

Technological gap in saffron production technology

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ABSTRACT

Present study was designed to examine the technological gap by selecting 180 saffron growers from three purposively selected districts of Kashmir. The findings reflected that the highest technological gap 53.75 % was found in post harvest technology followed by 50.21 % was planting of seed corms. Further, technological gap was found in land preparation and manure/fertilizer application (49.62 %), plant protection (47.49 %) and irrigation and intercultural practices (44.71 %). The study also revealed that average technological gap was 55.73 per cent in small growers followed by medium growers (47.73 %) and big saffron growers (44 %).

INTRODUCTION

Saffron (*Crocus sativas* L.) is a perennial herb, used as spice. Jammu and Kashmir is the only State of India where saffron is grown with an area of about three thousand hectares with a production of 91.24 quintals (Anonymous, 2008). Pulwama, Srinagar and Budgam are important saffron growing districts in J&K. From the last decade, the average productivity is decreasing with a decline of about 40 per cent (Shah and Tripathi, 2009). However, there is a considerable possibility of increasing production by increasing farmer's efficiencies. This means that there is a need to promote the saffron production. This indicates that there is a need to know their existing level of knowledge and extent of adoption for declining the future strategy in respect to promote the saffron production technology.

Obviously the productivity of saffron is low as compared to other saffron growing countries. Reasons for low productivity is lacking of technical know-how of saffron growers and non adoption of improved package of practices by the growers. As a result, the technological gap in saffron production has increased. Keeping these factors in mind, the present study was undertaken to know the technological gap of saffron production technology in Kashmir.

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was undertaken in Kashmir of J&K State. Srinagar, Pulwama

and Budgam were selected purposively, since these districts have good percentage of area under saffron cultivation. Further, four villages were selected from each district and ten saffron growers from each village were selected purposively. To measure the farmer's technological gap in saffron production technology, a well structured interview schedule was used for collecting the data from the saffron growers.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study are presented below:

Extent of technological gap in saffron production technology:

Technological gap is presented in Table 1 as small, medium and big growers on the basis of improved practices.

The perusal of Table 1 exposes that highest *i.e.* 53.74 per cent gap was found in post harvesting technology followed by 50.21 per cent in planting of seed corms, 49.62 per cent in land preparation and manure/fertilizers application. The overall technological gap was found 49.15 per cent. Plant protection was found in 4th position and irrigation and intercultural practices in 5th position in the technological gap percentage. Category wise small growers have more technological gap (55.73 %) followed by medium growers (47.73 %) and (44.00 %) in case of big growers. The highest gap in post harvest technology of saffron was due to unawareness regarding

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