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Constraints experienced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Ratnagiri district of Konkan region to understand the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems and to seek suggestions of the farmers to overcome it. In all sample of 200 farmers were selected from four Tahsils by using n^{th} number method of random sampling. The farmers experienced the constraints namely 'scarcity of water for irrigation', 'production cost is higher, hence the farming system is expensive', 'high labour cost', 'lack of technical skills', 'low price for milk', 'low milk yield', 'non-availability of veterinary facility' and 'high cost of poultry feed' in adopting different farming systems in both the farming systems. The farmers offered certain suggestions like, 'irrigation facilities may be created through government assistance to avoid scarcity of water', 'fertilizers and seeds should be provided at subsidized rate', 'low cost production technology should be developed, so that production cost is minimized', 'government should purchase the rice at proper price', and 'milk should be purchased at higher price'.

Key words : Farming system, Constraints and suggestions.

INTRODUCTION

It was noticed by various authors that, Konkan region of Maharashtra was under various farming systems from social, economic and employment generation point of view. Those were not found to be more efficient and economically viable to the farmers of this region. The inception of the Departments of Agriculture and Horticulture, SAU and particularly launching of Horticultural Development Programme(H.D.D.) linked with Employment Guarantee Scheme (E.G.S.) has introduced various farming systems in the region. This has resulted into adopting various farming systems by the farming community but not to the extent that change their socio-economic status. This indicates that there are some constraints. For understanding the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting the different farming systems, this study was undertaken with specific objectives to understand the constraints faced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems and to seek suggestions of the farmers to overcome the constraints in adopting different farming systems.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Ratnagiri district of Konkan region was purposively selected for the study, as it has more diversified farming systems. Four Tahsils having maximum area under the cultivation of rice and horticultural crops were selected purposively. Based on the area, two Tahsils Khed and Sangameshwar were selected for rice based farming system and other two Tahsils Ratnagiri and Lanja were selected for the horticulture based farming system. Fifty farmers from five villages in each Tahsil were selected by n^{th} number method of random sampling, making a sample of 200 farmers. The data were collected with the help of structured interview schedule. Personal interview technique was used for data collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints faced by the farmers in adopting different farming systems:

The present study focused on the constraints in four enterprise combinations in rice based and horti based farming system area. The results are presented in Table 1. The results presented in Table 1 are explained in succeeding paragraphs.

Only crops:

It is observed that majority (92.74 per cent) of the farmers reported 'scarcity of water for irrigation' as their constraint. An equal number (81.45 per cent) of farmers reported, 'production cost is higher, hence the farming system is expensive' and 'non-availability of labour'. Two third (66.93 per cent) of the farmers faced the problem of 'minimum support price, particularly for hybrid rice, is low', while 65.32 per cent and 60.48 per cent each had faced the constraints namely ' higher cost of seeds and fertilizers', 'lack of processing facility' and 'non-availability of skilled labour', respectively. Fifty per cent (50.00 per cent) of farmers reported 'Non-availability of finance' as their constraints.

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Table 1 : Distribution of farmers according to their constraints in adopting different farming systems

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Only crops	(N=124)	
	Scarcity of water for irrigation	115	92.74
	Production cost is higher, hence the farming system is expensive	101	81.45
	Non-availability of labour	101	81.45
	Minimum support price, particularly for hybrid rice, is low	83	66.93
	Higher cost of seeds and fertilizers	81	65.32
	Lack of processing facility	75	60.48
	Non-availability of skilled labour	75	60.48
	Non-availability of finance	62	50.00
2.	Crops + dairy	(N=60)	
	Scarcity of water for irrigation	55	91.66
	Non-availability of skilled labour	47	78.33
	Low milk yield	46	76.66
	High labour cost	43	71.66
	Low price for milk	40	66.66
	Lack of cooperation bank from officials	39	65.00
	Lack of veterinary facility	38	63.33
	Higher cost of seeds and fertilizers	35	58.33
	Lack of technical skills	32	53.33
	Shortage of green fodder during summer season	31	51.66
3.	Crops + Poultry	(N=3)	
	Scarcity of water for irrigation	3	100.00
	High labour cost	3	100.00
	Lack of technical skills	3	100.00
	Higher cost of seeds and fertilizers	2	66.66
	Non-availability of loan from the banks	2	66.66
	Death of birds due to diseases	2	66.66
	Non-availability of veterinary facility	2	66.66
	High cost of poultry feed	2	66.66
	High cost of cages	2	66.66
4.	Crops + Dairy + Poultry	(N=13)	
	Low price to milk	11	84.61
	Shortage of water for irrigation during the post winter and summer season	10	76.92
	Non-availability of skilled labour	10	76.92
	Low milk yield	10	76.92
	High production cost	9	69.23
	High labour cost	9	69.23

Crops + Dairy:

It is observed that 'scarcity of water for irrigation' was the important constraint, as reported by 91.66 per cent of the respondents. 'Non-availability of skilled labour' (78.33 per cent), 'low milk yield' (76.66 per cent), 'high labour cost ' (71.66 per cent), 'lower price of milk' (66.66 per cent), 'lack of cooperation from bank officials' (65.00 per cent), 'lack of veterinary facility' (63.33 per cent), 'high cost of seeds and fertilizers' (58.33 per cent) 'lack of technical skills' (53.33 per cent) and 'shortage of green fodder during summer season' (51.66 per cent) were the other major constraints faced by the farmers.

Crops + Poultry:

The major constraints faced by the farmers were 'scarcity of water for irrigation', 'high labour cost' and 'lack of technical skill', as reported by 100.00 per cent of the farmers. Two third (66.66 per cent) of the farmers reported the 'higher cost of seeds and fertilizers', 'non-availability of loan from the banks', 'death of birds due to diseases', 'non-availability of veterinary facility', 'high cost of poultry feed' and 'high cost of cages' as their major constraints.

Crops + Dairy + Poultry:

'Low price for milk' was reported as a main constraint by 84.61 per cent farmers. 'Shortage of water for irrigation during the post winter and summer season', 'non-availability of skilled labour' and 'low milk yield' were the constraints reported by 76.92 per cent each of the farmers, while 69.23 per cent each of the farmers reported ' high production cost' and 'high labour cost' as their the major constraints.

The results of the present study are supported by the studies of Naik (1998), Veerkar *et al*. (2002), Anonymous (2003) and Khadse (2003).

Suggestions of the farmers to overcome the constraints in adopting different farming systems:

The results presented in Table 2 are explained in succeeding paragraphs.

Only crops:

It is seen from Table 2 that at overall level, the farmers gave the major suggestions like 'irrigation facilities may be created through government assistance to avoid the scarcity of water' (90.32 per cent), 'fertilizers and seeds should be provided at subsidized rate' (76.61 per cent), 'government should purchase the rice at proper price' (64.51 per cent), and 'low cost technology should be developed' (62.90 per cent).

Table 2 : Distribution of the farmers according to their suggestions to overcome the constraints in adopting different farming systems

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Only crops	(N=124)	
	Irrigation facilities may be created through government assistance to avoid the scarcity of water	112	90.32
	Fertilizers and seeds should be provided at subsidized rate	95	76.61
	Government should purchase the rice at proper price	80	64.51
	Low cost technology should be developed	78	62.90
2.	Crops + Dairy	(N=60)	
	Water conservation programme should be started with the government's assistance	52	86.66
	Finance should be provided at less interest rate by banks	33	55.00
	Milk should be purchased at higher price by the cooperative society	32	53.33
	Fertilizers and seeds should be provided at subsidized rate by the government	31	51.66
	Veterinary facilities should be provided in the village	31	51.66
3.	Crops + Poultry	(N=3)	
	Irrigation facilities should be created with the help of the government	3	100.00
	Seeds and fertilizers should be provided at subsidized rate by the government	3	100.00
	Banks should provide the loan at lower interest rate	1	33.00
	Vaccination facilities should be provided in the village	1	33.33
	Poultry feed should be made available at low cost	1	33.33
4.	Crops + Dairy + Poultry	(N=13)	
	Water conservation programmes should be started in co-ordination with the government departments	10	76.92
	Low cost production technology should be developed, so that production cost is minimised	7	53.84
	Milk should be purchased at higher price	7	53.84

Crops + Dairy:

The suggestions namely 'water conservation programme should be started with government assistance' (86.66 per cent), 'finance should be provided at less interest rate by banks' (55.00 per cent), 'milk should be purchased at higher price by the cooperative society' (53.33 per cent), and 'fertilizers and seeds should be provided at subsidized rate by the government' and 'veterinary facilities should be provided in the village' (51.66 per cent each) were made by the farmers.

Crops + Poultry:

All (100.00 per cent each) the farmers reported, 'irrigation facilities should be created with the help of government' and 'seeds and fertilizers should be provided at subsidized rate by the government' as their major suggestions. While equal number (33.33 per cent) of farmers reported 'banks should provide the loan at lower interest rate', 'vaccination facilities should be provided in the village' and 'Poultry feed should be made available at low cost' as their other constraints.

Crops + Dairy + Poultry:

From Table 2 it is seen that at overall level, the farmers gave the major suggestions like 'water conservation programmes should be started in co-ordination with government' (76.92 per cent), 'low cost production technology should be developed, so that production cost is minimized' and 'milk should be purchased at higher price' (53.84 per cent).

The results of the present investigation are in conformity with the results reported by Dake (1994) and Anonymous (2004).

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