

Analyze the need perception of the arecanut growers in Ratnagiri (M.S.)

M.M. BADHE* AND R.G. TAMBAT¹

Mahatama Phule Krishi Vidya Peeth, Rahuri, AHMEDNAGAR (M.S.) INDIA

ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Dapoli and Guhagar tahsils of Ratnagiri district of Konkan region. The sample was constituted 100 arecanut growers drawn from 10 villages. The respondents were interviewed with the help of a specially designed schedule. The exploratory survey design was used for the present study. Major suggestions of the rice growers were, 'need high yielding and big size nut variety', 'training be imparted on intercropping in arecanut', 'training should be given about arecanut cultivation', 'marketing and transport facilities should be developed.

Key words : Need perception, Arecanut growers

INTRODUCTION

Arecanut or betel nut or supari (*Areca catechu*) is one of the important commercial crops grown in India, since immemorial time. It is a matter of great proud that India at present ranks first in the world both in area and production of arecanut. Arecanut cultivation is said to be date back to pre christian era. This existence of the Sanskrit name 'kramuka' supports the view that this tree has been cultivated in India from very ancient times. Besides India, arecanut is grown in Sri Lanka, Borneo, Philipines, New Guinea, East Indies, East Indian Archipelago and Bangladesh. Arecanut is exported to the countries like Nepal, Singapore, Kenya and Malaysia where it is mainly used for chewing and extraction of alkaloid purpose as it has got medicinal properties such as astringent, narcotic, antihelmentic and vermifuge.

Major Arecanut producing countries of the world are India, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh. India ranks first in both area (58.00 per cent) and production (53.00 per cent) of arecanut. Total area under arecanut is around 3.2 lakh ha and the total production is around 3.4 lakh tonnes. Kerala and Karnataka account for about 70 per cent of country's production. Out of the total production the percentage of white variety is around 60.00 per cent and that of red variety is 40.00 per cent. Arecanut consumption in the country is around 3.3 lakh tonnes.

The need of present era is to increase the productivity of each and every crop. This could be achieved by adopting improved and high yield varieties and new technologies of crop plant. Dr. B.S. Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli has done valuable research work on major fruit crop of Konkan region. The university has recommended two varieties of arecanut namely Mangala and Shrivardhini and also other improved package of

practices for cultivation of arecanut crop for better production. Efforts are made to transfer these recommendations among the arecanut growers by the extension workers. However, it has been observed that arecanut growers are still following their age old practices of arecanut cultivation. The practices followed by the arecanut growers of Ratnagiri district have not been systematically documented so far. Hence, the study was undertaken to analyze the need perception of the arecanut growers in Ratnagiri (M.S.)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Dapoli and Guhagar tahsils from Ratnagiri district were selected, as area under arecanut cultivation in these tahsils was comparatively more than those of other tahsils of Ratnagiri district. List of villages cultivating arecanut from selected two tahsils were obtained from Department of Agriculture (Taluka Agricultural Officer). From this list, five villages having larger area under arecanut cultivation were selected. For selection of the respondents, a list of arecanut growers who possessed at least of 50 arecanut trees at one spot was obtained from the Agriculture Assistant/Krishi Sevak of the selected villages. Then from each of the selected village, 10 arecanut growers were selected by using 'nth number method of random selection. Thus the 100 respondents comprised the sample for the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The finding obtained from the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads:

Need perception of the arecanut growers :

Suggestions were invited from the arecanut growers

* Author for correspondence.

¹S.P. College of Agriculture, Chiplun, RATNAGIRI (M.S.) INDIA

so that their problems in existing cultivation practices of arecanut could be solve and also area under arecanut cultivation could be increase in Konkan region.

Table 1 : Suggestion of arecanut growers to solve their problems in arecanut cultivation

Sr. No.	Need perception	Percentage (n=100)
1.	Need high yielding and big size nut variety	91.00
2.	Subsidy may be given for marketing	21.00
3.	Fertilizers should be made available at proper time and at reasonable cost	20.00
4.	Need of knowledge about pest and diseases	47.00
5.	Training be imparted on intercropping in arecanut	75.00
6.	Suitable method for harvesting of arecanut	06.00
7.	Marketing and transport facilities should be developed	59.00
8.	Training should be given about arecanut cultivation	65.00

Suggestions made by the respondent in this respect are presented in the Table 1.

It was observed from the Table 1 that majority (91.00 per cent) of the respondents expected that variety should be high in yield and having big size nut, while 75.00 per cent respondents wanted that training should be given about intercropping, Where as 65.00 per cent of the respondents expected that training should be given about arecanut cultivation. About 59.00 per cent of the respondents wished that marketing and transport facilities should be developed, 47.00 per cent of the respondents wished that knowledge should be given about pest and diseases, 21.00 per cent of the respondents demanded that subsidies should be given by Government, 20.00 per cent of the respondents expected that fertilizers should be made available at proper time and at reasonable cost

and 6.00 per cent of the respondents wanted that method for harvesting nuts should be found.

The findings are similar with finding of Chawkekar (1984), Sable (1991), Mundekar (1993), Zagade *et al.* (2003) and Udmale (2004).

Implications :

The arecanut growers have made various suggestions to increase the area and yield of arecanut crop in the district. The suggestions are applicable to both the systems namely research and extension. Suitable actions on these suggestions are initiated by the concerned agencies so as to increase the area, production and productivity of arecanut crop.

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