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Relationship between profile of pomegranate cultivators and technological gap in adoption of improved pomegranate cultivation practices

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Aurangabad district with a view to know the technological gap in adoption of improved pomegranate cultivation practices. The study was conducted during the year 2021-22 in Marathwada region which has considerable area under pomegranate cultivation. In Marathwada region, one district namely Aurangabad was selected purposively as in this district considerable area under pomegranate cultivation. From the district, four talukas were selected purposively where pomegranate is extensively cultivated. Among four talukas of Aurangabad district, Three villages from each tahsil were selected, a total number of 12 villages were selected from the four tahsil. The data from the pomegranate cultivators were collected through personal interview schedule. An Ex-post-facto research design was followed for the study. The collected data was analyzed, classified and tabulated. Statistical tool coefficient of correlation 'r' was worked out to find out the relationship between the independent and dependent variables under study.

Regarding the relationship of selected characteristics of pomegranate cultivators with technological gap in pomegranate cultivation practices, it was found that the farming experience in pomegranate cultivation had positive and significant relationship with technological gap. Education, social participation, extension contact, risk orientation, scientific orientation, mass media exposure and economic motivation had negative and significant relationship with technological gap. Land holding, orchard size, and knowledge had negative and highly significant relationship with technological gap. While annual income shows negative non-significant relationship with technological gap in pomegranate cultivators.

Keywords: Profile of pomegranate cultivators, adoption, improved pomegranate cultivation practices

Introduction

Pomegranate (*Punica granatum* L.) is an important fruit of tropical and subtropical regions of World. It commonly known as Anar, Dalib, Matulum. The centre of origin of pomegranate is Iran where it was first cultivated in 2000 B.C. It is extensively cultivated in various countries which includes Spain, Morocco, Egypt, Iran, China, Japan, USA, Russia, Pakistan, India and other Mediterranean countries. Pomegranate occupies 18th placed based on production among the world's main fruit crops.

India is world's largest producer of pomegranates and it produces finest quality pomegranate throughout the year. The total area under pomegranate crop in India 2018-19 is approximately 2.46 lack hectare and production is 28.65 lack metric tons. During the year 2018-19, 67.89 thousand MT fruits exported from India and it worth Rs. 6885 million, which shows that there is tremendous potential in fruit export (Anonymous, 2019) [2]. UAE, Nepal, Saudi Arab, Oman, Qatar, Netherland, Kuwait, Baharin, Srilanka, Egypt, Vietnam, Singapore are the major destinations were pomegranates exported from India.

Maharashtra contributes 64.43% in total production of pomegranates from India and it ranks first in total production followed by Karnataka, Gujrat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc. It is an important fruit crop of Maharashtra and it is cultivated in 43,151 ha. Area with total production of 4,31,510 tones. In Maharashtra, production is mainly concentrated in the Western Maharashtra region and the Marathwada region. Commercial cultivation of pomegranate takes place in Solapur, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Pune, Dhule, Aurangabad, Satara, Osmanabad and Latur districts of Maharashtra. The varieties like Bhagwa, Super Bhagwa, Arakta, Ganesh, Mrudula, Dholka popularly grown in Maharashtra.

In Marathwada, pomegranate is commercially cultivated in Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Osmanabad and Latur districts. Jalna and Aurangabad are the major pomegranate growing districts in which area under pomegranate cultivation in jalna is 2,424 ha and overall

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production is about 19,100 tonnes. While area under pomegranate cultivation in Aurangabad is 7,300 ha and production is 31,800 tonnes. (Anonymous, 2018) [1].

Bhagawa the variety of pomegranate growing in major districts of Marathwada. The fruit is glossy red in colour with soft seeds and high T.S.S. Variety Ganesh is also grown having yellow to reddish yellow rind colour, having light pink arils and soft seeds. Fruit weights between 225-250 gms with medium T.S.S. Agricultural scientist "Dr. Cheema" did the pioneering work in 1944 at Ganeshkhind, Pune selecting elite plants collected from Alandi and Dholka, cross breed of which gave rise to GBI-1, latter on renamed as „Ganesh“ as a chance seedling (Patil and Karale, 1987).

Pomegranate contains calcium, phosphorous, iron and other mineral as well as „B“ and „C“ vitamins. It prefers for its cool, refreshing juice and also for its different medicinal properties. Bark and rind of fruit are commonly used in the therapeutics in dysentery and diarrhea. Juice is used as medicine for leprosy. With this background in mind the current research was conducted with specific objective to find out the relationship between profile of pomegranate cultivators and technological gap in adoption of improved pomegranate cultivation practices.

Materials and Methods

The present study was conducted in the Aurangabad district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during 2021-2022, mainly because the researcher is the native of state and is well proficient with socio-cultural situation and the local language of that area. This helped in establishing communication with the respondents and obtaining fiducial and authentic information. The tahsil namely Aurangabad, Paithan, Phulambri, Kannad were selected purposively as pomegranate growers were comparatively more in this area. The villages were selected purposively from Aurangabad, Paithan, Phulambri and Kannad tahsil, where maximum number of pomegranate growers observed. Three villages from each tahsil Thus, a total number of 12 villages were selected from the four tahsil. List of selected villages namely Jadgaon, Hivra and Tongaon were selected from Aurangabad taluka Tupewadi, Balanagar, Kadethan were selected from Paithan taluka Haladgaon khurd, Haladgaon budroog, Wakod from Phulambri taluka and Bahirgaon, Dongaon, Chikalthan from the Kannad district. From each village ten pomegranate growers were selected from the list provided by talathi and Agriculture Assistant of each village. Thus, a total 120 pomegranate farmers were selected as sample respondents for the study. The data were gathered through personal interview method structured schedule consisting of various items concern with the objective of study.

Research design is defined as the procedure and methodology followed in the research study. One shot case study method of Ex-post-facto research design was used for the present study. The collected data was analysed, classified and tabulated. Statistical tools such as frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and coefficient of correlation were used to interpret findings and draw conclusions.

Relationship between profile and technological gap in adoption of improved pomegranate cultivation practices.

In the present investigation an attempt was made to find out the nature of relationship between the selected characteristics of pomegranate cultivators with their overall technological

gap, coefficient of correlation stated below.

Table 1: Relationship between the characteristics of pomegranate cultivators and their overall technological gap in adoption of improved pomegranate cultivation practices.

Sr. No.	Independent variable	Coefficient of correlation (r)
1	Education	-0.201*
2	Farming experience	0.218*
3	Land holding	-0.304**
4	Annual income	-0.063 ^{NS}
5	Orchard size	-0.273**
6	Social participation	-0.212*
7	Extension contact	-0.202*
8	Risk orientation	-0.238*
9	Scientific orientation	-0.224*
10	Mass media exposure	-0.250*
11	Economic motivation	-0.202*
12	Knowledge	-0.361**

**-. Significant at 0.01 per cent level of probability

*-. Significant at 0.05 per cent level of probability

Regarding the relationship of selected characteristics of pomegranate cultivators with technological gap in pomegranate cultivation practices, it was found that the farming experience in pomegranate cultivation had positive and significant relationship with technological gap and the findings are in line with the findings of Chavan (2014) [4]. Education, social participation, extension contact, risk orientation, scientific orientation, mass media exposure and economic motivation had negative and significant relationship with technological gap and the findings are in line with the findings of Bheemudada (2015) [4], Bhabhor *et al.* (2017) [3], Waman *et al.* (2006) [12], Santosh (2006) [10], Shaily yadav *et al.* (2020) [11], Parikh (2013) [8], and Chavan (2014) [4] respectively. Land holding, orchard size, and knowledge had negative and highly significant relationship with technological gap this findings are similar with the findings of Bhabhor *et al.* (2017) [3], Rathod (2013) [9], Kachare (2012) [7] respectively. While annual income shows negative non-significant relationship with technological gap in pomegranate cultivators and the findings are in line with the findings of Deepika (2014) [6].

Summary and Conclusions

Regarding the relationship of selected characteristics of pomegranate cultivators with technological gap in pomegranate cultivation practices, it was found that the farming experience in pomegranate cultivation had positive and significant relationship with technological gap. Education, social participation, extension contact, risk orientation, scientific orientation, mass media exposure and economic motivation had negative and significant relationship with technological gap. Land holding, orchard size, and knowledge had negative and highly significant relationship with technological gap. While annual income shows negative non-significant relationship with technological gap in pomegranate cultivators.

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