RESEARCH ARTICLE

Socio-economic profile contraints faced by aonla growers in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Ratlam district of Madhya Pradesh to find out the constraints faced by aonla growers in adoption of improve cultivation practices of aonla. 120 aonla growers were selected randomly from three Blocks of district. The data were collected by personally interviewing the respondent and analysed statistically. The result of study depicted that majority of aonla growers faced the major constraints towards adoption of improved cultivation practices, non-availability of planting material from reliable sources, lack of knowledge about budding and grafting, higher cost of pesticides and fungicides, fertilizers and non-availability food processing and value addition units for overcoming these constraints. Aonla growers suggested to make strategies for marketing guidance, ensured transportation, popularizing high density orcharding, proper pruning after harvesting and availability of quality planting material for aonla cultivation.

INTRODUCTION

Aonla is one of the most delicious fruits of arid tropics, which has high medicinal and nutritional values and having vast potential to grow under diverse soils and agro-climatic conditions. It is a minor fruit and a crop of commercial significances, quite hardy, prolific bearer and highly remunerative even without much care. At present aonla ranks next to mango in area and production, Ist position in minor fruits and 8th position in tropical fruit in India. Therefore, it was thought necessary to know how far the aonla growers adopt the recommended practices. The adoption of improved technology by the farmers is imperative. Farmer behaviour is conditioned by many factors that interact with each other. In such situations, it is essential to know how these factors influence adoption behaviour of aonla growers. The study was undertaken to know the constrains in adoption of improved technology of aonla. The major objectives of the study were as follows: to find out the constraints faced by aonla growers in adoption of improved cultivation practices, to analyse the relationship of socio-economic profile with level of knowledge and adoption of improved practices and to know the suggestions of aonla growers to overcome the constraints.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted under Piploda, Jaora and Alote Blocks of Ratlam district (M.P.). A sample of 120 aonla growers was selected randomly in the present study. The data were collected from selected growers, processed and statically analysed by applying Karl Pearson's correlation test between different characteristics of farmers with knowledge and adoption of improved practices of aonla cultivation. Simple percentage was work out to know the factors as well as constraints faced by the growers regarding knowledge and adoption of improve practices of aonla cultivation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is revealed from Table 1 that constraints faced by aonla growers in use of improved varieties, the important one was non-availability of planting material from reliable sources (90%). While constraints towards planting operation included lack of knowledge about budding and grafting whereas high cost of

Table 1: Constraints faced by aonla growers in adoption of improved cultivation		(n=120)	
Sr. No.	Constraints	No. of respondents	%
1.	**Improved seed**		
	Lack of seedling	106	88.33
	Lack of high quality planting material	105	87.50
	Non-availability of planting material from reliable sources	108	90.00
2.	**Planting operations**		
	Lack of knowledge about budding and grafting	103	85.83
	Lack of knowledge regarding preparation of pit and then filling	101	84.16
	Lack of knowledge about method of planting	100	83.33
	Lack of management skill after planting	102	85.00
	Imbalance use of fertilizers application	95	79.16
	Improper irrigation managements	94	78.33
3.	**Adoption of plant protection measures**		
	Lack of technical knowledge towards plant protection measures	102	85.00
	High cost of pesticides and fungicides	114	95.00
4.	**Inputs**		
	Non-availability of capital for purchase of inputs within time	82	68.33
	High cost of fertilizers	110	91.66
5.	**Others**		
	Poor marketing system	98	81.66
	Problem of transportation	105	87.50
	Poor extension system	108	90.00
	Improper pre and post harvest management	96	80.00
	Non availability of food processing- value addition unit	115	95.83
	Complicated policy and procedure of govt. loan	110	91.66
	Interference of middleman in marketing	70	58.33
	Labour problem	62	51.66

pesticides and fungicides, fertilizers and non-availability of food processing and value addition units were other major constraints faced by aonla growers in the Ratlam district.

Table 2 clearly shows that out of 11 independent variables only size of family was found statistically non-significant in selection of knowledge and adoption. Whereas, age, education, size of holdings, social participation, cosmopoliteness, extension contact, socio-economic status, attitude, source of information and adoption of improve practices of aonla cultivation were positive and highly significant except the relation between annual income in knowledge and adoption and that was significant at one per cent level of probability. Thus, it might be observed that for knowledge and adoption of improved cultivation practices, all independent variables except size of family should be encouraged. Similar findings were reported by Singh and Ratnakar (1970) and

Table 2: Distribution of aonla growers in relationship of socio-economic profile with level of knowledge and adoption of improved practices (n= 120)		
Sr. No.	Independent variables	Dependent variable (Knowledge r value)	Adoption
1.	Age	0.706**	0.682**
2.	Education	0.705**	0.683**
3.	Size of family	0.082 NS	0.086NS
4.	Land holding	0.352**	0.330**
5.	Annual income	0.204*	0.218*
6.	Social participation	0.282**	0.288**
7.	Cosmo politeness	0.516**	0.486**
8.	Extension contact	0.595**	0.540**
9.	Socio-economic status	0.462**	0.445**
10.	Attitude	0.668**	0.626**
11.	Sources of information	0.503**	0.475**

* indicates significance of value at P=0.05
** indicates significance of value at P=0.01 d.f. = 118

Sr. No.	Strategies	No. of respondents	%
Table 3: Strategy made by aonla growers to overcome constraints (n=120)			
1.	Rejuvenation of old orchard	85	70.83
2.	Availability of quality planting material	82	68.33
3.	Popularizing high density orchard	90	75.00
4.	Supply of capital and resource of purchase of input in time	75	62.50
5.	Ensured transportation	94	78.33
6.	Marketing guidance	110	91.66
7.	Planting of different type of varieties in the same field to avoid self incompatibility	72	60.00
8.	Proper pruning after harvesting	84	70.00

Rai and Singh (2002).

Results of Table 3 show that majority of aonla growers (91.66%) wanted marketing guidance, ensured transportation (78.33%), popularization of high density orchard(75%), rejuvenation of old orchard(70.83%), proper pruning after harvesting (70%) and availability of quality planting material (68.33%) which were taken as the major strategies envisaged by aonla growers to overcome constraints for improving the practices of aonla cultivation.

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