

## Knowledge of farmers about National Horticultural Mission

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### ABSTRACT

The present investigation was conducted in randomly selected Parbhani and Jalna district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state to know the knowledge of beneficiaries about National Horticultural Mission and its relation with their profile. The data were collected personally with the help of structured interview schedule from 120 respondents from four randomly selected blocks of the districts. It was observed that majority of the beneficiaries of National Horticultural Mission were middle aged, educated up to secondary school with medium family size and having semi medium land holding. Regarding annual income, social participation, extension contact, source of information, risk bearing ability and knowledge of National Horticultural Mission, majority of them were under medium category. It was observed that out of ten independent variable, education, land holding, annual income, social participation, extension contact, sources of information and risk bearing ability had positive and significant relationship with knowledge, while age has negative and significant relationship with knowledge. From multiple regression analysis it came to know that education, risk bearing ability and social participation had highly significant and positive effect on the knowledge. Statistical tests such as frequency, percentage, correlation coefficient, multiple regression analysis were used for analysis of data.

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### INTRODUCTION

Horticulture Development Scheme is in existence in Maharashtra state since 1991. It was limited to establishment of fruit gardens National Horticultural Mission has additional schemes as Nursery establishment, polythene tanks, protected cultivation (Green house, Shade net), promotion of INM/IPM, HRD, post harvest management (Pack houses, cold storage units etc.), processing and value addition.

So with aim to know the knowledge of farmers towards National Horticultural Mission, the present investigation was undertaken with the objectives : to study socio-economic and personal characteristics of the beneficiaries of National Horticultural Mission, to know the extent of knowledge of the beneficiaries about National Horticultural Mission and to find out relationship between socio-economic and personal characteristics of the beneficiaries with their knowledge about National Horticultural Mission

### METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was conducted in randomly selected Parbhani and Jalna district of Marathwada region of Maharashtra state. From Parbhani district, two blocks Pathri and Parbhani and from Jalna district Jalna and Partur blocks were selected randomly. Three

villages from each selected district were selected randomly. From each selected village ten beneficiaries by making sample of 120 respondents of National Horticultural Mission which had implemented this scheme in year 2005 were selected randomly. The data from selected 120 beneficiaries were collected by contacting them personally through structured interview schedule. Frequency, percentage, standard deviation, correlation coefficient, multiple regression analysis were employed to find out the results.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *Socio-economic and personal characteristics of the beneficiaries of National Horticultural Mission:*

It can be seen from Table 1 that majority of respondents (56.67 per cent) were from middle age group followed by young age group (32.50 per cent) and old age group (10.83 per cent). Majority of respondents were educated up to secondary school level (28.33 per cent), followed by higher secondary level (17.50 per cent). 15.83 per cent of them were educated up to primary school level. One eight of them were educated up to middle school level (12.50 per cent). It was surprising that 17 farmers were educated up to graduation level (14.17 per cent). It was further noticed that 9.17 per cent respondents were illiterate

### Key words :

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