

**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

# A study on knowledge level of crisis management practices of castor growers

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**SUMMARY :** Castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) is one of the most ancient, non-edible, medicinal and industrial oilseed crops of the country. Castor is indigenous to Eastern Africa and most probably originated in Ethiopia. India contributes more than one third of the world production of castor oil and meets about 80 per cent world castor oil demands. The knowledge about crisis management in castor is important aspect to improve the production of castor. A multistage random sampling technique was used for the selection and study of 180 respondents. Majority (78.33%) of the respondents had medium knowledge level of crisis management practices; whereas 15.00 and 6.67 per cent of respondents had low and high level of knowledge about crisis management practices, respectively.

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**KEY WORDS:**

Knowledge, Crisis management, Castor cultivation

## **BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES**

Castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) is one of the most ancient, non-edible, medicinal and industrial oilseed crops of the country. Castor is indigenous to Eastern Africa and most probably originated in Ethiopia. India contributes more than one third of the world production of castor oil and meets about 80 per cent world castor oil demands (Anonymous, 2012). Hence, castor plays an important role in our national economy by earning valuable foreign exchange. Systematic knowledge of some of the important crisis management practices can help castor growers to find out suitable ways to survive during situations of crisis. Keeping

in the view the above facts and importance of crisis management of castor cultivation for the country as a whole and Gujarat in particular, the present study was taken with following specific objective.

To determine the knowledge of respondents about crisis management in castor cultivation.

## **RESOURCES AND METHODS**

The study was conducted in 12 villages of four talukas of Jamnagar and Surendranagar districts of Gujarat state. A multistage random sampling technique was used for the selection and study of 180 respondents. The data were collected by

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personal interview method.

## OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

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

### Overall knowledge about crisis management practices :

The persuasion of the data given in Table 1 showed that majority (78.33%) of the respondents had medium knowledge level of crisis management practices; whereas 15.00 and 6.67 per cent of respondents had low and high level of knowledge about crisis management practices, respectively.

It can be summarized that majority of respondents had medium level of knowledge about crisis management practices in castor cultivation. This finding was in conformity with the findings of Dalsaniya (2010); Gohil (2010) and Humbal (2012).

### Practices wise knowledge of crisis management in castor cultivation:

The data in Table 2 revealed that the castor growers had knowledge about the crisis management practices

were highest found related to soil preparation (89.90 %) with first rank, followed by labour scarcity (89.52 %), sowing (85.06%), harvesting and storage (84.79%), seed (84.57%) and water management (84.37%) with second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth rank, respectively.

Whereas medium level of knowledge was found in fertilizer (73.06%), plant protection (72.64%) and weeding (71.78%). Low level of knowledge was found in soil testing (35.38 %).

This finding leads to conclude that castor growers fill the importance of harvesting of crop at proper time with threshing, grading and plant protection measures during storage and seed stored properly for control to reduce the oil content and maintaining quality of produce.

### Conclusion:

Castor is a major crop grown since before independence in the Saurashtra region of the Gujarat State. Castor crop directly contributed to the socio-economic conditions of the people in this area. Majority (78.33%) of the respondents had medium knowledge level of crisis management practices; whereas 15.00 and 6.67 per cent of respondents had low and high level of knowledge about crisis management practices, respectively.

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their knowledge about crisis management practices**

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1.	Low knowledge (below 69.05)	27	15.00
2.	Medium knowledge (69.05 to 87.55)	141	78.33
3.	High knowledge (above 87.55)	12	6.67
	$\bar{X} = 78.30$ and S.D. = 9.25	Total	180

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents as per knowledge of related crisis management practices**

Sr. No	Practices related to crisis management in castor	Per cent of respondents	Rank
1.	Seed	84.57	V
2.	Soil testing	35.83	X
3.	Soil preparation	89.90	I
4.	Sowing	85.06	III
5.	Fertilizer	73.06	VII
6.	Water management	84.37	VI
7.	Plant protection	72.64	VIII
8.	Weeding	71.78	IX
9.	Labour scarcity	89.52	II
10.	Harvesting and storage	84.79	IV

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