

**To identify the problems faced by the medicinal and aromatic plants growers in
Hoshiarpur district of Punjab**

Abstract

The study entitled status and prospects of medicinal and aromatic plants in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab was under taken with the objectives to identify the problems faced by the medicinal and aromatic plants growers in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab. Four blocks of Hoshiarpur district namely Bhunga, Dasuya, Hajipur and Talwara were selected, 20 farmers were selected from the each block thus the total sample comprised of 80 farmers for the present study were selected. The data were collected by personal interview approach method, tabulated and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools. The findings of the study revealed that 87.50 per cent farmers were growing wheat as their main crop, 17.50 per cent farmers facing problems related to Unfavourable government policies and 75 per cent farmers suggested that rates should be more.

Keywords- Problems, medicinal plants, aromatic plants, MAPs

Introduction

India has been considered as treasure house of valuable medicinal and aromatic plant species. Ministry of Environment and Forests have identified and documented over 9500 plant species considering their importance in the pharmaceutical industry. Our foreign exchange earning potential from medicinal and aromatic plants is estimated to be over 3000 million US dollars per annum (Anonymous 2015). After having so many advantages of growing medicinal and aromatic plants even than adoption level for cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants are very less as compared to traditional crops. There are many reasons of non adoption of medicinal and aromatic few of them are post-harvest management, inadequate cold storage, underdeveloped market infrastructure, inadequate market information services, low level of productivity and fragmented holdings are the main constraints in the export of horticultural products (Bansal 1994). Kaur *et al* (1989) listed the problems faced by the farmers in bringing about the diversification in agriculture as, marketing of produce (39.68 per cent), labour shortage (25.46 per cent), lack of technical advice (17.46 per cent), lack of knowledge (15.87 per cent), non-availability of pesticides and credit facilities (6.35 per cent), non-availability of fertilizers (31.7 per cent) and ensured

price (4.76 per cent). So, it is necessary to find problems of medicinal and aromatic plants growers along with suitable suggestions given by farmers.

Material and methods

The study was planned in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab because maximum area under MAPs is in Hoshiarpur district. Four blocks namely Bhunga, Talwara, Dasuya, Hajipur were selected for study. 20 farmers were selected randomly from each block hence a sample of 80 farmers were selected. An interview schedule was designed. After pre testing, necessary data was being collected personally by the researcher by visiting the study area and interviewing the respondents. The data were analyzed with the help of Range, frequency, percentage and cumulative cube root frequency method. Variables were status, prospects and problems.

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to various crops grown by respondents

n=80

S.No.	Crops	Frequency (f*)	Percentage (%)
1.	Wheat (<i>Triticum aestivum</i>)	70	87.50
2.	Paddy (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	37	46.25
3.	Maize (<i>Zea mays</i>)	52	65
4.	Sugarcane (<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>)	27	33.75
5.	Fodder	32	40
6.	Vegetables	65	81.25

*Multiple response

The results in Table 1 show that the majority of respondents i.e. 87.50 per cent and 81.25 per cent respondents were wheat and vegetables growers respectively. Less than half (46.25 per cent) respondents were cultivating paddy, 65.00 per cent respondents were growing maize. 40.00 per cent respondents were growing fodder for their livestock and only one fourth of respondents were growing sugarcane.

It is clear from data given in Table 2 that the major input related problems were credit (56.25 per cent), storage (80 per cent), harvesting labour (15 per cent), fertilizers, chemicals and problem of weeds were faced by 2.50 per cent of respondents. Technical problems faced by farmers were non-availability of crop rotation (15.00 per cent), unfavorable govt. policies (17.50 per cent), non suitability of MAPs to the area (5 per cent),

62 Lack of knowledge (10 per cent), lack of awareness about market trend (15 per
63 cent).Marketing problems faced by farmers were lack of distillation units (16.25 per cent)
64 transport facilities (15.00 per cent) and sale (13.75 per cent).

65 **Table 2: Distribution of respondents on the basis of Problems faced by farmers related**
66 **to MAPs cultivation**

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S. No.	Problems	Frequency (f*)	Percentage (%)
A	Input related problems		
1.	Credit	45	56.25
2.	Seed procurement	2	2.50
3.	Fertilizers	2	2.50
4.	Chemicals	2	2.50
5.	Weed control	2	2.50
6.	Harvesting Labour	12	15.
7.	Implements	-	-
8.	Storage	64	80
B	Technical problems		
1.	Non available to crop rotation	12	15.00
2.	Non suitability of MAPs to the area	4	5.00
3.	Unfavorable government policies	14	17.50
4.	Lack of knowledge	8	10.00
5.	Lack of awareness about market trend	12	15.00
C	Marketing problems		
1.	Distillation	13	16.25
2.	Transport	12	15.00
3.	Sale	11	13.75

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69 **Table 3: Distribution of respondents according to their suggestions for promotion of**
70 **medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation**

S.No.	Suggestions	Frequency (f*)	Percentage (%)
1.	Rate should be more	60	75.00
2.	Minimum Support price should be given	75	93.75
3.	Credit facilities should be given	45	56.25
4.	Subsidies should be given to start MAPs cultivation	45	56.25

5.	Inputs like fertilizers should be subsidized as in sugarcane	40	50.00
6.	More information on T.V/ Radio, articles in News papers should be given	75	93.75
7.	Cold stores should be installed by govt. at nominal rents	60	75.00

*Multiple responses

The suggestions given by the respondents engaged in the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs) and related practices are given in Table 3. The suggestions for necessity of fixing rate and more rate than present were given by majority of the respondents i.e. 93.75 per cent and 75 per cent respectively. Other suggestions given by respondents were that the credit facilities and subsidies should be given to start medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation (56.25%), subsidized fertilizers should be given (50.00%), More information on T.V/ Radio, articles in news papers should be given for MAPS cultivation (93.75%), Cold stores should be installed by govt. at nominal rents (75%).

Conclusions

Majority of farmers faced problems related to the storage of their produce from medicinal and aromatic plants, unfavorable government policies and lack of distillation plants and few suggestions were also given by medicinal and aromatic plants growers most important suggestion given by farmers was minimum Support price should be given on MAPs also as M.S.P. is provided in case of traditional crops that is the reason farmers prefers to grow traditional crops on their field and another suggestion given by farmers was cold store should be constructed in Hoshiarpur although there are already 40 cold stores in this district and all were for potato storage , not even single multipurpose store in the district so, to avoid deterioration of produce of farmers from medicinal and aromatic plants multipurpose cold stores should be constructed in Hoshiarpur district.

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