



Constraints and suggestions of soybean production in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

An interview schedule was administered on the respondents to find out the constraints and suggestions faced by soybean growers. About 180 soybean growers were selected from Latur district of Maharashtra. Data pertained to the year 2007-08. Frequency and percentage method was used to analyse the opinion. The result revealed that, constraints like attack of insect pests and diseases was expressed by 74.45 per cent of soybean growers. In next order, shortage of labour at time of harvesting (62.78 per cent), and low price of soybean at the time of harvesting (61.11 per cent) were major constraints by the soybean growers. In regard to suggestions, provision of training in regard to pest and disease controls was suggested by 61.11 per cent, followed by provision of high rate for soybean was suggested by 53.89 per cent farmers.

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INTRODUCTION

Soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] is major oilseed crop in India. It is grown successfully in various agro-climatic conditions. Though, soybean is a legume crop, yet it is widely used as oilseed crop. The oilseed sector is associated with various problems related to their production and marketing. These problems may be technological, economical, educational as well as infrastructural ones. The farmers are not adopting the recommended production technology of the soybean crop. They still cling to their age old traditional practices and getting lower yield. Further more, certain constraints like ineffective transfer of technology, less research work held on soybean crop and so on. In Latur district majority of soybean growers are mostly marginal and small who adopt low standard management technology *viz.*, lower doses of inputs like fertilizers and plant protection materials which result into exceptionally poor soybean yield. Timely sowing and harvesting are more important in soybean crop. In spite of high productivity of soybean, producers are not getting remunerative prices due to inefficient marketing. The major share goes to marketing cost and other charges as a result of low remunerative price gained by the producers.

Fulley *et al.* (2006) studied the constraints in soybean production technology. Results revealed that, majority of soybean growers reported that shortage of labours at the time of harvesting (65 per cent), lack of technical knowledge (56 per cent) and unfavorable weather condition at the time of harvesting (55 per cent) were the major constraints in soybean production.

METHODOLOGY

For present study, multistage sampling design was adopted for selection of the district, tehsil, villages and soybean growers. In the first stage, Latur district was purposely selected on the basis of highest area under soybean crop from Marathwads region of Maharashtra. In the second stage, Latur and Renapur tehsils were purposely selected because of highest area under soybean crop. In the third stage, six village from Latur tehsil and six villages from Renapur tehsil were selected on the basis of highest area under soybean crop. In the fourth stage, fifteen soybean growers were selected from each of the selected villages of both the tehsils. In this way 180 soybean growers were selected for present study. Data were collected from with the help of pretested schedule by personal

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interview method for the year 2007-08.

RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussions have been summarized under the following heads.

Constraints faced by soybean growers:

Constraints faced by soybean growers in production and marketing of soybean were calculated in frequency and percentage are presented in Table 1. It was observed that, constraint of attack of insect pests and diseases was expressed by 74.45 per cent which adversely affect the production and productivity of soybean. In the next order, shortage and of labour at time of harvesting was expressed by 62.78 per cent, of the growers. In case of marketing of soybean, low price of soybean at the time of harvesting, 61.11 per cent was major constraint followed by non-availability of fertilizer in time (60.00 per cent), These

results are in accordance to those of Nirmal *et al.* (1996) and Kulkarni and Kunnal (2002) related to insect pests and diseases, high labour wages, price fluctuation and transportation cost.

Suggestions of soybean growers:

Suggestions of soybean growers in regard to production and marketing of soybean were calculated in the form of frequency and percentage and are presented in Table 2. It was observed that about 61.11 per cent of soybean growers suggested the provision of training in regard to insect pest and disease control. In the next order, contract system for harvesting and provision of high rate for soybean were suggested by 54.44 per cent and 53.89 per cent, respectively. In next order, provision of supply of fertilizer in time (52.78 per cent), release of resistant variety for shattering of pods (45.55 per cent) and reduction in commission charges (44.44 per cent) were important suggestions given by soybean growers. These

Table 1 : Constraints faced by soybean growers

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency (n=180)	Per cent	Rank
1.	Shortage of labour at the time of harvesting	113	62.78	II
2.	Attack of insect pests and diseases	134	74.45	I
3.	Either inadequate or heavy rainfall	79	43.88	IX
4.	Non-availability of desired fertilizer in time	108	60.00	IV
5.	Non-availability of desired chemical in local area	67	37.22	X
6.	High cost of inputs	62	34.45	XI
7.	Shattering of pods before harvesting	100	55.56	V
8.	Non-availability of threshing machine in time	60	33.33	XII
9.	Inadequate transportation facilities	83	46.11	VII
10.	High transportation cost	81	45.00	VIII
11.	High commission charges	93	51.67	VI
12.	Low price of soybean at the time of harvesting	110	61.11	III

Table 2 : Suggestions given by soybean growers

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency (n=180)	Per cent	Rank
1.	Contract system for harvesting	98	54.44	II
2.	Provision of training in regard to insect pest and disease control	110	61.11	I
3.	Provision of land leveling water conservation and drainage	66	36.67	IX
4.	Provision of supply of fertilizers in time	95	52.78	IV
5.	Provision of supply of chemicals at village level in time	65	36.11	X
6.	Availability of inputs through cooperatives	53	29.45	XI
7.	Release of resistant variety for shattering of pods	82	45.55	V
8.	High speed harvesting technology to be provided	52	28.89	XII
9.	Provision of transportation means in time	75	41.67	VII
10.	Reduction in transportation charges through cooperatives	70	38.89	VIII
11.	Reduction in commission charges	80	44.44	VI
12.	Provision of high rate for soybean	97	53.89	III

various findings match with Padmaiah (2004) and Kumar *et al.* (2005).

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