

## Constraints and suggestions of pearl millet grower in Maharashtra

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### ABSTRACT

Investigation was carried out during the year 2008-09. Multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of the district, tehsil, villages and farmers. Overall ninety six pearl millet growers were selected for present study. The data were collected from the sample farmers by personal interview method with the help of pretested schedule. The frequency and percentage method was used to analyse the data. The results revealed that, higher rate of fertilizer (78.13 per cent), low market value of pearl millet (65.53 per cent), non-availability of fertilizers in time (60.42 per cent), lack of rainfall (55.20 per cent) and non-availability of labour at time of harvesting (53.12 per cent) were the major constraints of pearl millet growers. To overcome these constraints, the adoption of organic farming (65.62 per cent), selling of pearl millet through different types of tasty products (60.42 per cent), adoption of contract system of harvesting (58.33 per cent) early purchasing of fertilizers with availability at village level (57.29 per cent) were the suggestions of pearl millet grower.

### INTRODUCTION

Pearl millet (*Pennisetum typhoides*) belongs to the family Graminae. The origin of pearl millet has been traced to tropical Africa. pearl millet has a number of advantages that it is the traditional staple cereal crop in subsistence or low resource agriculture in hot semi-arid region. It is well adapted to the production system characterized by drought, low soil fertility and high temperature. In Maharashtra state, one-third of the cultivated area is under almost drought prone and famine hunted. This region receives scanty rainfall, which is having unpredictable and extremely variable in which pearl millet is grown extensively as staple food crop which has ability to withstand the adverse condition. Though the pearl millet crop is the major rainfed crop and it has some constraints in the production which are being faced by the pearl millet growers. There are problems for low production but on an overall assessment, some are the major area under the low yielding non-descript varieties. Such type of constraints of pearl millet growers can be occurred due to non-availability of fertilizers in time, non-availability of required seed in time, low market value for pearl millet and so on. There is necessity to overcome these constraints therefore, it has to take the suggestions of the farmers. Keeping in view the above aspects, the present study has been undertaken to know the constraints and the suggestions of pearl millet

growers.

### METHODOLOGY

Beed district was purposively selected for present study because of higher area under pearl millet. From the district the Georai tehsil was selected for the study due to highest area under pearl millet. Eight villages were selected randomly from the Georai tehsil. The list of pearl millet growers was obtained from each of eight villages. From one village, twelve farmers were randomly selected. In this way ninety six pearl millet growers were selected for present study. Cross sectional data were collected from the sample farmers by personal interview method with the help of pretested schedule. Data were related to constraints and suggestions of pearl millet growers for the year 2008-09. Frequency and percentage method was used to analyze the data in the present study.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented in Table 1 and 2.

#### *Constraints of pearl millet growers:*

Constraints faced by pearl millet growers were estimated in the form of frequency and percentage and are presented in Table 1. The results revealed that, higher rate of fertilizer was expressed by 78.13 per cent of pearl millet

### Key words :

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**Table 1 : Constraints of pearl millet growers**

Constraint	Frequency (n=96)	Per cent	Rank
1. Non-availability of labour at the time of harvesting	51	53.12	V
2. Higher wages of labour	40	41.66	VI
3. Low market value for pearl millet	63	65.63	II
4. Lack of rainfall	53	55.20	IV
5. Higher rates of fertilizers	75	78.13	I
6. Non-availability of credit in time	24	25.00	X
7. Higher seed cost	32	33.33	VII
8. Non-availability of fertilizers in time	58	60.42	III
9. Non-availability of vehicle in time in village for transportation	27	28.12	IX
10. Higher rates of transportation	29	30.21	VIII

growers. In next order, low market value of pearl millet was one of the major problem which was expressed by 65.63 per cent of pearl millet grower. The reasons for low market value might be due to less response of consumers from distance places. Similarly, non-availability of fertilizers in time was also expressed by 60.42 per cent of pearl millet growers. Lack of rainfall and non-availability of labour at the time of harvesting were also found major problems which were expressed by 55.20 and 53.12 per cent of pearl millet growers, respectively. On the contrary, higher rate for ploughing by tractors, higher wages of labour, higher seed cost, low yield from pearl millet, non-availability of means as well as roads and non-availability of credit in time were also found important problem in pearl millet cultivation. The results are in conformity with the results obtained by Rao (1998) with regard to high cost of hybrid seed. Sagar and Singh (1988) reported that low yielding non-descript varieties of pearl millet, high cost of fertilizers, lack of awareness about plant protection were found as major constraints. Gill and Turton (2001) studied the constraints on improvement in pearl millet crop and stated that poor soil fertility, unreliable rainfall, labour scarcity during planting season were some of the major constraints in pearl millet production. Patil (2003) reported the main constraints in pearl millet production like the non-availability of labour in time, high commission charges, high transportation charges, fluctuations in prices and lack of storage facilities.

#### **Suggestions of pearl millet growers:**

Suggestions of pearl millet growers were calculated

**Table 2 : Suggestions of pearl millet growers**

Suggestions	Frequency (n=96)	Per cent	Rank
1. Use of contract system of harvesting	56	58.33	III
2. Adoption of new techniques of operations for reduction of human labours	37	38.54	VII
3. Selling of pearl millet through different tasty products	58	60.42	II
4. Construction of protective irrigation systems like dam/well/watershed through Govt.schemes	45	46.88	V
5. Adoption of organic farming by using vermi compost and manures	63	65.62	I
6. Provision of loan with low interest rate by financing institute	30	31.25	VIII
7. Provision for low seed cost	38	39.58	VI
8. Early purchasing of fertilizers and with available at village level	55	57.29	IV
9. Creation of roads by Govt. and provision of finance for purchasing of means of transportation	28	29.17	IX
10. Provision for low transportation rates	24	25.00	X

in the form of frequency and percentage which are presented in Table 2. It was observed that 65.62 per cent of the pearl millet growers suggested the adoption of organic farming with use of vermicompost, and manures. In next order, 60.42 per cent of pearl millet growers suggested that there should be selling of the produce through different types of tasty processed products. Adoption of contract system of harvesting was suggested by 58.33 per cent of pearl millet growers. In next order, early purchasing of fertilizers with availability at village level was suggested by 57.29 per cent of pearl millet growers. Similarly, construction of protective irrigation system like dam / well / watershed through Govt. schemes, cheap seed cost and adoption of new techniques of operations for reduction of human labours was suggested by 46.88, 39.58 and 38.54 per cent of pearl millet growers, respectively. It was clear that some of the suggestions were minor but important in which provision of loan with low interest rate by financing institute was suggested by 31.25 per cent of the growers followed by

creation of roads by Govt. and provision of finance for purchasing of means for transportation (29.17 per cent) and low rates for transportation (25.00 per cent). Thus, policy implications can be framed with consideration of suggestions of pearlmillet growers.

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