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Constraints and suggestions of banana growers in drip and flood irrigated systems

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ABSTRACT

Investigation was carried out during the year 2007-08. From six villages of Ardhapur tehsil of Nanded district, forty eight drip irrigated and fourty eight flood irrigated banana growers were randomly selected for the study. Cross sectional data were collected from the banana growers with the help of pretested schedule by personal interview method. The frequency and percentage method was used to analyse the data. The results revealed that banana growers faced many problems like regular load shading of electricity for too long interval in day time that was expressed by 93.78 per cent and 89.58 per cent of drip and flood irrigated banana growers, respectively. Non-availability of labours for harvesting in time was next major problem which was expressed by 79.17 per cent and 72.92 per cent of drip and flood irrigated banana growers, respectively. To overcome these constraints it was observed that supply of electricity that was suggested by 87.50 per cent and 83.33 per cent of drip and flood irrigated banana growers, respectively.

Key words : Banana, Constraints, Frequency, Suggestions, Rank

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INTRODUCTION

Banana (*Musa paradisica* L.) is one of the most important fruit crops in the world. South-East Asian countries especially eastern Malaysia is believed to be the centre of origin of banana. India is the largest producer of banana in the world.

In India, banana is popularly known as *Kalptaru* (a plant with virtue). It is tree that all parts can be used in consumption owing to its rich and easily digestible carbohydrates. Its leaves are universally used for serving meals in south, chopped banana stems are used as cattle feed, some species of the banana yield fibre.

There are individual state problems for low production but on an overall assessment, some are the major areas under the crop planted with low yielding varieties such type of constraints faced by banana growers can be occurred due to non-availability of fertilizers in time, regular load shading of electricity for too long an interval in long time and so on. There is necessity to overcome these constraints therefore, it has to take the suggestions to overcome the constraints by the farmers. Keeping in view the above aspects, the present study has been undertaken.

METHODOLOGY

Nanded district was purposively selected for present study because of favourable climate to grow banana. From the district Ardhapur tehsil was selected on the basis of the highest area under banana crop. From Ardhapur tehsil eight villages were selected on the basis of highest area under banana crop. From each village, separate list of drip and flood irrigated banana growers were obtained. From the lists, 6 drip irrigated banana growers and 6 flood irrigated banana growers were randomly selected from each of the villages. Thus, from eight villages, 48 drip irrigated and 48 flood irrigated banana growers were selected for the 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 the problems and suggestions of banana growers for the year 2007-08. Frequency and percentage method were used to analyse the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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

Constraints faced by drip and flood irrigated banana growers:

Constraints faced by drip irrigated and flood irrigated banana growers were calculated in frequency and percentage form and are presented in Table 1. The results revealed that regular load shading of electricity for too long

interval in day time was severe problems which was expressed by 93.75 and 89.58 per cent in drip and flood irrigated banana growers, respectively. Non-availability of labours for harvesting in time was next major problem which was expressed by 79.17 per cent of drip irrigated banana growers followed by 72.92 per cent of flood irrigated banana growers. Lack of farm road was obtained by 72.92 and 62.50 per cent of drip and flood irrigated banana growers, respectively. High rate of tractor services was also found one of the major problems which was expressed by 66.67 per cent of drip irrigated banana growers while that was also expressed by 58.33 per cent of flood irrigated banana growers. In next in order, higher wages of labour in harvesting season was expressed by 60.42 and 56.27 per cent of drip and flood irrigated banana growers, respectively. Difficulties in control of weed was expressed by 79.17 per cent of flood irrigated banana growers followed by 52.17 per cent of drip irrigated banana growers. In short high rate of fertilizers, low rate of banana fruit in market, non-availability of loan in time and non-availability of means of transportation in village were also considerable problems of drip and flood irrigated banana growers.

Suggestions of drip and flood irrigated banana growers:

Suggestions of drip and flood irrigated banana growers were calculated in the form of frequency and percentage which are presented in Table 2. It was observed that 87.50 per cent of the drip irrigated banana growers suggested the regular supply of electricity. Similarly, well construction of roads was suggested by 77.08 per cent of the drip irrigated banana growers. In next order contract system for harvesting, subsidization of diesel prices for reducing cost of tractor services, use of mechanization in farming were suggested by 70.83, 60.42 and 54.17 per cent of the drip irrigated banana growers, respectively. It was clear that some of suggestions were minor but important in which availability of cheap and effective weedicides was suggested by

Table 1 : Constraints of drip and flood irrigated banana growers

Constraint	Drip irrigated banana garden		Flood irrigated banana garden	
	Frequency (n=48)	Per cent	Frequency (n=48)	Per cent
Difficulties in control of weed	25	52.08	38	79.17
Regular load shading of electricity for too long an interval	45	93.78	43	89.58
High rates of tractor services	32	66.67	28	58.33
Non-availability of labour for harvesting in time	38	79.17	35	72.92
High rates of fertilizers	26	54.17	31	64.58
Non-availability of means of transportation in village	15	31.25	18	37.50
Low rates of banana fruit in market	18	37.50	23	47.92
Non-availability of loan in time	20	41.67	13	27.08
Higher wages of labour at the time of harvesting	29	60.42	27	56.27
Lack of farm road	35	72.92	30	62.50

Table 2 : Suggestions of drip and flood irrigated banana growers

Suggestions	Drip irrigated banana garden		Flood irrigated banana garden	
	Frequency (n=48)	Per cent	Frequency (n=48)	Per cent
Availability of cheap and effective weedicides	22	45.83	35	72.92
Supply of electricity regularly	42	87.50	40	83.33
Subsidization of diesel prices for reducing the cost of tractor services	29	60.42	27	56.25
Contract system for harvesting	34	70.83	31	64.58
Provision of low rate of fertilizers by government at village level	12	25.00	33	68.75
Provision of finance for purchasing the means for transportation	12	25.00	16	33.33
Marketing facilities in long distance market	15	31.25	20	41.67
Provision of loan with low interest from financing agency	17	35.42	10	20.83
Use of mechanization in farming	26	54.17	24	50.00
Well construction of roads by government	37	77.08	32	66.67

45.83 per cent of the banana growers, provision of loan with low interest rate from financing agency (35.42 per cent), marketing facilities in long distance market (31.25 per cent) and provision of finance for purchasing the means for transport (25.00 per cent) of the drip irrigated banana growers. It was also observed from Table 2 that 83.33 per cent of the flood irrigated banana growers suggested the regular supply of electricity. In next order, availability of cheap and effective weedicides, provision of low rate of fertilizers by government and should available at village level, well construction of roads by government and contract system for harvesting were suggested by 72.32, 68.75, 66.67 and 64.58 per cent of the flood irrigated banana growers, respectively. It was clear that some of suggestions were minor but important in which subsidization of diesel prices for reducing cost of tractors (56.25 per cent), use of mechanization in farming (50.00 per cent), marketing facilities in long distance market (41.67 per cent), provision of finance for purchasing the means for transport (33.33 per cent) and provision of loan with low interest rate from financing agency (20.83 per cent) were suggested by the flood irrigated banana growers. The results are in conformity as obtained by Satpute (1991), Wakle *et al.* (1999) and Yadav (2000).

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