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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Preferred traits in pigeonpea production in India

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to assess the preferred trait of pigeonpea production in India. For this purpose, the surveys were conducted in district Akola of Maharashtra state, which was representative of the main agro-ecological zone of India. Three treatment villages were selected randomly *i.e.* one from Akola taluka and two from Murtizapur talukas. Thus, the sample sizes of 135 farmers were selected, of which, 90 farmers from adopted village and 45 farmers from control villages. The result of the present study was observed to identify the preferred trait of Maroti, Asha and Ganesh varieties of pigeonpea by using Garrett's ranking Technique. Preferred trait observed in pigeonpea production was high yield, drought resistance and short duration. Pigeonpea had preferred trait in consumption also, like better taste, less cooking time and also Quantity and durability of fodder in pigeonpea. Because of all these preferred traits Pigeonpea is a most important pulse crop in India. Thus, it is suggested that, it is necessary to enhance the area under pigeonpea production.

INTRODUCTION

Pigeonpea [Cajanus cajan (L.) willsp.] is a tropical grain legume grown mainly in India. Though largely considered an orphan crop, pigeonpea has a huge untapped potential for improvement both in quantity and quality of production in Africa. More than any other legume adapted to the region, pigeonpea uniquely combines optimal nutritional profiles, high tolerance to environmental stresses, high biomass productivity and most nutrient and moisture contributions to the soil. Pigeonpea production is highest in India (Johansen et al., 1993). About 90% of the global pigeonpea area (4.4 M ha) is in Asia about 86% in India (Siambi et al., 1992). In India, most of the farmers plant pigeonpea in Kharif season generally intercropped with soybean, cotton, sorghum, greengram, sunflower and black gram (Omanga et al., 1996). Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean region, India is probably the primary centre of origin of pigeonpea.

Pigeonpea is the most important food grain legume in India as a multiple purpose drought-tolerant crop and provides many benefits to resources-poor families: Its green pods and seeds are consumed as a vegetable, and the dry grains are cooked whole or after dehulling (as dhal). The foliage is used as fodder, and the dry sticks are used for fencing, thatching, and as firewood. It fixes atmospheric nitrogen, and the extensive leaf fall adds organic matter to the soil. Rarely does the plant need to be inoculated because it can noduslate on *Rhizobium* naturally present in most soils (Faris, 1983). Dry grain is also used for animal feed. Because of the ability of pigeonpea roots to penetrate hard soils, it is used in soil conservation in rocky mountain slopes. Therefore, the present study has been made to assess the preferred trait of pigeonpea production in India.

METHODOLOGY

In India, area under pigeonpea is highest in Akola district of Maharashtra. Therefore, for the present study Akola district was selected purposively in Maharashtra state. In Akola district, Akola and Murtizapur talukas were selected. Three treatment villages were selected randomly *i.e.* one from Akola taluka and two from Murtizapur talukas. Thus, the sample sizes of 135 farmers were selected, of which, 90 farmers from adopted village and 45 farmers from control village's. The details are given below.

Target domain:

Sources of data collection:

The study is based on primary data and secondary data collected from the public records, journals and web portals. The primary data were collected from the district socioeconomic surveys *i.e.* Akola district through

Key words :

Marketing cost, Margin, Price spread, Producers share, Kagda flower

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