

Research Article

Constraints of turmeric growers in adoption of recommended practices of turmeric cultivation

■ M.S. SAWANT, S.M. HADOLE AND V.B. GEDAM

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SUMMARY : Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is an important crop for its wide use in processing industry and its medicinal value. The present study was conducted in Wai tahsil of Satara district. Ten villages having maximum area under turmeric crop was selected for the study purpose. From the selected villages 120 turmeric growers were randomly selected and interviewed. The data were collected, tabulated and statistically analysed. The important constraints reported by turmeric growers were with respect to cultivation and marketing of turmeric namely, non availability of quality seed, high cost of seed, attack of rhizome fly, higher charges of commission agents and low market price. The important suggestions made by turmeric growers were assured and reasonable selling price, demonstration on control of rhizome fly attack, timely availability of quality seeds and credits, timely guidance of VEWs and organization of farmers rallies, exhibitions, elimination of middle men in marketing, providing fertilizers and pesticides at subsidized rate and starting separate turmeric research station in Satara district.

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KEY WORDS :

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is an important spice crop for its wide use in processing industry and its medicinal value. Day by day the area under turmeric is increasing. As compared with area, the production is very low. This is due to non adoption of recommended practices by the turmeric growers.

Now-a-days, systematic research on turmeric has been undertaken in Maharashtra. The research on crop improvement, cultivation practices, plant protection and processing is being undertaken at Agricultural Research Station, Digraj, Dist. Sangali in the jurisdiction of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri. The area under this crop is required to increase looking to the emerging needs. But the expected results are not yet achieved at the farmers level. Hence, to understand the constraints experienced by the turmeric growers in adoption of recommended

practices in turmeric, the present study was conducted with following specific objectives:

- To study the constraints faced by turmeric growers in adoption of turmeric production technology.
- To know the suggestions of the turmeric growers for overcoming these problems.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Wai tahsil of Satara district. Out of 29 turmeric growing villages, 10 villages were selected purposively, having maximum area under turmeric crop. From each village, 12 turmeric growers were selected by using random sampling method. Thus, total of 120 respondents were selected for the study. The data were collected by specially structured personal interview schedule focusing on the above objectives. Thus, collected data were tabulated and analyzed to interpret the results.

Author for correspondence :

M.S. SAWANT
Agricultural Insurance
Company of India Limited,
MUMBAI (M.S.) INDIA

See end of the article for
authors' affiliations

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

Constraints experienced by the turmeric growers:

An attempt was made in the present investigation to understand the constraints in the adoption of recommended practices by the turmeric growers. The important constraints

Table 1 : Constraints faced by turmeric growers in adoption of improved practices of turmeric cultivation (n=120)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Preparatory tillage		
	Less availability of FYM	22	18.33
	Unavailability of bullock pair	6	5.00
2.	Constraints regarding seed		
	Unavailability of good quality seed	82	68.33
	Storage losses of seed rhizomes	63	52.50
	High cost of seed rhizomes	44	36.67
3.	Constraints regarding seed treatments		
	Less information about seed treatment	57	47.50
	Costly seed testing chemicals	42	35.00
4.	Constraints regarding use of fertilizers		
	Fertilizer cost is very high	95	79.17
	Unavailability of fertilizers in time	49	40.83
5.	Constraints regarding irrigation management		
	Irregular supply of electricity	65	54.17
	Lack of knowledge of proper water requirement of turmeric crop	73	60.83
6.	Constraints regarding crop protection		
	Lack of proper knowledge	79	65.83
	Costly crop protection chemicals	56	46.67
7.	Cost of post harvest technology is high	79	65.83
8.	Unavailability of labours at the time of sowing and harvesting	100	83.33
9.	Lack of timely credit availability	69	57.50
10.	Constraints regarding marketing of turmeric		
	Fluctuations in market price	104	86.67
	Higher charges by commission agents	101	84.17
	Unavailability of good transportation facilities	47	39.17
11.	Constraints regarding storage of turmeric		
	Less space for storing turmeric	92	76.67
	Problem of insect pest in storage	72	60.00
12.	Other constraints		
	Payment of bills not in time	112	93.33
	Research station is far away from native place	64	53.33

Table 2 : Suggestions of turmeric growers to overcome problems (n=120)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Assured and reasonable selling price of turmeric	116	96.67
2.	Demonstration on control of rhizome fly	112	93.34
3.	Timely guidance by village extension worker	109	90.83
4.	Availability of timely and sufficient credit	108	90.00
5.	Making timely availability of quality seed material	101	84.17
6.	Elimination of middlemen	94	78.33
7.	Providing fertilizers and pesticides subsidised rates	91	75.83
8.	Farmers rallies, exhibition on turmeric crop should be organised	86	71.67
9.	Starting turmeric research station at Satara	73	60.83

stated by the farmers are listed in Table 1.

The data from Table 1 stated that the constraints faced in adopting improved preparatory tillage practices were less availability of FYM (18.33%) and unavailability of bullock pair (5.00%).

With regard to constraints related to seed, it was observed that unavailability of good quality seed (68.33%), storage losses of seed rhizomes (52.50%) and high cost of seed rhizomes (36.67%) were the important constraints.

Less information about seed treatment (47.50%) and costly seed testing chemicals (35.00%) were the important constraints with respect to constraints related to seed treatment.

Regarding the irrigation management, the turmeric growers have faced the problems of irregular supply of electricity (54.17%) and lack of knowledge of proper water requirement of turmeric crop (60.80%).

Constraints like lack of proper knowledge of crop protection methods (65.83%) and costly crop protection chemicals (46.67%) were reported by majority of turmeric growers in crop protection.

The constraints namely high cost of post harvest technology (65.83%), unavailability of labours at the time of sowing and harvesting (83.33%) and lack of credit availability in time (57.50%) were also reported by majority of turmeric growers.

Turmeric growers also faced constraints regarding marketing of turmeric, important among them were fluctuations in market prices (86.67%), higher charges of communication agents (84.17%) and unavailability of good transportation of facilities (39.17%).

With regards to storage of turmeric, the constraints like less space for storing turmeric (76.67%) and attack of insects and pests in storage (60.00%) were important.

Other constraints like payment of bills not in time (93.33%) and turmeric research station is far away from the native place (53.33%) were reported by the farmers.

Suggestions of turmeric growers :

Considering the constraints faced by the turmeric growers in cultivation of turmeric crop, they were asked to suggest the probable solutions in order to overcome the constraints and to increase the productivity of crop. The data is presented in Table 2.

It is observed that, farmers expected assured and reasonable selling price of turmeric (96.67%), demonstration on control of rhizome fly attack be arranged (93.34%), timely

guidance by the extension worker (98.83%), availability of timely and sufficient credit (90.00%), timely availability of quality seed material (84.17%), elimination of middlemen (78.33%), fertilizers and pesticides be made available on subsidy basis (75.83%). Further, farmers rallies exhibition should be arranged (71.67%) and starting of turmeric research station at Satara (60.83%) were the other suggestions of the turmeric growers.

A close look at the suggestions made by the turmeric growers revealed that on same suggestions, the extension organizations have to act. The close interaction between the two will certainly help in solving the problems pertaining to the recommended crop production measures in turmeric to some extent. Similar results were reported by Kulkarni *et al.* (1994) on cotton, Rao and Rao (1993) and Vidhate (1997) on ginger. Kulkarni (1999) also worked on the adoption of turmeric technology in Hingoli district.

Conclusion :

It was observed that, the important constraints reported by number of turmeric growers were with respect to cultivation and marketing of turmeric which ultimately results in low adoption of recommended practices of turmeric cultivation. Therefore, the government have to give assured and reasonable selling price for turmeric so that widespread price fluctuations can be controlled by establishing a regulated market for turmeric.

hors' affiliations :

S.M. HADOLE, K.K. Wagh College of Agriculture, NASHIK (M.S.) INDIA

V.B. GEDAM, College of Agriculture, KOLHAPUR (M.S.) INDIA

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