

## Constraints faced by *Rabi* onion growers in production and marketing and suggestions made by them in Ahmednagar district

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### ABSTRACT

The investigation was made to know the constraints faced by the onion growers in production, marketing management and suggestions made by them to overcome the problems. The study was conducted in Parner Tehsil of Ahmednagar district. From Parner Tehsil, 8 villages were selected in which 96 respondents were selected. The findings of the study revealed that non-availability of electricity in time was the major constraint faced by 94.79 per cent respondents followed by high cost of onion seed (82.29%), fertilizers at higher rates (66.66%), non-availability of labour and higher wages (64.58%) in the production while high transportation cost was faced by 86.45 per cent respondents followed by unpredictable price fluctuation (84.37%), high commission charges (83.33%), in marketing management. To overcome these constraints, they suggested provision for availability of electricity in time, increase seed production at Taluka seed farm, supply of fertilizers under government provision, contract farming system should be done and cheaper transportation facility, price support facility and minimum commission charges.

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**O**nion (*Allium cepa* L.) belongs to the family Liliaceae. Presently onion is cultivated in various countries of the world. China, India, U.S.A., Turkey, Pakistan, Russian Fed., Brazil, Indonesia, Ukraine, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Vietnam are the major onion producing countries in the world. India is the second largest producer of the onion in the world next to China.

Onion is a major item of agricultural exports, earning valuable foreign exchange to the country. There are many problems in production and marketing of onion. Due to seasonal and semi-perishable nature of onion, there are wide fluctuations in prices both month to month and year to year. It adversely affects the economy of the onion grower. Assured reasonable price for the onion is an important demand of onion growers by regulating flow of onion in the state. In addition to above factors, number of middlemen, types of market structure, number of sellers and buyers also affect price level. In the light of above, the present study was undertaken to know the constraints

faced in production and marketing management of *Rabi* onion and suggestions to overcome them.

### METHODOLOGY

Multistage sampling design was used to select district, tehsil, villages and growers. In the first stage, Ahmednagar district was purposively selected, because of availability of area under onion production, predominance in area after Nasik and Pune. In the second stage, Parner Tehsil was selected, on the basis of highest area under *Rabi* onion. In the third stage, eight villages from Parner tehsil were selected on the basis of availability area under *Rabi* onion cultivation. In the fourth stage, from each selected village on the basis of total land holding they were divided into three size group *i.e.* small (up to 2.0 ha), medium (2.1 to 4.0 ha) and large (above 4.0 ha). Thus, 32 cultivators were selected for each group. Thus, total respondents were 96. The data were collected and converted into tabular form then statistical tools like frequency and percentages were used to draw meaningful conclusions.

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

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