

Research Note

Constraints faced by farmers in use of neem and its products

■ M.K. JADEJA , MINAXI BARIYA AND GIRISH DESHMUKH

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SUMMARY : Neem tree acts as not only age old tree but having some specific characteristics with medicinal use and it restricts the encroachment of desert area. In addition to this it is also useful for the commercial purpose too. So, to improve the productivity of neem and to popularize the cultivation, it is necessary to exploit the knowledge of generations as well as to take advantage of scientific findings. Present study to revealed the constraints or problems faced by farmers to use neem and its products.

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Apart from healthcare, neem is used in various ways in agriculture also. To consider the main aspects, as a fertilizer and as a plant protection measure are the key areas (Shyamsundar, 2006). Thus, it is used as organic manure, soil conditioner, promoter of fertilizer use efficiency, nematode control agent, natural insecticide and pesticide with least harmful residues etc. Thus, it can be considered as a tree with versatile uses.

In spite of versatile uses of neem, this tree has been ignored since long. It is said that India is poor by economic condition but rich by experienced based indigenous knowledge. This indigenous knowledge, the treasure of India can benefit the Indian economy as well as it can help in improving lifestyle of rural people. Moreover, farmers of India are considered as the path giver of a society for indigenous uses of natural materials available around them (Singh *et al.*, 1996). They play a key role in treasuring the cultural heritage and also succeeding it to the next generation. Looking to the wide scope in this field, it was felt necessary to recall this indigenous and scientific knowledge about uses of neem as well as its level of adoption among

rural farmers.

More over if we formulate a strategy which will induce standardization of propagation techniques, orient the farmers towards proper collection and processing of various parts of neem and establish a strong extension network to highlight the benefits of neem of improving economy and protecting the environment it will definitely be beneficial. It has been so much a part of Indian life that most people were not even conscious of how many ways neem impacted their lives. However, gradually its importance was neglected and it started losing its identity as a “bitter boon”. Hence, looking to the importance of neem and their products an attempt was made to study the constraints faced by respondents in use of neem and their products and to seek the suggestions from farmers to improve their existing pattern of knowledge and use of neem for various purposes.

The present study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state. Among 14 Talukas of Junagadh district, two talukas *viz.*, Mendarada and Keshod were selected randomly from Junagadh district. After selection of talukas, five villages from each taluka were selected randomly. Thus, total ten villages from the two

Author for correspondence :

GIRISH DESHMUKH
Department of Agricultural
Extension, College of
Agriculture, Junagadh
Agricultural University,
JUNAGADH (GUJARAT)
INDIA
Email: 251girish@gmail.com

See end of the article for
authors' affiliations

selected talukas were considered for the study. Ten respondents were selected randomly from each selected village. Total one hundred respondents were selected from the selected villages by random sampling method. The use of interview technique was considered appropriate for getting required information from the respondents. Keeping in view, the objective of the study and farmers' background. The investigator visited the 100 farmers were personally interviewed. The data were statistically analyzed with the help of frequencies, percentage and rank.

Problems faced by farmers for various uses of neem:

In the present study, some constraints faced by the farmer were studied. The information regarding this is given in Table 1.

A glance of the Table 1 shows that less exposure of training, insufficient knowledge about various uses of neem, unavailability of neem based products in market, unavailability required quantity of neem trees and unavailability of sufficient literature on usages of neem were major problems and less coverage of such information in communication means were minor problems faced by neem tree owner farmers in using neem for agriculture, health and other purposes.

Suggestions of the farmers to accelerate rate of neem use among the farmers:

A look at the Table 2 data presented the information on suggestions made by the farmers to accelerate the rate of neem use among them.

The Table 2 reveals that major suggestions given by

neem tree owner farmers in this regards were; training programmes on various uses of neem should be organized at village level, the posters showing various uses of neem should be displayed at Gram Panchayat, co-operative organizations and other public places in village, indigenous knowledge should be tested on scientific grounds and should be extended further, guidance on the uses of neem should be provided right from school level and efforts should be made to use fellow land by neem plantation to create awareness about neem.

Conclusion:

Major constraints faced by the respondents were less exposure of training, insufficient knowledge about various uses of neem, unavailability of neem based products in market, unavailability required quantity of neem and unavailability of sufficient literature on usages of neem were major problems and less coverage of such information in communication means were minor problems faced by neem tree owner farmers in using neem for agriculture, health and other purposes. Major suggestions given by neem tree owner farmers in this regards were; training programmes on various uses of neem should be organized at village level, the posters showing various uses of neem should be displayed at Gram Panchayat, co-operative organizations and other public places in village, indigenous knowledge should be tested on scientific grounds and should be extended further, guidance on the uses of neem should be provided right from school level and efforts should be made to use fellow

Table 1 : Constrains faced by farmers for various uses of neem

Sr. No.	Constrains	(n=100)	
		Mean score	Rank
1.	Less exposure of training	1.96	I
2.	Unavailability of sufficient literature on usages of neem	0.83	V
3.	Less coverage of neem related information in communication media.	0.43	VI
4.	Insufficient knowledge about various uses of neem	1.93	II
5.	Unavailability of neem based products in market	1.92	III
6.	Unavailability required quantity of neem trees	1.43	IV

Table 2 : Suggestions of the farmers to accelerate rate of neem use among the farmers

Sr. No.	Suggestions	(n=100)	
		Mean score	Rank
1.	Training programmes on various uses of neem should be organized at village level	1.98	I
2.	The posters showing various uses of neem should be displayed at Gram Panchayat, co-operative organizations and other public places in village	1.92	II
3.	Indigenous knowledge should be tested on scientific grounds and should be extended further	1.85	III
4.	Guidance on the uses of neem should be provided right from school level	1.78	IV
5.	Efforts should be made to use fellow land by neem plantation to create awareness about neem	1.58	V

land by neem plantation to create awareness about neem.

Authors' affiliations :

M.K. JADEJA, Junagadh Agricultural University, JUNAGADH (GUJARAT) INDIA

MINAXI BARIYA, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, AMRELI (GUJARAT) INDIA

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