

## A study of attributes and constraint of the pomegranate cultivators of Solapur district of Maharashtra

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### ABSTRACT

The study pointed out that 47.65 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivators were in medium age group of 36 to 50 years. A majority 92.19 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivators were educated and only 7.81 per cent were illiterate. More than half 55.46 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivators had medium size of family of 5 to 8 members. About 37 per cent of the pomegranate cultivators had size of land holding between 2.00 to 4.00 ha. Nearly half per cent 52.34 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivators had medium level of social participation. About 49.21 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivator were using medium source of information. The 45.31 per cent of the pomegranate cultivators had taken Pomegranate on an area of 2.51 ha and above. More than one-fourth 27.34 per cent of the pomegranate cultivators had annual income between Rs. 100001 to 200000/-. About 16.40 per cent of the pomegranate cultivators had annual income between Rs. 300000/- to 500000/-. Only 11.71 per cent of them had annual income of Rs. 500001 and above. More than half of the (54.68 per cent) respondent pomegranate cultivators belonged to medium risk orientation category. A majority 58.59 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivators belonged to medium economic motivation category A majority 59.37 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivators had medium knowledge level followed by 25.78 per cent and 14.84 per cent of the respondents had high and low knowledge level, respectively. Major constraints faced by the respondents' pomegranate cultivators were lack of knowledge about oily spot disease management 76.56 per cent, fluctuation in prices of market 71.09 per cent, lack of knowledge about application of plant protection measures 66.40 per cent. A constraint in availability of guaranteed seedlings from disease free nurseries 62.50 per cent, lack of knowledge about fertilizer and micronutrient 60.93 per cent, 'middle man' takes more commission 60.93 per cent.

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### INTRODUCTION

India is the second largest fruit producing country in the world and produces about 50 per cent of world production of pomegranate. Total fruit production in India was estimated up to 54.4 million tones from 5.9 million hectares of area (National Horticultural Board, 2005-06). Horticulture occupies an important place in the agricultured economy of India. The contribution of horticulture is estimated to about 10 per cent of the total value of agriculture in the country.

In India is two lakh hectares area under pomegranate crop, mainly in states of Maharashtra, Gujarat followed by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. At present area under pomegranate is 89930 ha *i.e.* 85 per cent of India and production was 509475 metric tonnes in 2006-07. The cultivation of pomegranate is mainly confined to districts like, Solapur (33028 ha), Sangli (5550 ha), Nashik (26011 ha), Ahmednagar (7138 ha) and Pune (4914 ha). Area under pomegranate is increasing very

rapidly because of its hardy nature, excellent keeping quality of fruits and remunerative prices of export market. The investigation was focused on the technological gap in adoption of recommended technology of pomegranate crop. The pomegranate crop of Western Maharashtra particularly infested with bacterial disease (*Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *Punicae*). The infestation was fast spreading in other districts of Western Maharashtra.

### METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in 16 villages of Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district of Maharashtra State. The data collected from 128 respondents from sample villages of Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district with the help of well-constructed and pre-tested interview schedule. The study was undertaken with objectives to study the personal social, economic, communication and psychological attributes of the respondent pomegranate cultivators, to identify the constraints faced by the pomegranate

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