Internat. J. Agric. Sci. Vol.2 No.1 January 2006 : 256-258

Constraints Encountered By Tomato Growers

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ABSTRACT

Vegetables play a vital role in the nutritional security of the Indian population and economy of majority of farmers. Technology generation and dissemination are identified as the most important aspects to increase the productivity and production of vegetables. Tremendous efforts have been made to develop package of practices for getting maximum yield. The average actual yield recorded for tomato was 6.8t/ac at the farmer's field, whereas the scientists claimed that the yield was 9.8t/ac. Hence a study was taken up to assess the constraints faced by the respondents in the adoption of recommended technologies in tomato. The study was conducted in Dindigul district with a sample of 120 tomato growers belonging to six villages of Oddanchathiram block selected based on random sampling technique. The highest and lowest constraints were observed in weak extension service (82.50 per cent) and non-availability of trained labourers (15.83 per cent) respectively.

Key words: Constraints, adoption, tomato and technology.

INTRODUCTION

After achieving self-sufficiency in the production of food grains over a decade back, the Government of India laid emphasis on the production of horticultural crops. Among them, vegetables play a major role in the financial economy of majority of small and marginal farmers. Among the various vegetables grown, tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum Mill*) is the most widely grown vegetable crop in India. In India, tomato occupies an area of 3,21,000ha with a production of 5,02,000 metric tonnes during 1990 Gill and Tomar, (1991). In Tamil Nadu, it is one of the most important vegetable and cultivated in almost all parts. The yield losses in tomato have been estimated up to 70.00 per cent Singh and Tripathi, (1988) due to prolonged weed infestation. Hence, a study was taken up to assess the constraints faced by the respondents in the adoption of recommended technologies in tomato crop.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was taken up in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu. Oddanchathiram taluk which had the maximum area under tomato crop was chosen for the study. A sample of 20 respondents growing tomato crop were chosen from each of the six selected villages based on random sampling procedure. Thus, the sample consisted of 120 respondents. The constraints faced by tomato growers in the adoption in of recommended technologies as expressed by them were obtained through an open ended question. Keeping this in view, the present study was conducted to assess the constraints experienced by the respondents in the adoption of recommended technologies in tomato crop.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data on the constraints experienced by the respondents in the adoption of improved cultivation practices in tomato were ranked according to the number of respondents reporting each constraint and the results are given in Table 1.

It could be seen from Table 1, that majority of the respondents (82.50 per cent) reported 'Weak extension service' at the village level as their first and foremost constraint. This may be due to inadequate extension effort by the Department of Horticulture to disseminate the production and protection technologies. This findings is in line with the findings of Selvanayagi (2002).

The second constraint experienced by 81.67 per cent of the respondents 'was inadequate power supply'. During summer, the respondents stated that the power was supplied only on shift basis. Hence, they could not make use of the power when they were in need. Moreover, the power supply during summer season was erotic as reported by many of the respondents. This finding is in line with the findings of Sudhakar (2002).

The third constraint was 'Lack of training' experienced by 80.83 per cent of the respondents. It may be due to the lack of efforts by the Department of Horticulture to train the vegetable growers in the latest technologies. Hence, the respondents might have reported this as a constraint. This finding is in line with the findings of Selvanayagi (2002).

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