



Research Paper

Paddy seed replacement scenario in Konkan region of Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT : The study is based on a across sectional random sample of 240 farmers drawn from four districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra. As regards the seed replacement rate, the maximum SRR (20.00%) was observed in Raigad district followed by Thane (18.00%), Ratnagiri (9.69%) and Sindhudurg (6.55%). At overall level, seed replacement rate (SRR) of Konkan region was 15.13 per cent for certified seed and 52.79 per cent for quality seed. The maximum SRR (15.82%) was observed in medium size group followed by large (15.28 %) and small size group (12.66 %). At an overall level, the existing seed replacement rate was 15.13 per cent in Konkan region, which was below than expected SRR (25%) for paddy. But the projection of future supply of certified seed showed negative trend. The supply will be 17310.69 quintals during 2015, whereas demand at the existing rate will be 27338.26 quintals. The gap between existing supply and demand at existing SRR will be 10027.52 quintals. To achieve SRR 25 per cent, there will be demand of 46172.27 quintals for certified seed during 2015 showing the gap of 27861.56 quintals. The main constraints in seed replacement were the price of the certified seed followed by non-availability of desired variety and untimely supply.

KEY WORDS : Seed replacement rate, Demand and supply of seed and future projections

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INTRODUCTION

Seed research holds the key for sustained growth in crop yield. Seed sector is heavily dependent on research which has to continue the supply of improved seeds to keep pace with growing requirement. So far more than 3,000 varieties have been notified under the seed Act 1966 in different crops at National level. The State Seed Sub-committee has been constituted under seed Act which came into existence in the 1969. There are 183 hybrid and release of high yielding varieties of various crops for cultivation in Maharashtra.

Rice is an important staple food crop grown in India. The major rice producing states are West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

In Maharashtra, the rice is grown in various four agro-climatic zones in the state viz., Konkan, Vidarbha, Western Maharashtra and Marathwada mainly during *Kharif* season under varying agro-climatic situations and cultural practices. The rice is the important crop of Konkan region. Rice crop plays important role in the economy of the Konkan region and

provided self-employment to rural population. So far no systematic efforts has been made to know seed replacement rate of paddy, demand and supply of certified seed, constraints in seed replacement etc. in Konkan region of Maharashtra. So an attempt in this paper has been made to estimate the demand and supply of paddy seed in Konkan region of Maharashtra.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The sample consisted of paddy growers selected randomly across all districts of Konkan region. The data pertained to the agricultural year 2003-04. On the basis of area under paddy, selected farmers were classified in to small, medium and large size group. Sample farmers were grouped by considering area under paddy crop below 0.50 ha. as small, between 0.51 to 1.00 ha. as medium group and more than one hectare, as large group.

The data were tabulated and analysed by using appropriate statistical techniques to accomplish the objectives of the study.