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RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Constraints faced by the sericulture farmers in adoption of recommended sericulture cultivation practice in Northern Karnataka

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SUMMARY : The study was conducted in Vijayapur and Bagalkote districts of Northern Karnataka, India in 2019-20, which comes under non-traditional areas ofsericulture. The sample size selected was 120 and it was reported that cent per cent of the farmers reported low price and transportation to the distant markets asthe major problems. More than 90.00 per cent of the farmers faced the difficulties in controlling uji flies and other diseases, high labour charges, high initial establishment cost and lack of information about bio-fertilizers. Keeping these constraints into consideration the suitable policy had been framed by the the government. Added to that the most suited situational extension strategies have been implemented which helped to improve sericulture status.

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KEY WORDS :
Sericulture farmers, Adoption of recommended, Sericulture cultivation practice

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Sericulture is an art and technique of silk production. The Indian economy generally depends primarily on the agriculture and the activities of the allied agricultural sector. As an agro-based industry, sericulture plays an important role in improving the economic condition of people in rural areas. As an industry that generates jobs, it holds promise, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

The sericulture industry supported about seven million rural poor in the country with employment opportunity. Most of them belonged to the economically weaker section of the society. From mulberry cultivation to the silk weaving stage, it creates about 1,000 man days of work. In India, sericulture has proved to be high remunerative enterprise with minimal capital base and relatively yielding good returns when compared to other enterprises. It is one of the most stabilized firms which provide a steady year-round flow of income in the country.

Inspite of all positive features, sericulture practices still not adopted upto the desired level in study area. It was felt that those constraints should be identified which forced towards non-adoption of mulberry sericulture.

Objective:

– To identify the constraints faced by the farmers in adoption of recommended sericulture practices.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The chapter includes general typology and description about the research study on analysis of sericulture production technologies adopted by the farmers, it was conducted during the year 2019-2020 in Vijayapur and Bagalakote districts of Karnataka. These districts are purposively selected for research study, Vijapapur and Basavanabagewadi taluks were selected from Vijayapur. Bagalakote and Hunagund taluks were selected from Bagalakote districts, respectively based on number of sericulture farmers, area under sericulture and also cocoon market.

Three villages from one taluk were selected based on the highest area under mulberry. The villages selected were Hadagali, Shivanagi and Kannur from Vijayapur taluk, Basavanabagewadi, Managuli and Masabinala from Basavanabagewadi taluk. Chabbi, Bennur and Shiruru from Bagalakote taluk, Kamatagi, Gudur and Sulebhavi from Hunagund taluk were selected from Vijayapur and Bgalakote districts, respectively. Thus, 12 villages from study area selected for investigation study. By following purposive random sampling technique, 10 sericulture farmers from each village contributing to 60 sericulture farmers randomly from two districts were selected for the study and thus, 120 sample size was used for the study.

A well-structured and pre-tested interview schedule was used to collect the responses through personal interview method. The data collected were tabulated and analyzed by using appropriate statistical measures.

To know the constraints such as supply, economical, financial and marketing faced in silkworm rearing and silk reeling from the sericulture farmer's and silk reeler's point of view, a list of constraints were prepared after extensive review of literature and sericulture department. Further, sericulture farmers were asked to give their responses by answering 'Yes' or 'No' with scores of 1 and 0, respectively. These constraints were analysed using frequency and percentage.Based on the total scores obtained responses were given different ranks suiting to their scores.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

From the Table 1 visible that constraints faced by the sericulture farmers while adoption of recommended practices of sericulture cultivation.

Supply constraints:

From the Table 1 revealed that, 70.00 per cent of the farmers reported the lack of improved variety as the supply constraint which was ranked I, even though the knowledge and adoption is high but high yielding varieties are less compared to southern parts of Karnataka and they were dependent on single variety.

Irregular supply of electricity (Rank II) was observed as major constraints for 63.33 per cent of sericulture farmers. This is because of frequent power cut in rural areas and during summer.

Equal proportion of 41.66 per cent of farmers faced shortage of irrigation water and timely availability of fertilizers and other chemicals as major constraints ranked III. This is due to frequent power cut and lack of knowledge about fertilizers and chemicals.

While, 35.00 per cent of the farmers faced the lack of technical guidance as the major constraints ranked IV. This is because of low extension contact and extension participation.

Economic constraints:

Majority (91.66 %) of sericulture farmers faced high labour cost and high initial establishment cost (Rank I) as the major constraint. This is because every stage in sericulture from cultivation to marketing needs skilled man power, labours may be available but efficient skilled labours availability is difficult task.

Similarly, 75.00 per cent of the sericulture farmers expressed non-availability of loans (Rank II) as the main constraint followed by high cost of FYM (70.00 %) and 40.00 per cent of the sericulture farmers faced lack of subsidies as major constraint. This is due to most of the sericulture farmers belonged to weaker section and least shareholders of the income. This is the most influencing factor which is affecting the economic condition. This also make them to experience high initial establishment cost, non-availability of loans and shortage in supply of skilled labour leads to high wage rate which cause high investment.

Technical constraints:

While in technical constraints 98.33 per cent of the sericulture farmers reported difficulties in controlling uji flies and other diseases as the major constraint, 91.66

Table 1 : Constraints faced by sericulture farmers **(n=120)**

Sr. No.	Constraints	Respondents		Rank
		Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)	
Supply (Input) constaints				
1.	Lack of improved variety	84	70.00	I
2.	Irregular supply of electricity	76	63.33	II
3.	Shortage of irrigation water	50	41.66	III
4.	Timely availability of fertilizers and other chemicals	50	41.66	III
5.	Lack of technical guidance	42	35.00	IV
Economic constraints				
1.	High labour charges	110	91.66	I
2.	High initial establishment cost	110	91.66	I
3.	Non availability of loans	90	75.00	II
4.	High cost of FYM	84	70.00	III
5.	lack of subsidies	48	40.00	IV
Technical constraints				
1.	Difficulties in controlling uji flies and other diseases	118	98.33	I
2.	Lack of information about bio-fertilizers	110	91.66	II
3.	Lack of information about concentration of the disinfectant	94	78.33	III
4.	Lack of knowledge regarding planting method	72	60.00	IV
Marketing constraints				
1.	Low price	120	100.00	I
2.	Transportation	120	100.00	I
3.	Exploitation by middlemen	80	66.66	II
4.	Storage	32	26.66	III

(Multiple responses)

per cent were faced lack of information about bio-fertilizers followed by 78.33 per cent were faced lack of information about concentration of the disinfectant and 60.00 per cent of sericulture farmers faced lack of knowledge regarding planting method as the major constraint. This might be due to the lack of technical knowledge while constructing the rearing house and controlling uji flies.

Marketing constraints:

Every respondents in the study area faced low price and transportation (distant markets) both as major constraints followed by 66.66 per cent of sericulture farmers faced exploitation of middlemen and 26.66 per cent of farmers faced storage as the major marketing constraints. Price of cocoons mainly depends on factors like production, demand, import and export in international and national market. This leads to frequent fluctuation in prices of cocoon. This might cause problem for sericulture farmers and other reason is involvement of middlemen is more in local markets. Farmers may not get credible information about market price and most of the farmers sold theirs cocoons in southern markets this leads to the high transportation costs.

The earlier research findings are reported by Ruchira (2011); Asha (2018) and Srinivasareddy *et al*. (2019) also pointed out similar problems in cultivation of sericulture.

Conclusion:

The present study briefed about the constraints faced by respondents in the study area. It was found that greater extent of sericulture farmers were practicing almost all operations in sericulture cultivation practices, but expressed low price and transportation as major constraint faced by them sothere is need to furnish daily market prices to sericulture farmers through using modern information communication technologies (ICTs).

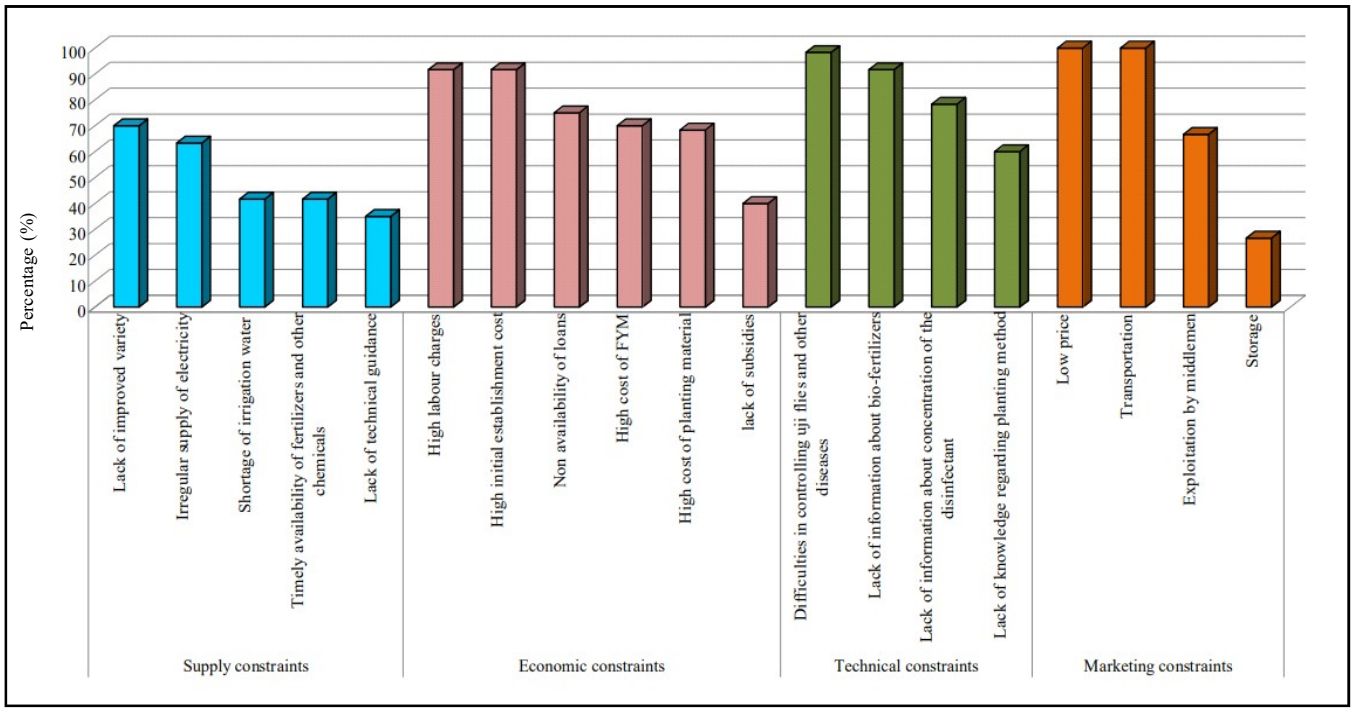

Fig. 1: Constraints faced by sericulture farmers

High initial establishment cost and high cost of planting material were major constraints faced by the sericulture farmers. An ideal strategy to provide financial support *i.e.*, increased subsidies, incentives on construction of rearing house and loans at lower subsidies at lower interest rates should be provided. Issues related to availability, accessibility and affordability of farm inputs should be addressed by both government and non-government agencies through farm co-operation and farmers organization at village level.

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