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Constraints faced by *Ragi* growers of Dang district

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Abstract

Antimycotic Activity (Agar well diffusion technique) of ethanolic leaf extract of *Argemone mexicana* L. The research was carried out in Dang district of South Gujarat during 2017. From selected taluka, five villages were selected randomly. In order to identify constraints faced by *Ragi* growers, 100 respondents as a sample size for the study. The results observed that half of the farmers were in the old age group, most of the farmer's had primary level education, had semi medium land holding, respectively. Major constraints faced by the *Ragi* growers are, soil erosion get rank first, sloppy undulating and unfertile land get rank second, higher cost of fertilizer get rank third in *Ragi* cultivation.

Keywords: Antimycotic, *Argemone mexicana* L., *Ragi* growers, Dang district

1. Introduction

Finger millet (*Eleusine coracana* L.) commonly known as *Nagli* in Gujarati and *Ragi* in English, is an important staple food after rice, wheat, sorghum and pearl millet in India. It is cultivated under diverse soil and climatic conditions mostly as a rainfed crop. Finger millet is native to the Ethiopian and Ugandan highlands. Interesting crop characteristics of finger millet are the ability to withstand cultivation at altitudes over 2000 meters above sea level, its favorable micronutrient contents (high iron and methionine content), its high drought tolerance and the very long storage time of the grains. Finger millet grain is highly nutritious and has excellent grain storage capacity. The straw is a major dry matter source for both draft and milch animals. However the area is being replaced by other crops such as hybrid rice, maize and vegetable crops particularly in Dangs, Valsad, Navsari and Panchmahal districts of Gujarat. Very few quality varieties are available for cultivation by farmers.

Main cultivation areas are Eastern and Southern African countries (Uganda, Kenya, Zaire, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Sudan, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique) and Southern Asia (mainly India and Nepal). In India finger millet is commonly called by various names like *Ragi* (in Kannada, Telugu and Hindi), *Kodra* (Himachal Pradesh), *Mandia* (Oriya), *Taidalu* (in Telangana region), *Ariyam* in Tamil, etc. It is a traditional food plant in Africa and has the potential to improve nutrient, boost food security and support sustainable land care.

Our research scientists, extension workers and farmers have great responsibility to maximize the production of *Ragi* which is possible if farmers know and adopt new technology. There are effective technologies available and have shown the possibility of new farm technology to be highly effective, adoptable and economically viable. The low production may be due to the farmers being lack of knowledge about *Ragi* cultivation practices or they may be facing some constraints in its adoption at their own farms. Therefore, it is necessary to find out the knowledge level of farmers about cultivation practices of *Ragi* and constraints faced by growers.

Keeping all these views in mind, the present investigation entitled "Constraints Faced by *Ragi* Growers of Dang district" was undertaken with specific objectives.

2. Objectives

1. To study the personal profile of *Ragi* growers.
2. To study the constraints experienced by growers in *Ragi* cultivation.

3. Methodology

The research was carried out in Dang district of South Gujarat during 2017. The District comprises of three talukas, among which Ahwa was randomly selected for the study. Five villages were selected from selected taluka. In each of the selected villages 20 farmers were

Selected according to simple random sampling to form 100 respondents as a sample size for the study. A structured schedule was developed by reviewing related literature and seeking expert's suggestions. The data were collected by personal interview method. Statistical tools viz. frequency, percentage and ranking, were used to analyze the data.

4. Result and discussion

4.1 Personal profile of the *Ragi* growers

4.1.1 Age

Age was referred to the number of years completed by an individual at the time of collection of information. The data in this regard was classified into three categories. The first group was of young farmers was up to 30 years followed by 31 to 50 years middle and lastly above 50 years was old farmers.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to age n=100

| S. No. | Age group | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|---------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Young (up to 35 years) | 02 | 2.00 |
| 2 | Middle (between 36 to 50 years) | 46 | 46.00 |
| 3 | Old (above 50 years) | 52 | 52.00 |
| Total | | 100 | 100.00 |

The table shows that majority of the respondents (52.00 percent) were in the old age group followed by 46.00 per cent were in the middle age group and 2.00 per cent were in the young age group. The above findings are consistent with the findings of Sasane *et al.* (2008).

4.1.2 Education

Education level plays a vital role in the understanding of new phenomena or new ways of doing things. An individual knowledge might be influenced by formal education. In view of this, the level of education of the respondents was studied with the understanding that it would affect knowledge level.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to level of education n=100

| S. No. | Education | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | College/Post graduation | 00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | High school | 10 | 10.00 |
| 3 | Middle school | 33 | 33.00 |
| 4 | Primary school | 57 | 57.00 |
| 5 | Functionally literate | 00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | Illiterate | 00 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 100 | 100.00 |

It apparent from the tabl-2 that (57.00%) of the *Ragi* grower had primary level of education followed by 33.00, 10.00 per cent had middle and high school level of education respectively.

4.1.3 Land holding

Land is one the factor of production, the size of land might play an important role in deciding about the investment to be made, the scale of each crop to be established and the labor requirement.

Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to size of land holding n=100

| S. No. | Land holding | Frequency | Percentages |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Big (above 10 ha) | 00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | Medium (4.01 to 10 ha) | 47 | 47.00 |
| 3 | Semi medium (2.01 to 4 ha) | 31 | 31.00 |
| 4 | Small (1.01 to 2 ha) | 22 | 22.00 |
| 5 | Marginal (0.01 to 1 ha) | 00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | Landless | 00 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 100 | 100.00 |

From the above table No.3 it is evident that most of the farmers (47.00%) had medium land holding, followed by semi medium (31.00%) land holding, small (22.00%), and no farmers were found in big and marginal category of land holding.

4.1.4 Annual income

Sound economic position and its use in multipurpose activities for development of family/ society can only be possible when the money is available.

Table 4: Distribution of farmers according to their annual income n=100

| S. No. | Income | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Above Rs. 2,00,000 | 00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | Rs. 1,50,001 to 2,00,000 | 00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000 | 02 | 20.00 |
| 4 | Rs. 50,000 to 1,00,000 | 23 | 23.00 |
| 5 | Up to Rs. 50,000 | 75 | 75.00 |
| Total | | 100 | 100.00 |

From the above table-4 it is evident that majority of farmers (75.00%) belonged to low annual income (up to 50,000) followed by annual income Rs. 50,000 to 1,00,000 categories (23.00%) and annual income Rs. 1,00,001 to 1,50,000 categories (02.00%).

4.1.5 Farming experience

From the below table- 5 it is evident that majority of farmers (53.00%) had high farming experience (above 31 years), followed by 47 per cent had 10 to 31 years of farming experience and no farmers were found in up to 9 years category.

Table 5: Distribution of farmers according to farming experience. n=100

| S. No. | Class range | Frequency | Percentage |
|--------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| 1 | Above 31 years | 53 | 53.00 |
| 2 | 10 to 31 years | 47 | 47.00 |
| 3 | Up to 9 years | 00 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 100 | 100.00 |

4.2 To study the constraints experienced by growers in *Ragi* cultivation

Constraints in production technology of different crops never end. However they can be minimized. The respondents were requested to express the constraints faced by farmers in cultivation practices of *Ragi*. Frequency & percentage for each constraint were calculated and on that basis of that, the constraints were ranked and presented in Table-6.

Table 6: Constraints faced by *Ragi* n=100

| S. No. | Constraints | Frequency | Percentage | Rank |
|--------|---|-----------|------------|------|
| 1 | High labour wages | 66 | 66.00 | VII |
| 2 | Lack of finance | 73 | 73.00 | V |
| 3 | Unavailability of newly released varieties | 57 | 57.00 | IX |
| 4 | Delay in harvesting | 55 | 55.00 | X |
| 5 | Soil erosion | 85 | 85.00 | I |
| 6 | Poor economic condition | 70 | 70.00 | VI |
| 7 | High cost of fertilizer | 75 | 75.00 | III |
| 8 | Fertilizer are not available at time at local level | 62 | 62.00 | VIII |
| 9 | Sloppy undulating and unfertile land | 80 | 80.00 | II |
| 10 | Higher cost of chemicals | 74 | 74.00 | IV |

As seen from the table-6 major constraints faced by the *Ragi* growers are soil erosion (85.00%) get rank I, sloppy undulating and unfertile land (80.00 %) get rank II, higher cost of fertilizer (75.00%) get rank III, higher cost of chemicals (74.00%) get rank IV, lack of finance (73.00%) get rank V, poor economic condition (70.00%) get rank VI, high labour wages (66.00%) get rank VII, fertilizer are not available at time at local level (62.00%) get rank VIII, unavailability of newly released varieties (57.00 per cent) get rank IX and delay in harvesting (55.00 per cent) get rank X.

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