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# Problems and constraints faced by the maize growers in Jammu region of J&K

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## Abstract
The present study was conducted in Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir where three districts, Rajouri, Udhampur and Poonch were purposely selected for studying the Maize crop. The proposed study adopted Purposive Sampling technique for the selection of districts based on higher production of the crop under study. However the blocks, villages, producers and intermediaries were selected randomly. The main concentration of Maize in terms of production was found in Rajouri (137.275 thousand MT), Udhampur (71.068 thousand MT) and Poonch (67.577 thousand MT) districts (Directorate of Agriculture, 2018). A total number of 240 respondents were studied from six blocks of Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur respectively. The study revealed major problems faced by the Maize growers and it was found that the disease had the most significant impact on the Maize cultivation followed by low price, environmental problems, weeds, insect-pest attack, marketing problems and non-availability of inputs.

**Keywords:** Maize, environmental problems, weeds

## Introduction
The maize (*Zea mays* L.) crop is one of the world's most important cereal crops. The crop is a vital food crop in Asia and a staple food for more than 1.2 billion people in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America (Anupama *et al.,* 2005) [1]. Due to its exceptional productivity potential compared to other Poaceae family members, this grain is also known as the Miracle Crop and Queen of the Cereals (FAO, 2017) [3]. During the 2018-19 crop year, India's maize area increased to 9.2 million hectares. In 1950-51, India produced roughly 1.73 million metric tonnes of maize, which has climbed to 27.8 million metric tonnes in 2018-19, an almost 16-fold increase in production. During this time, average productivity increased by 5.42 times, from 547.00 kg/ha to 2965.00 kg/ha, while area increased by nearly three times. Maize is widely cultivated in Jammu region of the state with an area of 190.160 thousand ha. and having a production of 436.523 thousand MT. (Directorate of Agriculture, 2018) [2]. Maize is the primary crop grown in J&K's hilly districts, and it is vital to the people's livelihood. Maize is grown in almost all the districts of the Jammu region. The main concentration of Maize in terms of production is found in Rajouri (137.275 thousand MT), Udhampur (71.068 thousand MT) and Poonch (67.577 thousand MT) districts (Directorate of Agriculture, 2018) [2].

## Material and Methods
The present study was conducted in Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir where three districts, Rajouri, Udhampur and Poonch were purposely selected for studying the Maize crop. The proposed study adopted Purposive Sampling technique for the selection of districts based on higher production of the crop under study. However the blocks, villages, producers and intermediaries were selected randomly. A total number of 240 respondents were studied from six blocks of Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur respectively.

## Use of Garret Ranking technique
An attempt is made to recognize the problems faced by the maize growers in the study area. The identified problems of growers in the cultivation of Maize crop are ranked by making use of Garrett's Ranking Technique. The technique was used to rank the preference mentioned by the respondents on different factors and aspects of the cultivation process. It is used to find the most significant factor which had influenced the respondent in their practices. Founded on the Garret's Ranking technique, the study had the respondents rank different problems and

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outcome based on their impact thereby converting into score value and rank with the help of the following formula: Percent position = Where Rij = Rank given for the ith variable by jth respondents Nj = Number of variable ranked by jth respondents With the help of Garrett's Table, the percent position estimated is converted into scores by referring to the table given by Garret and Woodworth (1969). Then for each factor, the scores of each individual are added and then total value of scores and mean values of score is calculated. The factors having highest mean value is considered to be the most important factor.

## Results
Table 1is a representation of the problems faced by the Maize cultivating farmers in Rajouri, Udhampur and Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Table 1:** Problems faced by sampled Maize growers

| Problems | Total score | Garret Mean Score | Rank |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Weeds | 3028 | 12.62 | I |
| Environmental Problems | 2999 | 12.49 | II |
| Marketing Problems | 2047 | 8.53 | III |
| Low Price | 1944 | 8.12 | IV |
| Insect-pest attack | 1851 | 7.71 | V |
| Diseases | 1754 | 7.30 | VI |
| Non Availability of inputs | 1301 | 5.42 | VII |

Table 1 represents Garret ranking of various problems faced by the Maize growers. With mean score of 12.62 weeds problem stood first in the rank among all the other problems whereas problems like environmental problems, marketing problems, low price for produce and insect pest attack stood II$^{nd}$, III$^{rd}$, IV$^{th}$ and V$^{th}$ with their respective mean score of 12.49, 8.53, 8.12 and 7.71. Problems of diseases and non-availability of inputs were least among all the other problems face by Maize growers in cultivation of Maize

## Discussion
Results of table further analyzed that weeds problem having a mean score of 12.62 and stood first in the ranking among all the other problems. The problems like environmental problems, marketing problems, low price for produce and insect pest attack had a mean score of 12.49, 8.53, 8.12 and 7.71. Similar findings were found in a study conducted by Shukla *et al*. (2011) to identify the major issues confronting maize farmers in Gujarat's Bharuch and Narmada districts. The similar results of marketing problem faced by the maize growers were studied by Kumar *et al.* (2012).

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