

CONSTRAINTS OF PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF LAC IN KORBA DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH

Sajjad Mohammad*, Prashant Verma, Mukesh Kumar Seth and Ravi Rathiya

*Department of Agricultural Economics,
Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Raipur-492012 C.G.
E-mail: Sajjad.agri@gmail.com*

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Abstract: Lac culture is a cash crop of importance and provides valuable income to resource constrained growers inhabiting tribal-dominated forest and sub-forest regions of Chhattisgarh. The State of Chhattisgarh contributes almost 25 per cent of the total Stick Lac produced in India. Almost one hundred thousand household in the state is involved with the cultivation and procurement of this forest produce. However, the production per tree is almost on the lower end in Chhattisgarh. Jharkhand state ranks 1st followed by Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra. Lac growers give more important to regular income from cultivation of lac over the years to one-time income from timber or fuel. The study aims to examine the cost, return, Marketing pattern and constraints in Lac production and marketing in the study area. The study is relied on the response collected personally from 75 Lac growers, selected purposely from two villages of Korba district of Chhattisgarh state. It was found that, most of the respondent belonged to schedule tribes; literacy of family members was observed 89.29 per cent in all categories of farmers. Agriculture is observed as the main occupation. The major constraints pertaining to cultivation of Lac were problem of Shortage of Broodlac 92 per cent is generally faced by Lac grower farmers. Similarly, high temperature during summer season, intensity with continuous rainfall, and insect pest etc., Lack of demonstration, Lack of labour and regulated marketing system was reported as most important constraint faced by the farmers during marketing of Lac. Study suggested that looking to the importance of Lac in the study area Government should provides Brood lac to the growers at subsidized rate and also ensured the marketing of Lac has to be done through co-operative societies/ other Government agencies at remunerative price to minimize the role of middleman in study area.

Keywords: Production, Marketing, Crop, Korba district

INTRODUCTION

The State of Chhattisgarh contributes almost 25 per cent of the total Stick Lac produced in India. The major part of the production happens in the South and then in the eastern and North Eastern part of the state. Almost one hundred thousand household in the state is involved with the cultivation and procurement of this forest produce. However, the production per tree is almost on the lower end in Chhattisgarh. This aspect will be dealt in details towards the end of the study report. The state also has a dedicated programmed towards promotion of Lac with support from the European Union. The Chhattisgarh Minor Forest Products (CGMFPs) federation has dedicated human resources and a programmed to promote Lac cultivation in the state. On the basis of survey in the markets of different lac producing districts and states, the estimated national production of sticklac during 2009-10 was approximately 16,495 tons. Jharkhand state ranks 1st followed by Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra. These five states contributed around 95 per cent of the national lac production. Contribution of Jharkhand in national lac production was 41.98 per cent followed by Chhattisgarh (30.28 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (14.49 per cent), West Bengal (5.18 per cent) and Maharashtra (3.15 per cent). The Lac industry occupies an important place and plays a very special role in the State economy in particular and in the

national economy in general. Lac growers give more important to regular income from cultivation of lac over the years to one-time income from timber or fuel. Lac culture is a cash crop of importance and provides valuable income to resource constrained growers inhabiting tribal-dominated forest and sub-forest regions of Chhattisgarh. The lac crop is a low input/high value crop and returns from lac cultivation are much higher than other agricultural crops, especially in drought conditions when other major agricultural crops fail.

The present study was undertaken in the Lac growing area of Chhattisgarh, the present study was undertaken in the Lac growing area in two villages of Podi block with following objectives:

Objectives

To find out the constraints in production and marketing of Lac in the study area.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The present study was conducted in Korba district of Chhattisgarh. Seventy-five farmers were selected randomly from two villages namely Rawa and Tuman. The primary data were collected for the year 2011-12. Primary data were related to cost and return of Lac crop, and marketing channels etc. were collected from the respondents using well designed questionnaires and schedules. The secondary data regarding the area and production of Lac in Korba

*Corresponding Author

district and Chhattisgarh state were collected from Agriculture Statistics, Directorate of Agriculture, Directorate of Land Records and Directorate of Forest Government of Chhattisgarh (2010-11). To calculate cost of cultivation, disposable patten and constraints etc. standard method was used.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

General characteristics of sample households

The demographic characteristics of the sampled farmers in the study area are described in table 1. The

numbers of house hold is taken on category wise was 33 small, 24 medium and 18 large farmers. The schedule caste, schedule tribes, other backward caste and general category consists 26.67 per cent, 40.00 per cent, 20.00 per cent and 13.33 per cent, respectively of the total households. The literacy of family members was observed (89.29 per cent) in all categories of farmers. The agriculture is observed as the main occupation as about 84.84 per cent, 70.84 per cent and 72.22 per cent in case of small, medium and large farmers were engaged in the activities respectively.

Table 1. Socio-economic characteristics of sampled Households

S.No.	Particulars	Small	Medium	Large	Aggregate
1	Total number of households	33 (100.00)	24 (100.00)	18 (100.00)	75 (100.00)
2	Social group				
	a. General	4 (12.12)	3 (12.51)	3 (16.66)	10 (13.33)
	b. Other backward caste	6 (18.18)	5 (20.83)	4 (22.24)	15 (20.00)
	c. Schedule caste	9 (27.28)	5 (20.83)	6 (33.33)	20 (26.67)
	d. Schedule tribes	14 (42.42)	11 (45.83)	5 (27.77)	30 (40.00)
3	Family Member				
	a. Male	48 (30.57)	34 (30.08)	22 (26.19)	104 (29.38)
	b. Female	43 (27.38)	31 (27.45)	27 (32.15)	101 (28.53)
	c. Children	66 (42.05)	48 (42.47)	35 (41.66)	149 (42.09)
	d. Total family member	157 (100.00)	113 (100.00)	84 (100.00)	354 (100.00)
4	Occupation				
	a. Agriculture	28 (84.84)	17 (70.84)	13 (72.22)	58 (77.33)
	b. Business	0 (0.00)	3 (12.50)	3 (16.66)	7 (9.34)
	c. Service	5 (15.16)	4 (16.66)	2 (11.12)	10 (13.33)
5	Education				
	a. Illiterate	19 (12.10)	14 (12.39)	9 (10.71)	42 (11.86)
	b. Primary school	68 (43.32)	54 (47.77)	37 (44.04)	159 (44.91)
	c. Middle school	47 (29.94)	34 (30.08)	20 (23.80)	101 (28.53)
	d. Higher Secondary school	18 (11.46)	9 (7.98)	13 (15.47)	40 (11.29)
	e. Above higher secondary school	5 (3.18)	2 (1.78)	5 (5.95)	12 (3.38)
	Literacy (%)	(87.90)	(87.61)	(89.29)	(88.14)

Note: Figures in the parentheses indicate the percentages to total number of family Members.

Production problems existed in Lac cultivation

The constraints in Lac production are presented in table 2. Major constraints pertaining to cultivation of Lac were problem of Shortage of broodlac 92 per cent is generally faced by Lac grower farmers. About 92 percent Lac cultivators faced the problem of high temperature during summer season, intensity with continuous rainfall, and insect pest etc. The lack of demonstration on farmers' field problem as 86.66 per cent of Lac grower farmers perceived it. Unavailability loan at reasonable rate of interest was

observed by 86.66 per cent of Lac grower. The problem faced by Lac grower is 78.66 per cent difficulty in cultivation operation due to host tree height. The problem faced by availability of equipment and loan of cash amount in used changing cultivation period. The Lack of labour is another problem as 46.66 per cent of farmers perceived it. This problem becomes more acute at the time of sowing and harvesting stage of the crop. Consequently, the farmers have to pay higher wages in order to complete the work in time.

Table 2. Production problems existed in Lac cultivation

S.No.	Problems	Number of Respondents(75)	
		Yes	No
1	Lack of latest technical know-how about the crop.	53(70.66%)	22(30.66%)
2	lack of demonstration on farmers' field	65(86.66%)	10(13.33%)
3	Lack of resources i.e. money, equipment etc.	64(85.33%)	11(14.66%)
4	Shortage of broodlac.	69(92%)	6(8%)
5	Lack of labour.	35(46.66%)	40(53.33%)
6	Difficulty in cultivation operation due to host tree height	59(78.66%)	16(21.33%)
7	Non-availability of inputs in local and nearby markets (pesticides and synthetic net beg)	42(56%)	33(44%)
8	Natural constraints.	69(92%)	6(8%)
9	Lack of financing at reasonable rate of interest.	65(86.66%)	10(13.33%)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total respondents.

Constraints in Lac marketing

About 96 per cent respondents reported that market information was major constraints found in the study area. The problem faced by Lac grower are 94.66 per cent Non-availability of regulated and co-operative market farmers are forced to sell their produce in the hands of private intermediaries who exploit the farmers in one way or other. More than 86.66 per cent producers perceived that transportation of small quantity of produce may not an economical if they sell this small produce in the market. About 76 per

cent farmers fill the problem of price fluctuation due to non-availability of regulated as well as co-operative market and hence, therefore the Lac growers suffering from price fluctuation. The problem faced by Lac grower by 73.33 per cent lack of the grading facilities in market. High cost of transportation suffered Lac grower is 20 per cent due to non-availability of transportation vehicle in proper time of transportation. Non-availability of state transport facility problem faced the farmers.

Table 3. Marketing problems existed in Lac cultivation:

S.No.	Problems	Number of Respondents(75)	
		Yes	No
1	Lack of regulated and co-operative market	71 (94.66%)	4 (5.33%)
2	Fluctuation of prices	57 (76%)	18 (24%)
3	Lack of the grading facilities in market	55 (73.33%)	20 (26.66%)
4	Due to high transportation charges	15 (20%)	60 (80%)
5	Lack of awareness about market information	72 (96%)	3 (4%)
6	Not economical transportation due to small quantity of produce	65 (86.66%)	10 (13.33%)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total respondents.

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