RESEARCH ARTICLE

CONSTRAINTS FACED BY FARMERS DURING PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF MAJOR OILSEEDS IN RAIGARH DISTRICT OF CHHATTISGARH STATE

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Abstarct: Oilseeds occupy a unique position in Indian agriculture. India is one of the largest producers of oilseeds in the world. An attempt has been made in this paper to finding the production and marketing constraints of major oilseeds in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh state with ninety farmers who were selected randomly from six villages. From each of the village fifteen farmers considered to collect the required information. Major constraints pertaining to cultivation of oilseeds were lack of resources (81.12 per cent) is generally faced by small category farmers. Due to this reason, these farmers are not able to invest for better production technology. Lack of recommended package and practices particularly doses of fertilizer, insecticides and pesticides are perceived by 77.78 per cent of producers. About 67 per cent farmers faced this problem. According to them this step will also prove very useful in improving the productivity of this crop at one side and in reducing the per hectare cost of cultivation on the other. There is technological gap because the extension wing of department of agriculture is not making proper and sincere efforts to disseminate the technical know-how from research stations to the farmer's fields. Lack of implementation of support price in the villages is the major problem faced by major oilseeds producers. Almost all farmers told that no any intermediary is prepare to give the support price if produce is sold by farmers in the villages. When they were asked that why you do not sale your produce in the market? More than 52 per cent producers perceived that transportation of small quantity of produce may not an economical if they sell this small produce in the market. More than 93 per cent producers told that the presence of itinerant traders in the producing area is only for limited period after harvesting the crop.

Keywords: Area, Production, Oilseed, Constraints, Marketing, Farmer

INTRODUCTION

India is the third largest edible oil producing country in the world after the united nation and china. It occupies a distinct position not only in terms of area under oilseeds with agro-ecological conditions favorable for growing nine major oilseeds indicating seven edible oilseed i.e. groundnut, rapeseed, mustard, soybean, sunflower, safflower, sesame, niger and two non-edible sources namely castor and linseed apart from wide range of other minor oilseeds and oil bearing tree species. The country's demand of the vegetable oils is expected to increase from the current level of the 13 million tones to14.8, 18.3 and 21.8 million tons by 2010, 2015, and 2020, respectively. (Oilseed situation of India).The total oilseeds area, production and productivity was 22.7 million hectares, 18.4 million tons and 810 kilogram per hectare respectively during 2000-01, which increased to 27.6 million hectares, 27.7 million tons and 1006 kilogram per hectare during 2008-09. It is heartening to note that the significant growth in production is coming from the yield effect. It is welcoming sign as the area for cultivation is limited. The advance estimates reveals that the kharif oilseed production will meet the set targets of the year 2010-11. (Narayan P. *et al*., 2011).The significant improvement in annual growth in area and yield under total nine oilseed crops during 2000-01 to 2008-09 as compared to period of 90s has resulted in increase in the annual growth rate of production of oilseed, but at the same time the import of oilseeds oil hovering between 40-50 per cent of total agricultural imports by India.

Consumption of oilseeds assuming normal conditions in marketing year 2013/14, total feed waste is expected to grow 6 percent to 11.9 million tons. This includes 3.8 million tons of cottonseed meal (mostly used for livestock feed), 3.2 million tons of soybean meal, 2.7 million tons of rapeseed meal, 1.5 million tons of peanut meal, and 700,000 tons of other oil meals.(grain report GAIN,2013/14) The consumption of edible oils is rising continuously, outstripping the domestic production resulting in huge imports. During 2011-12, the country imported about 9.2 million tons of edible oils which was about half of its domestic requirement. Edible oil demand is projected to reach 16.64 million tons by the terminal year (2016-17) of the XII plan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sampling Procedure: Chhattisgarh state comprises 27 districts. Out of which Raigarh district contributes

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13 percent in area and 16 percent production of three major oilseeds. Therefore Raigarh district as selected purposively. The total area of groundnut, sunflower and mustard crop in Raigarh district is 6979, 2090 and 1475 hectare. Production is 8820, 439 and 645 metric tonnes respectively. The district has 9 block namely Raigarh, Sarangarh, Dharmjaygarh, Gharghora, Lailunga,Kharsia, Baramkela, Pusaur and Tamnar. Out of these three block had selected purposively as these has highest area and production according to crop namely Baramkela selected for groundnut (1608 ha), pusaur selected for sunflower (716 ha) and Lailuga bock selected for mustard (433 ha).In these block the major oilseed being grown in about 100 villages in each block. The sample of two per cent was considered for the study purpose from each village therefore 6 villages were selected for the study purpose.

Total population of these village is 2844 and in this population major oilseed growers are about 749 (26.33 per cent) .Sample of 15 farmers from the each village were selected therefore 90 (8.33 per cent) farmers were selected through size to proportionate method for the study purpose.

Data Collection: The primary data is collected from the oilseed producers through personal interview method with the help of well prepare scheduled and questionnaire for the production and marketing year 2012-13. The primary data included information regarding the general information, land utilization pattern, source of irrigation, cropping pattern, production, productivity and cost of cultivation. Cost of cultivation included variable and fixed cost. The variable cost consists of field preparation, sowing, fertilizer and manure, inter-culture, plant protection, irrigation, harvesting and threshing while the land revenue and interest on working capital are considered as fixed cost. The questionnaire includes major problems related to production and marketing of major oilseed crop.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Constraints in Production of major oilseeds: The constraints in major oilseeds production are presented in Table 1. Major constraints pertaining to cultivation of oilseeds were lack of resources (81.12 per cent) is generally faced by small category farmers. Due to this reason, these farmers are not able to invest for better production technology. Here is a need for creation of growers co-operative societies which can cater the needs of the farmers related to crop production. Lack of recommended package and practices particularly doses of fertilizer, insecticides and pesticides are perceived by 77.78 per cent of producers. Farmers told that timely advice in this direction may improve the production of crop. They further perceived that soil-testing facilities should be created by the Department of Agriculture at atleast block level in order to test the soil fertility of land. The scarcity of labour is another problem as 56 per cent of farmers perceived it.

Lack of financing at reasonable rate of interest is also a constraint as about 37 per cent producers are facing this problem. This problem can be overcome by financial institutions through providing the loan to the farmers at their doorstep. They are of an opinion that it is inconvenient and time taking procedure to get the money from financial institutions. Consequently, they are forced to take required money from money lenders of village at higher rate of interest in order to fulfill their crop requirement. More than 50 per cent farmers told that irrigation is not required in the crop if the rainfall is there with an appropriate regular interval during kharif season. According to farmers in the absence of adequate rainfall, they face scarcity of irrigation water in the mid reach and tail reach region of the study area as the canal water cannot reach to their fields. About 48 per cent producers reported that they are not aware about the name and quantity of needed insecticides and pesticides in case if their crop is infested by any disease or pest. In such conditions, they are completely depending on the shopkeeper who sells the insecticides/pesticides. About one third farmer's think that the varieties of crop are very limited. According to them some more varieties of major oilseeds should be evolved which may give good yield of this crop in the study area.

Table 1. Production problems faced by the Major oilseed growers

S.No.	Problems	Number of Respondents	
		Yes	No
1.	Lack of resources i.e. money	73 (81.12)	17 (18.88)
2.	Lack of recommended doses of fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides	70 (77.78)	20 (22.22)
3.	Lack of sufficient soil testing facilities	61 (67.77)	29 (32.23)
4.	Scarcity of labour during peak season	50 (55.56)	40 (44.44)
5.	Lack of irrigation water	48 (53.33)	42 (46.67)

6.	Lack of latest technical knowledge about the crop	43 (47.78)	47 (52.22)
7.	Lack of financing at reasonable rate of interest	34 (37.78)	56 (62.22)
8.	Lack of improved and high yielding varieties	30 (33.33)	60 (66.67)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total respondents.

Constraints in marketing of major oilseeds: Marketing constraints are presented in Table 2. Lack of implementation of support price in the villages is the major problem faced by major oilseeds producers. Almost all farmers told that no any intermediary is prepare to give the support price if produce is sold by farmers in the villages. When they were asked that why you do not sale your produce in the market?

More than 52 per cent producers perceived that transportation of small quantity of produce may not an economical if they sell this small produce in the market. More than 93 per cent producers told that the presence of itinerant traders in the producing area is only for limited period after harvesting the crop. They told during the course of study that if few of us want to store the produce, it will be difficult to sell it in future in the absence of these traders. About 46 per cent farmers feel that lack of awareness about the market information is also a problem. They suggested that the major oilseeds cell should come forward to give the news about the prices and other aspects of oilseeds in the daily newspaper, *Doordarshan* and *Akashwani*. Probably, due to all these reasons, major oilseed producers have received low price of their produce. Though, this is true for all farmers of the study area, however, about 26 per cent farmers raised this problem when they were asked. About half of the farmers were of the opinion that the crop of groundnut is less profitable due to these marketing problems as compared to paddy production in the same type of land situation.

Table 2. Marketing problems faced by the major oilseed growers

S.No.	Problems	Number of Respondents	
		Yes	No
1.	No implementation of support price in village sale	90 (100.00)	-
2.	Forced sale due to lack of market intermediaries after long time of harvesting	84 (93.33)	6 (6.67)
3.	Not economical transportation due to small quantity of produce	47 (52.22)	43 (47.78)
4.	Less profit from the crop	44 (48.89)	46 (51.11)
5.	Lack of awareness about market information	42 (46.67)	48 (53.33)
6.	Low price realized by farmers	24 (26.67)	66 (73.33)

Note: Figures in parentheses indicate percentage to total respondents.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chhattisgarh state comprises 27 districts, Out of these Raigarh district contributes 13 percent in area and 16 percent production of oilseeds. Farmers of major oilseeds of the district need to the regulated market to they can sale at the rate of minimum support price this action will control the diversification of the oilseed growers from other less beneficial crop. On the other hand Oilseeds are the important agricultural commodity next only to cereals in the country. There is huge demand for edible oil in the country due to increase in the per capita oil consumption. To meet this demand and to reduce the huge foreign exchequer in importing edible oil, there is an urgent need to increase the domestic oilseed production of the country. An assessment of exploitable yield reservoir available in oilseeds implies that there is a scope for doubling the oilseed production of the country. However, this can be possible by complete adoption of improved oilseed production technologies by the oilseed growers. A thorough review on adoption behavior of oilseed growers reveals that there is scope for improving the adoption behavior of oilseed growers. This foot needs intensive transfer of technology efforts. However, there are certain lacunae exist in public sector in transfer of technology efforts. The strategies to improve transfer of technology efforts targeting oilseed are also suggested.

- The farmers should be motivated to participate more in the extension activates like training, demonstrations, exhibition, agriculture quiz programs and farmers fair etc., so that they may have opportunity to learn new technology related to oilseed production technology.

- The farmers should be motivated to adopt HYVs that are stable, hardy to adverse climate conditions and resistant to insect-pest and disease.
- The credit facility should be made available to the farmers on lower interest rate so that they can easily adopt the new technologies.
- The initiating of co-operative marketing is the answer to improve the bargaining power of groundnut producers in order to realize a good price of their produce.

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