

A study of technological gap and the reasons for existence of technological gap

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Accepted : March, 2010

ABSTRACT

It has been observed that researches in social science give mainly attention towards the adoption of cultivation practices of different areas. However, studies in the field of technological gap are very rare on this background. Hence, the present study is proposed to survey Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district by giving focus on technological gap. Growth of crop yield production quality and productivity of pomegranate are severely hampered by oily spot disease and pomegranate growers are unable to control the same due to lack of knowledge and they do not adopt recommended practices on large scale which is the main hindrance in increasing the average yield per hectare. It was observed that a majority 68.75 per cent of the respondent pomegranate cultivators were found in medium technological gap level while 19.53 per cent of them were found in high technological gap whereas 11.71 per cent of them were found in low technological gap. The average technological gap of the respondent pomegranate cultivator was 29.46 per cent. The reasons for existence of technological gap were high cost of chemical fertilizers, difficulty in identifying oily spot diseases, lack of availability of drought resistant and disease resistant varieties, irregular supply of electricity lack of availability of guaranteed seedling from disease free nursery.

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Key words : Technological gap, Adopted pomegranate technology

Pomegranate is grown on diverse type of soils. It is a hardy plant and can survive even under desert conditions. Although, it is highly drought resistant, it responds well to irrigation. In India 2 lakh hectares area under pomegranate crop, which is mainly grown in states of Maharashtra, Gujrat followed by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. At present area under pomegranate is 89.930 ha *i.e.* 85 per cent of India and production was 509475 metric tonnes in 2006-07. The cultivation of pomegranate is mainly confined to districts like, Solapur (33028 ha), Sangli (5550 ha), Nashik (26011 ha), Ahmednagar (7138 ha) and Pune (4914 ha). Area under pomegranate is increasing very rapidly because of its hardy nature, excellent keeping quality of fruits and remunerative prices of export market. It has been observed that researcher in social science give mainly attention towards the adoption of cultivation practices of different areas. However, studies in the field of technological gap are very rare on this background. Hence, the present study proposed to survey Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district by giving focus on technological gap.

Growth of crop, yield, quality and productivity of pomegranate are severely hampered by oily spot disease and pomegranate growers are unable to control the same due to lack of knowledge and they do not adopt recommended practices on large scale which is the main

hindrance in increasing the average yield per hectare. A systematic study in this direction would bring out the extent of technological gap between recommended and actually adopted pomegranate technology by the pomegranate growers, problems faced by them, communication gap among the pomegranate cultivators regarding new technologies.

Objectives:

The objective are as to study the technological gap of adopted pomegranate technologies by the respondent pomegranate cultivators and to study the reasons for existing of technological gap in cultivation practices adopted for pomegranate by the respondent pomegranate cultivators

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in 16 villages from Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district of Maharashtra State. The data collected from 128 respondents from sampled villages of Sangola and Pandharpur tahsil of Solapur district with the help of well-constructed and pre-tested interview schedule. In view of the objectives of the study, appropriate statistical tests were used for drawing the inferences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant