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*RESEARCH PAPER*

# Study the knowledge of post-harvest practices followed by vegetable growers and the problems faced by vegetable growers

J. H. Gaikwad
Department of of Agricltural Extension, College of Agriculture, Muktainagar, Jalgaon (M.S.) India
(Email: jh_gaikwad@rediffmail.com)

**Abstract :** Vegetable development depends not only on production but also on post-harvest management and marketing system. Vegetable cultivation being labour intensive can substantially increase employment avenues too. Large number of researches are done particularly in extension education is in the area of pomology and agronomical crops. Among 14 tahsils of Ahmednagar district Akole tahsil was selected according to maximum tribal area. Out of 191 villages of Akole tahsil 10 villages were selected for present study. A total of 12 vegetable growers from each village with minimum 1 acre area under major vegetable were selected randomly. Hence, in all 10 villages and 120 respondents were selected for the present study. majority of vegetable growers faced the problem of non-availability of fertilizers at reasonable price and lack of knowledge about calculation of fertilizer dose requirement (80.83%). Followed by non-availability of fertilizers at reasonable price and lack of knowledge about calculation of fertilizer dose requirement problem of market price fluctuation and unassured prices (77.50%), non-availability of quality seeds and planting material (75.83%), lack of proper knowledge about plant protection (70.83%).

**Key Words :** Post-harvest practices, Knowledge, Post-harvest practices, Problems

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## INTRODUCTION

In India, vegetables are valuable biological assets especially genetic resources. Vegetables are vital sources of proteins, vitamins, minerals, dietary fibers, micronutrients, antioxidants and phytochemicals in our daily diet. Apart from nutrition, they also contain a wide array of potential phyto-chemicals like anti-carcinogenic principles and anti-oxidants (e.g. flavonoids, glucosinolates and isothyocynates). The problems of vegetable growers are numerous; however, lack of market infrastructure and price fluctuation seems to be major bottleneck in the sustained development of vegetable production. Vegetable development depends not only on production but also on post-harvest management and marketing system.Vegetable cultivation being labour intensive can substantially increase employment avenues too. Large number of researches are done particularly in extension education is in the area

of pomology and agronomical crops. Scanty efforts through study of vegetable have been made. The studies in field of problems of vegetable growers are very rare.

**Specific objectives of the study :**

– To study the knowledge of post-harvest practices followed by vegetable growers.

– To study the problems faced by vegetable growers.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Among 14 tahsils of Ahmednagar district Akole tahsil was selected according to maximum tribal area. Out of 191 villages of Akole tahsil 10 villages were selected for present study. The list of vegetable growers from the selected villages was prepared with the help of village level functionaries namely Talathi and Gramsevak. A total of 12 vegetable growers from each village with minimum 1 acre area under major vegetable were selected randomly. Hence, in all 10 villages and 120 respondents were selected for the present study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the data presented in Table 1. we can say that most of the respondent have complete knowledge about post harvest practices of tomato *i.e.* sorting (77.50 %), grading (66.66 %), packaging (50.00 %), transporting (45.83 %), marketing (45.83 %). Very less percentage

**Table 1 : Distribution of respondents according to cropwise knowledge about post harvest practices**

| Sr. No. | Practices | Knowledge | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Complete | Partial | No |
| **(A) Knowledge about post harvest practices of Tomato** | | | | |
| 1. | Sorting | 93(77.50) | 27(22.50) | 00(00.00) |
| 2. | Grading | 80(66.66) | 34(28.34) | 06((05.00) |
| 3. | Packaging | 60(50.00) | 50(41.66) | 10(08.34) |
| 4. | Transporting | 55(45.83) | 40(33.33) | 25(20.84) |
| 5. | Marketing | 55(45.83) | 30(25.00) | 35(29.17) |
| **(B) Knowledge about post harvest practices of Cabbage** | | | | |
| Sr. No. | Practices | | Knowledge | |
| | | Complete | Partial | No |
| 1. | Sorting | 57(47.50) | 23(19.67) | 40(33.33) |
| 2. | Grading | 40(33.33) | 25(20.84) | 55(45.83) |
| 3. | Packaging | 43(35.83) | 22(18.34) | 55(45.83) |
| 4. | Transporting | 48(40.00) | 40(33.34) | 32(26.64) |
| 5. | Marketing | 60(50.00) | 30(25.00) | 30(25.00) |
| **(C) Knowledge about post harvest practices of cauliflower** | | | | |
| Sr. No. | Practices | | Knowledge | |
| | | Complete | Partial | No |
| 1. | Sorting | 25(20.84) | 34(28.33) | 61(50.83) |
| 2. | Grading | 23(19.16) | 28(23.34) | 69(57.50) |
| 3. | Packaging | 45(37.50) | 38(31.67) | 37(30.83) |
| 4. | Transporting | 48(40.00) | 32(26.67) | 40(33.33) |
| 5. | Marketing | 50(41.67) | 40(33.33) | 30(25.00) |
| **(D) Knowledge about post harvest practices of Chilli** | | | | |
| Sr. No. | Practices | | Knowledge | |
| | | Complete | Partial | No |
| 1. | Grading | 20(16.67) | 30(25.00) | 70(58.33) |
| 2. | Drying | 90(75.00) | 30(25.00) | 00(00.00) |
| 3. | Packaging | | | |
| a. | Green chillies | 68(56.67) | 34(28.33) | 18(15.00) |
| b. | Dry chillies | 63(52.50) | 30(25.00) | 27(22.50) |
| 4. | Transporting | 25(20.84) | 36(30.00) | 59(49.16) |
| 5. | Marketing | 30(25.00) | 38(31.67) | 52(43.33) |

(Figures in parenthesis indicates percentages)

**Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to problems faced by them**

| Sr. No. | Problems | Number of respondents (n = 120) | Percentage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Non-availability of required fertilizers with reasonable price | 97 | 80.83 |
| 2. | More fluctuation in market price (unassured prices) | 93 | 77.50 |
| 3. | Non-availability of quality seeds and planting material | 91 | 75.83 |
| 4. | Lack of proper knowledge about plant protection | 85 | 70.83 |
| 5. | Lack of information about improved varieties and technology | 84 | 70.00 |
| 6. | Non-availability of labour at the time of planting and harvesting | 82 | 68.33 |
| 7. | Higher costs of insecticide pesticide and weedicide etc. | 81 | 67.50 |
| 8. | Unavailability of canals for irrigation | 77 | 64.16 |
| 9. | Lack of timely credit availability from finance agency, lengthy and complicated process for getting loan | 76 | 63.33 |
| 10. | Irregular supply of electricity during crop growth | 75 | 62.50 |
| 11. | Less technical knowledge about seed/seedling treatment | 73 | 60.83 |
| 12. | Inadequate guidance by village extension personnel and agriculture department | 60 | 50.00 |

of farmers have complete knowledge about post harvest practices of cabbage *i.e.* sorting (47.50 %), grading (33.33 %), packaging (35.83 %), transporting (40.00 %), and marketing (50.00 %). More than half of the respondents have complete knowledge about drying (75.00 %), packaging (56.67 %) and 58.33 per cent of the respondent has no knowledge about grading of chilli.

From the Table 2 it is observed that a majority of vegetable growers faced the problem of non-availability of fertilizers at reasonable price and lack of knowledge about calculation of fertilizer dose requirement (80.83%). Followed by non-availability of fertilizers at reasonable price and lack of knowledge about calculation of fertilizer dose requirement problem of market price fluctuation and unassured prices (77.50%), non-availability of quality seeds and planting material (75.83%), lack of proper knowledge about plant protection (70.83%).

## Conclusion:

Most of the respondent have complete knowledge about post harvest practices of tomato *i.e.* sorting (77.50 %), grading (66.66 %), packaging (50.00 %), transporting (45.83 %), marketing (45.83 %). Very less percentage of farmers have complete knowledge about post harvest practices of cabbage *i.e.* sorting (47.50 %), grading (33.33 %), packaging (35.83 %), transporting (40.00 %), and marketing (50.00 %). Majority of vegetable growers faced the problem of non-availability of fertilizers at reasonable price and lack of knowledge about calculation of fertilizer dose requirement (80.83%).

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