

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Different technologies adopted by awardee farmers in Konkan region of Maharashtra

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SUMMARY : Present research work was aimed at throwing light on the successful farmers who got the recognition from government for their achievement in farming. Present study was conducted in Ratnagiri, Raigad, Sindhudurg, Thane and Palghar districts of Konkan region. The sample was constituted 60 'State agricultural award' received farmers drawn from different villages of Konkan region. The ex-post-facto research design was used for the present study. The analysis of data revealed that, majority (73.33 %) of the respondents was 'middle' age, 40.00 per cent had 'higher secondary' education, 'medium' (73.33 %) farming experience, 'medium' (40.00 %) size of land holding, 'medium' (46.67 %) annual income and undergone 'medium duration' (56.66 %) training. All the respondents received awards from 'state level' and majority of them received from 'private organizations, NGOs'. Majority (70.00 %) of the respondents had 'medium' information seeking behaviour, 'high' (61.67 %) management orientation and had 'medium' (85.00 %) productivity level. It is observed that, the awardee farmers are practicing contour farming (83.34 %), they also did crop planning according to agro-climatic conditions (86.68 %), and after that crop cultivation according to agro-climatic conditions (86.68 %). Whereas, use of improved and hybrid varieties (90.00 %), some of the awardee farmers are also adopting organic farming (33.34 %), soil testing (93.34 %), INM practice (75.00 %), IPM practice (80.00 %), use of green manuring crops (73.34 %). The awardee farmers highly adopting new things like use improved agricultural implements and equipment's (100.00 %), use of micro-irrigation (86.67%), use of non-conventional energy resources (60.00%), use of vermicompost (41.67%).

KEY WORDS :

Awardee farmers,
Technologies
adopted

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In order to encourage effective transfer of proven technology to the farming community in the jurisdiction of the Government and also to create a healthy competition among farmers/ farm women in obtaining higher productivity in agriculture and

allied fields different competitions are organized and awards are being given to the farmer. In agriculture the farmers who have made significant strides in different crops are usually designated by the fellow farmers of those crops for example 'Amba-samrat', 'Draksha-samrat' etc. This is the recognition given by the public for an individual's

contribution in particular crop. Government of Maharashtra has introduced the awards *viz.*, ‘Shetinishtha Award’, ‘Vasantrao Naik Krushibhushan Award’, ‘Jijamata Krushibhushan Award’, ‘Udyan Pandit Award’ and ‘Shetimitra Award’ etc. for motivate and encouraging the progressive farmers from different categories in the state.

Further, the ‘Awardee farmers’ are the progressive farmers who not only practice the recommended technology on their farm but also implement some innovative ideas of their own. It is presumed that besides developing their own agriculture, the ‘Awardee farmers’ take active part in development of village in general and development of the agriculture in particular. For this also, a planned probe was necessary.

Therefore, ‘Awardee farmers’ need to be effectively and skillfully involved in the extension system of the state. For deciding the strategies for their involvement, it was thought appropriate to understand and analyze the role they are playing at present as communication of modern farm technology. These successful farmers are somewhat different from the other farmers in terms of approaches in input utilisation, production, post-harvest technology and marketing strategies.

There for the present study entitled, “Different Technologies Adopted by Awardee Farmers in Konkan Region of Maharashtra” was undertaken by following specific objectives.

- To study personal, socio-economic characteristics of awardee farmers.
- To know the technologies adopted by awardee farmers.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

For the sake of convenience of the study and due to limited number of respondents, all the ‘State agricultural awardee farmers’ from the Konkan region of Maharashtra were considered for the study. The list of awardee farmers from 2000 to 2014 was obtained from the Regional Directorate of Agriculture, Thane (Maharashtra State). Konkan region has five districts *viz.*, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigad, Thane and Palghar. During 2000 to 2014 total 90 farmers from the five districts of Konkan region were honored with the title of “Krushibhushan”, “Shetinishtha”, “Jijamata Krushibhushan”, “Udyanpandit”, “Shetimitra” by the Government of Maharashtra. All these awardee farmers

were purposively selected for the study. However, only 60 farmers could be interviewed during the study. Other 30 awardee farmers could not be interviewed because of various reasons such as (i) death, (ii) refusal to give information, (iii) inability to recollect the information due to old age and (iv) long absence from the village. Thus the total sample size was 60 awardee farmers.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present study as well as discussions have been summarized under following heads:

To study personal, socio-economic characteristics of awardee farmers :

It was observed from the Table 1 that, majority (73.33 %) of the respondents were in ‘middle’ age group, while 10.00 per cent of the respondents were in the ‘old’ age group and 16.67 per cent of them were in ‘young’ age group.

Regarding education, Maximum number (40.00 %) of the respondents had ‘higher secondary’ education followed by ‘secondary’ (31.67 %), graduate (23.33 %) and primary (5.00 %) with an average educational level of 11th standard.

In case of farming experience, majority (73.33 %) of the respondents had ‘medium’ experience in farm cultivation, while remaining 16.67 per cent of the respondents had ‘low’ and 10.00 per cent of respondent had ‘high’ farming experience. The average experience of respondents was 28.6 years.

Regarding land holding, 40.00 per cent of the awardee farmers belonged to ‘medium’ category of the land holding, 31.67 per cent belonged to ‘large’ category and 26.67 per cent belonged to ‘semi-medium’ category, while 1.66 per cent respondents belonged to ‘small’ category.

In case of award received, all the respondents received ‘State level awards’, whereas 68.33 per cent of them received ‘Other awards’ from private organization, NGO’s etc., followed by ‘Tahsil level awards’ (60.00 %), ‘District level awards’ (33.33 %), and ‘National level awards’ (6.66 %).

Regarding annual income, nearly half (46.67 %) of the respondents belonged to ‘medium’ income category, whereas 15.00 per cent respondents belonged to ‘high’ and 38.33 per cent farmers were found in ‘low’ income

Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to personal, socio-economic characteristics of the awardee farmers

Sr. No.	Category	Respondents	
		Frequency (F)	Per cent (%)
(n=60)			
Age			
1.	Young (Upto 44)	10	16.67
2.	Middle (45 to 62)	44	73.33
3.	Old (63 and above)	06	10.00
Education			
1.	Primary	03	5.00
2.	Secondary	19	31.67
3.	Higher Secondary	24	40.00
4.	Graduate	14	23.33
Farming experience			
1.	Low	10	16.67
2.	Medium	44	73.33
3.	High	06	10.00
Land holding			
1.	Small	01	1.66
2.	Semi –medium	16	26.67
3.	Medium	24	40.00
4.	Large	19	31.67
Awards received			
1.	National level	04	6.66
2.	State level	60	100.00
3.	District level (Zilla Parishad)	20	33.33
4.	Tahsil level (Panchayat Samiti)	36	60.00
5.	Other (Private organization, NGO's)	41	68.33
Annual income			
1.	Low (Upto 10,36,841 /-)	23	38.33
2.	Medium (10,36,842 /- to 30,41,824 /-)	28	46.67
3.	High (30,41,825 /- and above)	09	15.00
Training received			
1.	Short Duration	34	56.66
2.	Medium Duration	34	56.66
3.	Long Duration	22	36.68
Information seeking behaviour			
1.	Low	06	10.00
2.	Medium	42	70.00
3.	High	12	20.00
Management orientation			
1.	Low	06	10.00
2.	Medium	17	28.33
3.	High	37	61.67
Productivity level			
1.	Low	03	5.00
2.	Medium	51	85.00
3.	High	06	10.00

category. The average annual income of the respondents was Rs. 20,39,333/-

In case of training received, equal number (56.66 %) of the awardee farmers received 'medium duration' (3 to 4 days) and 'short duration' (1 to 2 days) trainings. More than one-third (36.68 %) of the respondents received 'long duration' (more than 5 days) training.

Regarding information seeking behaviour, more than two-third (70.00 %) of the respondents had 'medium' level of information seeking behaviour while, 20.00 per cent had 'high' and 10.00 per cent had 'low' level of information seeking behavior.

In case of management orientation, more than half (61.67 %) of the awardee farmers belonged to 'high' management orientation category followed by 'medium' (28.33 %) and 'low' (10.00 %).

Regarding productivity level, majority (85.00 %) of the awardee farmers were belonged to 'medium' productivity level category, followed by 'high' (10.00 %) and 'low' (5.00 %).

To know the technologies adopted by awardee farmers :

The results presented in the Table 2 and Fig. 1 reveals that, the awardee farmers are practicing contour farming (83.34 %), they also did crop planning according to agro-climatic conditions (86.68 %), and after that crop cultivation according to agro-climatic conditions (86.68 %).

Whereas, improved and hybrid varieties were adopted by majority of the awardee farmers (90.00 %). Some of the awardee farmers were also adopted organic

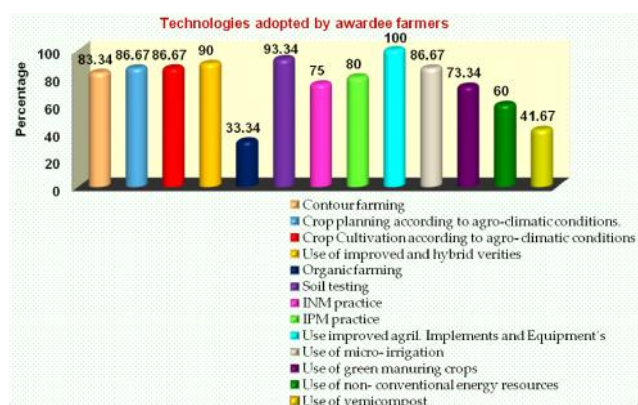


Fig. 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to technology adopted by awardee farmers

Table 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to technologies adopted by awardee farmers (n=60)

Sr. No.	Technology	Adopted	
		Number	Percentage
1.	Contour farming	50	83.34
2.	Crop planning according to agro-climatic conditions	52	86.67
3.	Crop cultivation according to agro-climatic conditions	52	86.67
4.	Use of improved and hybrid varieties	54	90.00
5.	Organic farming	20	33.34
6.	Soil testing	56	93.34
7.	INM practice	45	75.00
8.	IPM practice	48	80.00
9.	Use improved agril. Implements and Equipment's	60	100.00
10.	Use of micro-irrigation	52	86.67
11.	Use of green-manuring crops	44	73.34
12.	Use of non-conventional energy resources	36	60.00
13.	Use of vermicompost	25	41.67

Table 3 : Distribution of the awardee farmers according to adoption of different subsidiary enterprises (n=60)

Sr. No.	Subsidiary enterprises	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Dairy (milk production)	19	31.66
2.	Nursery	16	26.67
3.	Fruit processing	11	18.34
4.	Agro tourism	11	18.33
5.	Vermicompost	06	10.00
6.	Fish farming	03	5.00

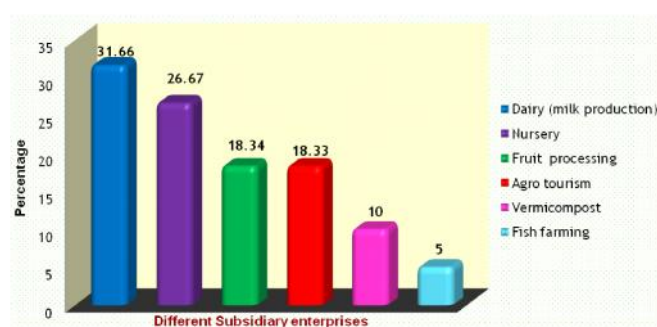
farming (33.34 %), soil testing (93.34 %), INM practice (75.00 %), IPM practice (80.00 %) and use of green manuring crops (73.34 %).

The result also showed that, the awardee farmers also highly adopted new things like use improved agril. Implements and equipment's (100.00 %), use of micro-irrigation (86.67%), use of non-conventional energy resources (60.00%) and use of vermicompost (41.67%).

The results presented in the Table 3 and Fig. 2 revealed that, the awardee farmers are practicing dairy (31.66 %), nursery (26.67 %) and fruit processing (18.34 %) as subsidiary enterprises. Whereas, some of the awardee farmers are also engaged in agro-tourism (18.33 %), vermicompost (10.00 %), fish farming (5.00 %). These subsidiary enterprises created employment opportunities to the rural people and also giving considerable income.

Conclusion :

An attempt was made in the present investigation to understand the different technologies adopted by the

**Fig. 2 : Distribution of the respondents according to their adoption of different Subsidiary Enterprises**

respondents in production and marketing of farm produce in the Konkan area. When a farmer is highly motivated in achieving excellence in life, he does not mind to acquire all information required as well as to adopt those things. This type of motto of a farmer generally motivates them to achieve their best. Since the respondents are awardee farmers and are especially motivated to participate in the award competition, it is quite but natural that they will be having more knowledge to adopt such practices

to derive the maximum potential yield and income. The awardee farmers are having high knowledge about improved production practices and hence, they might have got higher yield. This might have increased their confidence about new technologies. They might be motivated to compete at higher levels like state and national level and hence cultivated intensively to achieve higher yields.

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