



RESEARCH PAPER

Adoption gap in chickpea cultivation

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Abstract : Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.), one of India's most important pulse crops, holds a dual significance in ensuring nutritional security and enriching soil fertility. Although improved varieties and scientifically validated production technologies are widely available, the yield levels of chickpea in many regions continue to remain below expectations. A key reason for this shortfall is the partial or non-adoption of recommended agronomic practices by farmers. The present investigation was undertaken in Amravati district of Maharashtra with the objective of assessing the extent of adoption gaps in chickpea cultivation. A purposive sample of 120 farmers was drawn from 12 villages located in Bhatkuli and Chandur Bazar talukas. Primary data were collected through structured interviews and subjected to statistical analysis using mean, percentage, and standard deviation. The results indicated considerable heterogeneity in the extent of adoption across different practices. The study revealed the highest adoption gaps in micronutrient and PGR use, storage, and spacing, followed by seed treatment and irrigation. Moderate gaps were noted in intercultural operations, weeding, seed rate, and disease control, while minimal gaps occurred in varietal choice, fertilizer use, sowing time, and harvesting. Overall, nearly two-thirds (64.17%) of the respondents were categorized under the medium adoption gap group, reflecting partial compliance with recommended production technologies. These findings highlight the critical need for demand-driven extension services, farmer training initiatives, and timely access to quality inputs in order to minimize adoption gaps, raise productivity levels, and foster sustainable chickpea cultivation in the region.

Key Words : Chickpea, Adoption gap, Yield gap, Agronomic practices, Amravati district, Constraints, Suggestions extension services, Sustainable cultivation

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