

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

Constraints faced by the Naga King chilli growers in Mokokchung district of Nagaland

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19.07.2017;**Revised :**
30.08.2017;**Accepted :**
16.09.2017

SUMMARY : The ex-post facto study was conducted in Mokokchung district of Nagaland to know the problem faced by the Naga King Chilli growers in Mokokchung district of Nagaland. Further 140 farmers were selected from different villages in two different blocks under Mokokchung. Results revealed from the study that lack of proper post harvest storage of Naga King chilli (90.00 %) was found the most problematic area faced by majority of the Naga King chilli growers.

How to cite this article : Biswas, Pijush Kanti, Kerimenla and Das, Rajib (2017). Constraints faced by the Naga King chilli growers in Mokokchung district of Nagaland. *Agric. Update*, 12(4): 578-580; DOI : 10.15740/HAS/AU/12.4/578-580.

KEY WORDS :Naga King Chilli,
Problems, Post
harvest storage**BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Chilli (*Capsicum* sp.) is one of the most valuable crops of India. The crop is grown largely for its fruits all over the India. It is used as a principle ingredient of various curries and chutneys. It is also used for vegetables, spices, condiments, suces and pickles. Dry chillies are used for curry powder. Red colour in chilli is due to "Capsanthin". Pungency in chillies is due to the active constituent "Capsaicin", an alkaloid, is extracted from chillies and used to medicine. Chilli can be grown in a wide range of soils but black soils which retain moisture for long periods are suitable for rainfed crop whereas well drained soils, deltaic soils and sandy loams are good under irrigated conditions. It is a plant of tropical and sub-tropical region and it grows well in warm and humid climate and a

temperature of 20-25°C. Chilli constitutes important nutritional value, flavour, aroma, texture and colour. Chillies have low sodium and it is cholesterol free and also rich in vitamin A, C, E, and a good source of potassium and folic acid. Fresh green chilli peppers contain more vitamin C than citrus fruits and fresh red chilli has more vitamin A than carrot.

The Naga King Chilli mainly belongs to the species *Capsicum Chinense* Jaqc. However, it has been reported that the chilli is a naturally occurring hybrid and occupies a taxonomic position between *C. chinense* and *C. frutescens*, clustering more closely with *C. chinense* group. The plant is a self pollinated species, but considerable cross pollination (upto 10%) may occur in presence of high insect population and this behaves as a semi-perennial plant if grown under optimal condition. The plant and fruit characters also

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show wide variability (Meetei *et al.*, 2016).

The north-eastern regions of India have diverse hot-spot for growing chillies. Among the various chillies grown in the north-eastern states the Naga king chilli is famous for its pungency to worldwide. Traditionally in Nagaland, Naga King chilli are grown in burned bamboo soils while jhumming and also in kitchen gardens with some organic manures such as FYM, poultry droppings, etc. However, on large scale cultivation, traditional methods are not applicable (Sharma, 2016). Since Naga King Chilli is a potential and most demandable crop especially for Nagaland also production level is very less. Farmers of Nagaland facing various problems and, therefore, a study has been undertaken to know the “problem faced by the Naga King Chilli growers in Mokokchung district of Nagaland”.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

Mokokchung district of Nagaland is well known for growing Naga King Chilli. The district has six blocks and out of these two blocks *viz.*, Ongpangkong South

and Kobulong were selected for the present study. Further two villages *viz.*, Longkhum and Sungratsu were selected from the selected blocks. The ex-post facto research design is selected to conduct the study. A total number of 140 farmers were selected for personal interview to identify their problems.

The primary data were collected from the selected farmers by personal interview method and secondary data were collected from books, journals etc.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation as well as relevant discussions have been summarized below:

Production problems faced by Naga King chilli growers:

All the selected Naga King chilli growers were interviewed to identify the problems facing by them. Important problems were identified and included in Table 1. These problems were further sub-divided into three

Table 1: Problems faced by Naga King chilli growers		(n=140)		
Sr. No.	Problems	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Production			
	Poor fertility of soil	37	26.43	VII
	High cost of fertilizer	96	68.57	I
	Occurrence of pests and diseases	90	64.28	III
	Lack of knowledge of scientific crop production	51	36.43	VI
	Lack of knowledge for suitable variety	13	9.28	VIII
	Non-availability of quality seed	62	44.29	IV
	Inability to purchase modern agricultural implements	59	42.14	V
	Lack of irrigation facilities	94	67.14	II
2.	Economical			
	High cost of agricultural chemicals	106	75.71	II
	Non-availability of timely credit facilities	84	60.00	IV
	Non-availability of labour during peak period	95	67.85	III
	Low selling price	47	33.57	VI
	Non-availability of processing industries (Value addition)	80	57.14	V
	Lack of financial subsidies	108	77.14	I
3.	Marketing			
	Lack of proper post harvest storage of <i>Naga</i> chilli	126	90.00	I
	High price fluctuation in market	114	81.42	II
	Lack of transportation facilities	91	65.00	III
	Problem of grading	68	48.57	VI
	Lack of co-operative societies	25	17.85	VII
	Lack of Government support price	85	60.71	IV
	Lack of market information	77	55.00	V

categories *viz.*, production, economic and marketing problems. Among the production problems high cost of fertilizer was found the most problem area which was expressed by 96 farmers out of 140 farmers followed by lack of irrigation facilities was problem for 94 farmers, occurrence of pests and diseases by 90 farmers, non-availability of quality seed by 62 farmers, inability to purchase modern agricultural implements by 59 farmers, lack of knowledge of scientific crop production by 51 farmers, poor fertility of soil by 37 farmers and lack of knowledge for suitable variety was expressed by 13 farmers.

Economic problems faced by Naga King chilli growers:

Among the various economic problems lack of financial subsidies was found most problematic area and was expressed by 108 farmers followed by 106 farmers said they are facing problems for high cost of agricultural chemicals, 95 farmers said they have problem for non-availability of labour during peak period, 84 farmers said they have problems for non-availability of timely credit facilities, 80 farmers said non-availability of processing industries (Value addition) was another problem area and only 47 farmers said they have problem for low selling price.

Marketing problems faced by Naga King chilli growers:

The farmers have various problems like lack of proper post harvest storage of Naga chilli, high price fluctuation in market heavy commission charges, lack of transportation facilities, problem of grading, lack of co-operative societies, lack of Government support price and lack of market information's were analysed and ranked following highest problem area to the lowest. The overall results are presented in the following Table 1. Lack of warehouse / go down for proper storage of Naga

chilli was found the most problematic area under this category and expressed by 126 farmers (Dangore *et al.*, 2015).

Conclusion :

The present study was conducted in Mokokchung district of Nagaland. Constraints found during pre-testing structured. Relevant information was collected through a survey method with the help of pre-tested questionnaire. The frequency and percentage of each constraint were worked out to measure the constraints encountered by the respondents. On the basis of results obtained from the study, following conclusions are drawn. Overall lack of proper post harvest storage of Naga chilli was found the most problematic area expressed by 126 farmers followed by lack of financial subsidies was expressed by 108 farmers and high cost of agricultural chemicals was found problem area which was expressed by 106 farmers out of 140 farmers under production problem.

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