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Constraints experienced by the onion seed producers regarding the onion seed production in Akola district of Maharashtra state

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Abstract

The present research was undertaken on topic "Entrepreneurial Behaviour of Onion Seed Producers" in Akola district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state' purposively on the basis of major area under Onion seed production. An exploratory design of social research was used for present study aims at assessing the entrepreneurial behaviour of Onion seed producers. Two talukas namely Akola and Patur of Akola district was selected for the study as they are having major area under Onion seed production and based on highest cultivable area. From each of the selected taluka's five villages was selected purposively based on highest area under Onion seed production. Thus, total ten villages were selected for the study, total 120 Onion seed producers constitute the sample size for the study. 60 respondents were selected from Akola and Patur talukas each.

The findings of the research study revealed that Most of the constraints faced by Onion seed producers were high incidence of pest and diseases (63.33%), followed by 57.50 per cent of the respondents expressed that they have unknown about how to remove off type plants and 53.33 per cent of the respondents expressed that they were not getting proper knowledge about seed treatment. Further 49.17 per cent respondents facing problems of lack of availability of labour in time. Rest 45.00 per cent of the respondents expressed that insurance is not availed for Onion seed production.

Keywords: constraints, entrepreneurial behaviour, onion seed

Introduction

Onion is one of the major bulb crops of the world and also an important commercial vegetable crop. Among the commercially grown bulbous vegetable crops in India, Onion occupies predominant place. Onion (*Allium sepa* L.), Alliaceae family and the synonymous are Kanda, Earulli, Ullagaddi, Piyaz, Pallando in various regional languages. In India, total production of Onion in year 2016-2017 was about 22427 thousand million tonnes, cultivated in 1306 thousand hectares. Whereas, in Maharashtra, total production of Onion was about 6773.08 thousand million tonnes, cultivated in 471.66 thousand hectares of area. Particularly in Western Maharashtra, Nashik is the leading district in area and production of Onion followed by Ahmednagar and Pune. (Handbook of Horticulture statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Gov. of India 2018) [4]. In Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, Buldhana and Akola district possess the largest area and production of Onion. In Akola district 2982 ha. area is under Onion production. (DSAO Akola, Annual Report, 2018) [11]. In India, the short day types of Onion is cultivated on large scale in the northern plains. Central and southern parts of the country except higher hills, where the long day types Onion varieties like Brown Spanish and Yellow Spanish etc. are grown over a limited area. Therefore, the seed production of the short day types of Onion is done in central parts of the country particularly in Mandarin and Khandwa region of Madhya Pradesh, Nashik, Pune, Buldhana and Akola districts of Maharashtra and Rajkot district of Gujrat. However, Northern states like Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are not preferred by the seed industry due to the severe attack of stem phylum and purple blotch and lower seed yield but there is a potential for seed production in north under delayed planting. Seed is the basic and most critical input for sustainable agriculture. The response of all other inputs depends on quality of seed to a larger extent. The Indian seed programme largely adheres to the limited generation system for seed multiplication in a phased manner. The system recognizes three generations namely breeder, foundation and certified seeds which provides adequate safeguards for quality assurance in the seed multiplication chain to maintain the purity of the variety as it flows from the breeder to the farmer.

With recent technological development in agriculture, seed production has become more complex business and requires careful planning for successful operations.

The seed production is systematically organized, carefully planned based on the best information available and aimed to achieve higher yields and best quality of seed out of their resources. It is the deliberate and conscious effort on the part of the seed grower to think about the seed programme in advance and adjust them according to new knowledge on technological changes in physical and economic situation, price structures etc.

Material and Methods

Locale of the study

The present study was carried out in Akola district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. The above district was selected purposively on the basis of major area under Onion seed production. Two talukas namely Akola and Patur of Akola district was selected for the study as they are having major area under Onion seed production and based on highest cultivable area

Selection of respondents

The list of Onion seed producers was obtained from TAO, Department of Agriculture. From each taluka five villages was selected in respect of Onion seed producers and from each village, twelve Onion seed producers were selected randomly. Thus, total 120 Onion seed producers were the sample size for the study. 60 respondents were selected from Akola and Patur talukas each. The whole sample was considered as respondents and they were interviewed for collection of data. Data was collected with the help of interview schedule.

Measurement of constraints faced by the Onion seed producers to overcome the constraints experienced by the Onion seed producers

The Oxford dictionary meaning of the word constraints is

confinement, restriction of liberty or compulsion of circumstances or compulsion put upon the behavior Reading (1971) defined constraints as use of force to influence or prevent an action or quality or state of being compelled to do or not to do something. In this study the measuring constraints faced by Onion seed producers in Onion seed production, a simple frequently system was applied. The Onion seed producers were asked to give the information about the constraints encountered by them in Onion Seed production. On the basis of review of literature, a compendium of constraints was prepared and constraints faced by the Onion seed producers were collected through closed end question in the interview schedule according to severity. Considering the constraints faced by the Onion seed producers and to overcome the same in Onion seed production successfully in Onion crop.

Results and Discussion

Constraints faced by Onion seed producers in Onion seed production.

In the present study there might be numbers of constraints in Onion seed production. The Onion seed producers were found being confronted with various types of constraints may be personal, technological, service and supply, infrastructural, economical and institutional one. These constraints faced by the Onion seed producers hinder the progress of development and hence desired results could not be achieved. Therefore, it was felt necessary to identify constraints faced by the Onion seed producers in Onion seed production. The Onion seed producers were asked to mention the constraints faced by them in Onion seed production in Onion crop. The constraints expressed by them were noted and it was arranged as based on the frequencies, intensity of particular constraint was converted in to percentages and presented in table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to the constraints faced by Onion seed producer n=120

Sl. No.	Particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	High incidence of diseases and pest attack	76	63.33	I
2.	Lack of knowledge about removing of off type plant.	69	57.50	II
3.	Not getting proper information about seed treatment.	64	53.33	III
4.	Lack of availability of labours in time	59	49.17	IV
5.	Insurance is not availed for Onion seed production	54	45.00	V
6.	Sticky white secretion in Umbel of Onion plant which leads to inadequate pollination in umbel of Onion	51	42.50	VI
7.	Lack of availability of fertilizers in time	49	40.83	VII

It was observed from Table 1 that, majority (63.33%) of the respondents were expressed problem of high incidence of pest and diseases, followed by 57.50 per cent of the respondents expressed that they have unknown about how to remove off type plants and 53.33 per cent of the respondents facing problem in not getting proper knowledge about seed treatment, which ranked as I, II and III, respectively. Also respondents facing problems of lack of availability of labours in time (49.17%) and insurance is not availed for Onion seed production (45.00%). Further, it was noted that 42.50 per cent of the respondents expressed problem of sticky white substance in umbel of Onion which leads inadequate pollination in umbel of Onion plant and 40.83 per cent of respondents facing problem of lack of availability of fertilizers in time for Onion seed production in Onion crop. The findings of present study are in agreement with the

findings of Mane (2001) ^[7], Nagesh (2006) ^[8], Chandrashekhar (2007) ^[11], Maghade (2007) ^[6], Wankahde (2013) ^[13], Wadekar (2016) ^[12], Raut (2018) ^[9], Jangwad (2018) ^[5] and Ravi (2019) ^[10]

Conclusion

Present study concluded that, the most of the Onion seed production practices are not adopted because of Majority of the Onion seed producers faced constraints of Incidence of the pests and diseases, lack of availability fertilizers in time, lack of information about seed treatment and problem regarding off type plant, lack of availability of labours in time, insurance is not available for Onion seed production were the important problems encountered by Onion seed producer. So that, the training needs revealed that the Onion seed producer needed training in plant protection, seed treatment and

removing off types of plants. Thus it is recommended that the concerned agencies/ Extension agencies/ SMS of KVK's, SAU scientists should take a greater interest in helping out the Onion seed producer in order to overcome training needs.

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