

Problems of Vegetable Growers in Marketing and Production in Akola District

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ABSTRACT

Vegetables play a vital role in nourishment of human beings. Vegetable cultivation is one of the important source of farm income. But vegetables growers has so many problems in marketing and production such as high input cost, transportation, perishable nature of vegetables, price fluctuation etc. Problems faced by selected vegetable growers while marketing of vegetables were uncertainty of prices was main problems overall percent was 67.44 per cent then high commission rate, adequate storage facilities and in production overall percentage was 62.44 per cent next problems were losses due to climatic changes, high wage rate, labour problem.

Key words *vegetables, marketing, production, problems, farmers*

India is the second largest producer of vegetables in the world next to China. Vegetable production has various importance and scope. It is rich and comparatively cheaper source of vitamin, proteins, carbohydrates, minerals which is very important in maintaining good health and when consumed along with some cereals make a diet balance. There is tremendous scope in growing vegetables in our country because majority of population prefers vegetarian food and production of vegetables are less as compare to demand. Vegetables are of short duration, fast growing crop and more crops can be raised yearly from the same unit of land resulting higher and higher production.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Primary data collected from different villages of different tahsils in Akola district where vegetable cultivation is concentrated. The list of villages where vegetables were grown was collected from the office of Panchayat Samiti (Gramsevak), Krishi Seva Kendra and Seed Shops of the Akola and other tahsils. e selected farmers were personally contacted and data collected from them in schedule for the year 2008-09. The survey method followed for data collection.

Distribution of farmers

a) According to land holding

Sr. No.	Land holding	Vegetables growers
1	Marginal (below 1 ha)	15
2	Small (1 to 2 ha)	35
3	Medium (2 to 4 ha)	30
4	Large (4 ha and above)	20
Total		100

b) According to tahasil

Sr. No.	Tahasil	Vegetables growers
1	Akola	20
2	Akot	21
3	Barshitakali	25
4	Patur	15
5	Balapur	19
Total		100

c) According to vegetables

Sr. No.	Vegetables	Land Holding				Total
		Marginal (Below 1 ha.)	Small (1-2 ha.)	Medium (2-4 ha.)	Large (4 and above)	
1	Brinjal	5	7	8	3	23
2	Cauliflower	4	9	5	3	21
3	Cabbage	3	7	4	3	17
4	Onion	3	12	6	4	25
5	Capsicum	-	-	7	7	14
Total		15	35	30	20	100

Selected vegetables are brinjal, cauliflower, cabbage, and onion grown more in the study area. Cultivation under net shade of capsicum also selected for study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSION

Problems faced by selected vegetable growers

All the selected vegetable growers were interviewed for the problems they are facing while

**Table. Problems faced by vegetables growers in production and marketing of vegetable
(Farmers in number)**

Sr. No.	Particulars	Marginal	Small	Medium	Large	Overall
A. Problem in production of vegetables						
1	High cost of fertilizers and other inputs	10 (66.67)	32 (91.43)	20 (66.67)	5 (25.00)	16.75 (62.44)
2	Losses due to climatic change	12 (80.00)	10 (28.57)	12 (40.00)	9 (45.00)	10.75 (48.39)
3	High wage rate	7 (46.67)	22 (62.86)	18 (60.00)	7 (35.00)	13.5 (51.13)
4	Labour problems	5 (33.33)	10 (28.57)	20 (66.67)	12 (60.00)	11.75 (47.14)
5	Lack of technical knowledge about pest and diseases and its control	6 (40.00)	9 (25.71)	10 (33.33)	5 (25.00)	7.50 (31.01)
6	Others	6 (40.00)	13 (37.14)	12 (40.00)	8 (40.00)	9.25 (37.80)
B. Problem in marketing of vegetables						
7	Adequate storage facilities	8 (53.33)	15 (45.86)	9 (30.00)	5 (25.00)	9.75 (39.29)
8	Uncertainty of prices	8 (53.33)	25 (71.43)	27 (90.00)	11 (55.00)	17.75 (67.44)
9	High commission charges	5 (33.33)	20 (57.14)	15 (50.00)	5 (25.00)	11.25 (41.37)
10	Others	9 (60.00)	15 (42.86)	10 (33.33)	7 (35.00)	10.25 (42.80)
Total		15	35	30	20	100

(Figure in parenthesis indicates the percentages to the total)

producing and marketing the vegetable. The information regarding the important problems faced by the growers is presented in Table.

Table revealed that important problems faced by selected vegetable growers while production was high cost of fertilizers and other inputs. Overall percentage was 62.44 per cent next problems were losses due to climatic changes, high wage rate, labour problem lack of technical knowledge about pest and diseases and its control. Overall percentage of these were 48.39 per cent, 51.13 per cent, 47.14 per cent, 31.01 per cent, respectively and other problems while production such as load shading, animal attack, doses of fertilizers etc., overall percent was 39.29 per cent.

Problems faced by selected vegetable growers while marketing of vegetables were uncertainty of prices was main problems overall percent was 67.44 per cent then high commission rate, adequate

storage facilities. Overall percentage were 41.37 per cent, 37.80 per cent respectively. In other problems included demand of consumer, lack of market intelligence, transportation etc. overall percentage was 42.80 per cent.

High cost of inputs, losses due to climatic changes, uncertainty of prices, disease and pest attack etc. were major constraints faced by vegetable growers during production and marketing of vegetables.

From the economic point of view the vegetable cultivation is one of the important sources of farm income. Vegetable cultivation provides raw materials to several other processing industries. Vegetables growing also make effective use of land, labour and other resources. Vegetable growing provide opportunity of employment to rural people as most of the operations are labour intensive and time bound.

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