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## Constraints faced by fruit and vegetable trainees

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### Abstract

The present study was conducted with an objective to elicit constraints faced by fruit and vegetable trainees in Ahmednagar, Sangli, Satara, Solapur, Pune, Nashik, Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra state. Main focus of any development plan of India after post independence era are the farmers. As years pass by, agriculture as an industry lost its importance by policy makers of India. With the sample size of 200, the data was collected by personally interviewing with the help of present and well structured interview schedule and by using ex-post facto research design. The statistical methods like frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, coefficient of correlation were used for analysis of data. The fruit and vegetable trainees had faced many problems such as Availability of skilled labour, high labour cost, inability to repay the loan, high initial investment, competition in the market, irregular electric supply, natural calamities, high cost of production. The present investigation has identified various constraints that occurred to fruit and vegetable trainees.

**Keywords:** Constraints, elicit, Maharashtra

### Introduction

The concept of entrepreneur and entrepreneurship has been frequently applied to the industrial sector. Agriculture, on the other hand, has largely been viewed as a traditional activity. For rural folk it is a way of life. Hence farmers were never visualized as business operators and farming as an enterprise. Little has been done to develop farmers into rational business sensing individuals or in other words 'entrepreneurs'. It is now being widely accepted that increase in production, productivity of farms, farm diversification, innovation and development of farmers into self sustaining individuals follow inculcation of the entrepreneurial qualities among farmers. Factors like the liberalization of the economy have created the right ambience for growth of entrepreneurs in agriculture.

Agriculture is the important occupation of rural people and it is the backbone of the economy of many countries. India is endowed with congenial agro-climatic conditions for a wide range of horticultural crops. The growth in area and production of plantation is quite impressive. For value addition to the farmers products, there is need to promote entrepreneurship among farmers and development of small scale agro-based industries in the villages.

Vegetables also have exclusive importance in providing vitamins, minerals, proteins and energy in diet. According to dieticians, each adult requires 300 grams of vegetables, 125 grams of green leafy vegetables, 100 grams of tuber roots and 75 grams of other vegetables per day for balancing diet. An average Indian consumes 120 grams of vegetables per day.

### Material and Methods

The study was conducted in districts of western Maharashtra purposively with 200 trainees. Ex-Post facto research design was followed. 200 trainees were selected by proportionate random sampling method from seven districts of western Maharashtra. A schedule was developed for the investigation and trainees were asked to elicit constraints. Rank ordering was done in order to show preferences of their constraints.

### Result and Discussion

Table uncovers the constraints faced by fruit and vegetable trainees to establish an enterprise. The constraints expressed by the trainees according to the order of preferences are

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**Table 1:** The constraints expressed by the trainees

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency (N=200)	Percentage
1.	Unavailability of skilled labour	110	55.00
2.	High labour cost	90	45.00
3.	Irregular electric supply	88	44.00
4.	High initial investment	79	39.50
5.	Inability to repay the loan	76	38.00
6.	Competition in the market	72	36.00
7.	Complex official formalities regarding enterprise	71	35.50
8.	Exploitation by middleman	62	31.00
9.	Inability to cope up with Natural calamities	51	25.50
10.	Lack of storage facilities	48	24.00
11.	High cost of production	38	19.00
12.	High cost of packaging material	36	18.00

### Conclusion

The major constraint faced by fruit and vegetable trainees elicited by trainees were lack of unavailability of skilled labour, high initial investment, inability to cope up with natural calamities high cost of packaging material, lack of storage facilities.

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