for the study, as it has more diversified farming systems. Four Tahsils having maximum area under the cultivation of rice and horticultural crops were selected purposively. Based on the area, two Tahsils Khed and Sangameshwar were selected for rice based farming system and other two

Tahsils Ratnagiri and Lanja were selected for the horticulture based farming system. Fifty farmers from five villages in each Tahsil were selected by nth number method of random sampling, making a sample of 200 farmers. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Personal interview technique was used for data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems:

The present study focused on the constraints in four enterprise combinations in rice based and horti based farming system area. The results are presented in Table 1. The results presented in Table 1 are explained in succeeding paragraphs.

Only crops:

It is observed that majority (92.74 per cent) of the farmers reported 'scarcity of water for irrigation' as their constraint. An equal number (81.45 per cent) of farmers reported, 'production cost is higher, hence the farming system is expensive' and 'non-availability of labour'. Two third (66.93 per cent) of the farmers faced the problem of 'minimum support price, particularly for hybrid rice, is low', while 65.32 per cent and 60.48 per cent each had faced the constraints namely 'higher cost of seeds and fertilizers', 'lack of processing facility' and 'non-availability of skilled labour', respectively. Fifty per cent (50.00 per cent) of farmers reported 'Non-availability of finance' as their constraints.

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