



Research Article

Constraints perceived and suggestions offered by onion growers about post harvest techniques

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted to find out the constraints faced by the onion grower about post harvest techniques in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat state. The constraints which are mostly experienced by onion grower were lack of information about production, demand and fluctuation in market price, reduced the quality in production, less price, lack of training and guidance, scarcity of skilled labours and high wages of labour and lack of information about procedure for export. Majority of the onion growers had suggested that priority should be given to value added product industries and extension agencies should regularly contact the onion growers' to disseminate latest PHT and long distance and rapid transport facilities should be easily available.

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KEY WORDS:

Post harvest technique, Onion growers, Constraints, Suggestions

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Onion (*Allium cepa* L.) is one of the most important commercial vegetable crops grown in India. Popularly it is also known as "poor man Kasturi". It belongs to the family Alliaceae. Onion is an important underground vegetable bulb crop of tropical and sub tropical countries.

Production of onion in world is about 57.91 million tonnes from 3.18 million hectares (Bhonde *et al.*, 2006). In India, onion crop occupied an area of 0.45 million hectares with production of 6.03 million tones as per NHRDF during the year 2005-06.

In the process of agricultural development, the prime mover is considered to be the improved post harvest technology. The benefit of such post harvest technology is actually derived only when farmers in their local situations efficiently utilize it. The farmers are very much eager to get the maximum benefits from the post harvest technology.

However, many of them could not do so, because a larger number of impediments are coming in that way, creating large adoption gap culminating bumper production of onion to

understand and overcome strategies for enhancing to get higher market price, this study was undertaken.

The production of onion is relatively higher in South Saurashtra Agro-climatic zone as compared to other zones. In case of bumper production, bulk storage system demands a high degree of management qualities with respect to loss prevention. Therefore, a finding the existing post harvest condition the present study was proposed to undertake to find out the level of knowledge, adoption and constraints of farmers in adoption of post harvest techniques of onion.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

A special interview schedule was designed for collecting the data. At the first time, the interview schedule was prepared in English. Keeping in the view the objectives of the study, the developed interview schedule was then translated into Gujarati language.

The response was recorded in the schedule itself. The frequency was calculated for each constraint and converted into percentage and rank was given. The higher rank indicated higher

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perception of the respondents for that constraint and *vice versa*.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results obtained from the present investigation have been discussed in the following sub heads:

Constraints faced by the onion growers in adoption of post harvest techniques of onion:

The constraints and the mean score are given in the following Table 1.

It is clear from Table 1 that the major constraints faced by respondents were lack of information about production, demand and fluctuation in market price (Rank-I) followed by reduced quality in production due to uncertain change in environment (Rank-II), less price due to middle men of onion sales agent (Rank- III), lack of training and guidance about post-harvest techniques (Rank- IV), scarcity of skilled labours and high wages of labour (Rank-V) and lack of information about procedure for export (Rank-VI).

Less important constraint by the farmers were, low production and profit due to small farm size, inadequate guidance by extension personnel, inadequate of transport

facility, inadequate onion storage facility and financial inability to purchase post harvesting equipment.

Suggestions from the onion growers to overcome the constraints in adoption of post harvest techniques of onion:

It can be concluded from Table 2 that important suggestions offered by respondents were that priority should be given to value added product industries (Rank-I), extension agencies should regularly contact the onion growers to disseminate latest PHT (Rank-II), for long distance rapid transport facilities should be easily available (Rank-III), export facilities for onion should be easily available at the time of harvesting (Rank-IV) and training should be given to the onion growers in relation to best post harvest techniques (Rank-V). Patil and Swant (1996) also conducted investigations on post harvest technology of fruit production. Tavethiya (2006) worked on the knowledge and adoption about cumin production technology.

Conclusion:

The perusal of data presented in tables revealed that the most important problem as expressed by the most of the respondents were, lack of information about production, demand and fluctuation in market price, reduction in the quality

Table 1 : Constraints faced by the onion growers in adoption of post harvest techniques of onion

(n=100)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of training and guidance about post-harvest techniques	55	IV
2.	Reduced quality and production due to uncertain change environment.	63	II
3.	Lack of information about production, demand, fluctuation in market price.	71	I
4.	Lack of information about procedure for export	41	VI
5.	Financial inability to purchase post harvesting equipment.	30	XI
6.	Less price due to middle men of onion sales agent.	59	III
7.	Inadequate onion storage facility.	38	X
8.	Inadequate transport facility.	40	IX
9.	Low production and profit due to small farm size.	46	VII
10.	Scarcity of skilled labours and high wages of labour.	47	V
11.	Inadequate guidance by extension personnel	42	VIII

Table 2: Suggestions from the onion growers to overcome the constraints in adoption of post harvest techniques of onion

(n=60)

Sr.	Suggestions	Percentage	Rank
1.	Training should be given to the onion growers in relation to best PHT	56	V
2.	Extension agencies should regularly contact the onion growers to disseminate latest PHT	70	II
3.	Export facilities for onion should easily be available at the time of harvesting.	63	IV
4.	Information about world trade organization (WTO) should be disseminated.	37	VIII
5.	Priority should be given to value added product industries.	75	I
6.	Bank should provide adequate loan for post harvesting equipments.	30	IX
7.	Onion insurance scheme should be introduced.	45	VI
8.	Special economic zone for onion should be started.	43	VII
9.	Remunerative support prices should be fixed by the government.	25	X
10.	For long distance, rapid transport facilities should be easily available.	65	III

in production due to uncertain change in environment, less price due to middle men of onion sales agent and lack of training and guidance about post-harvest techniques. Majority of onion growers suggestions were based on the facilities which have been availed but were not sufficient and satisfied up to the extent of their expectations.

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