



Yield gap in groundnut production in northern transition zone of Karnataka

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Abstract : The study was carried out in the northern transition zone of Karnataka comprising of the districts Dharwad, Belgaum, Haveri and Gadag in the year 2009-2010. Ninety respondents were selected from the study area by simple random sampling method. The yield gap was found to be 23.96 per cent between the research station and demonstrator farmers field. Moreover a gap of 59.15 per cent was found between the demonstrator and fellow farmers yield. There was a highly significant difference in comparison of the mean yields between the demonstrator and fellow farmers. The major technical problem perceived by the respondents was inadequate guidance regarding improved technology which was expressed by 23.33 per cent of the demonstrator farmers and 95.00 per cent of the fellow farmers. As many as 76.67 and 96.67 per cent of demonstrator and fellow farmers, respectively expressed high cost of chemicals and fertilizers as the major problem related to input. For demonstrator farmers, the major financial problem was the complex, lengthy and rigid procedure of bank finance (76.67%) whereas for fellow farmers it was inadequate guidance on credit availability (91.67%). Price fluctuation was the main marketing problem as expressed by both the demonstrators (86.67%) and fellow (93.33%) farmers. The general problems faced by the respondents were lack of information about government schemes and subsidies.

Key Words : Yield gap, Demonstrator farmers, Fellow farmers

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INTRODUCTION

There is technology breakthrough in the field of agriculture in India which has resulted in increasing productivity, yet there are ample observations to show that not even 25 per cent of the available technology is adopted in the farmers' field. Even though large scale verification trials and demonstrations are conducted to promote the spread of crop production technology, there still exist adoption gaps which leads to lower yields.

India occupies the first place in acreage and second in production of groundnut in the world. In India, groundnut is grown over an area of 6.41 million hectares with total production of 9.36 million tonnes. It is one of the major oilseed crops grown in Karnataka covering an area of 0.76 million hectares and production of 0.38 million tonnes (Anonymous,

2008). The yield of groundnut in farmers' field is 900kg/ha as against the potential yield of 3000kg/ha. This is a clear indication of the fact that though India has competent agricultural research and extension systems, yet the adoption of technologies by farmers are far from satisfactory. In this direction, an attempt has been made to study the adoption gap in groundnut production in northern transition zone of Karnataka with the following objectives: to assess the yield gap on demonstration field, to assess the gap in adoption of individual recommended cultivation practices of groundnut, comparison of means of yield between demonstrator and fellow farmers and yield gap between demonstrations and fellow farmers field.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in northern transition zone of

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