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Problems of mango growers in global gap certification and constraints in adoption of good agriculture practices

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Abstract

This study was conducted to know the problems of mango growers in GLOBAL GAP certification and constraints in adoption of good agriculture practices. Study was conducted in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra state, which contributes nearly 70 percent area under mango in the state. The Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts were purposively selected for the present study. In GLOBAL GAP certification majority 97.00 percent of the respondents faced problem like 'delay in issuing/ obtaining certificate', while 96.00 percent of the respondents said that 'renovation of certificate is essential every year' and 'entire process needs heavy investment', respectively. However, four-fifth (80.00 percent) of the respondents said that 'need more documentation and record keeping', followed by (68.00 percent) 'non availability of residue analysis and soil and water testing laboratory in vicinity'. With regards to production constraints, nearly cent percent (96.00 percent) of the respondents perceived the constraint, 'non availability of labour during peak period', followed by 'non availability of manures/fertilizer in time' (98.00 percent). However, with respect to economic constraints, cent percent of the respondents perceived the constraint, 'costly hired labour', While 69.00 percent of the respondents faced constraints 'post-harvest losses results in economic losses'.

Keywords: Global gap, mango growers, problems and constraints, Konkan region and certification etc.

Introduction

The importance of agricultural and agro-based products in India's export trade can hardly be over-emphasized. Agriculture sector has been providing substantial support to export development since long. The linkage of the agricultural sectors to the rest of economy is so strong that the overall performance of the Indian economy is determined by its growth. Agricultural sector continues to play a predominant role in our economy and export earnings. Since 1970s our demand for foreign exchange earnings increased to maintain the phase of import liberalization.

Due to global expansion in food trade, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has set as one of their objectives the opening up of trade between countries and aims to address restrictive trade barriers. Sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) issues have always been important in global trade and have become one of the most important potential Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). Pests or pathogens may exist in one country but not in another, thus ultimately resulting in restrictive TBT. In addition, food safety has become one of the most important minimum requirements for future trade with developed countries. The rapid increase in newly reported cases of outbreaks of food-borne diseases particularly associated with fresh produce has been the primary drive towards establishing minimum food safety standards. To be part of global trade in fresh produce and food related products it will in future require compliance to some kind of food safety assurance system.

Food safety has become one of the most important minimum requirements for future trade with developed countries. To be part of global trade in fresh produce and food related products it will in future require compliance to some kind of food safety assurance system. One of the GAP systems that have taken off within the European community is GLOBAL GAP. The challenge of globalizing markets is nowhere greater than in the primary food sector. GLOBAL GAP (formerly known as EUREP GAP) has established itself as a key reference for Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) in the global market place, by translating consumer requirements into agricultural production in a rapidly growing list of countries currently more than 100 in each continent.

The GLOBAL GAP standard is primarily designed to maintain consumer confidence in food quality and food safety. Other important goals are to minimize detrimental environmental impacts of farming operations, optimize the use of inputs and to ensure a responsible approach to worker health and safety.

The GLOBAL GAP standard is primarily designed to reassure the consumers about how food is produced on the farm by minimizing detrimental environmental impacts of farming operations, reducing the use of chemical inputs and ensuring a responsible approach to worker health and safety, as well as, animal welfare. GAP is a series of principles, rules and technical recommendations, with the aim of providing a safe product for direct consumption or industrial processing. Considering the scope and opportunity in the world market, there is a need to give importance to quality assurance of mango fruits. So also, there is a need to keep quality, hygienic conditions and standard residue control, so that the fruits qualify all analytical tests. The present investigation was made to know the problems of mango growers in GLOBAL GAP certification and constraints in adoption of good agriculture practices.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra state, which contributes nearly 70 percent area under mango in the state. Out of these two districts Ratnagiri district has been declared as 'Horticulture district' by the state government. Area under mango cultivation and production of mango is higher in these

districts as compared to other districts of Konkan region. So also, Mango Marketing Board is located in Ratnagiri. The Regional Fruit Research Station is located at Vengurla in Sindhudurga district. GLOBAL GAP Certified farmers are also more in these districts. Looking to these facts, the Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts were purposively selected for the present study. From selected districts of Konkan region one hundred mango growers certified under 'GLOBAL GAP'/'EUREP GAP' were selected.

The problems encountered by mango growers at various stages of certification at farmer level from before application for certification to getting certificate and maintenance of certification to continue for next year were collected.

An attempt was made to know the constraints faced by the mango growers in adopting good agriculture practices of mango. For knowing the constraints put open end type. The constraints were group under the heads, technical constraints, production constraints, economic constraints, storage and marketing constraints, processing and value addition constraints, export constraints and general Constraints. Data have been presented in frequency and percentages.

Result and Discussion

1. Problems of mango growers in GLOBAL GAP certification

Problems faced in availing GLOBAL GAP certification to respondents may be many, however, they can be minimized. The mango growers were requested to express the problems faced by them in availing the certificate. They are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Problems of mango growers in GLOBAL GAP certification

Sl. No.	Problems	Respondents (N=100)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Delay in issuing/ obtaining certificate	97	97.00
2	Renovation of certificate is essential every year	96	96.00
3	Entire process needs heavy investment	96	96.00
4	Need more documentation and record keeping	80	80.00
5	Non availability of residue analysis laboratory in vicinity	68	68.00
6	Inefficient certification agencies and improper guidance	40	40.00
7	Delay in receiving payments from exporters	92	92.00

It is observed from Table 1 that a probe into the problem faced by the respondent revealed that nearly cent percent (97.00 percent) of the respondents faced problem like 'delay in issuing/ obtaining certificate', while 96.00 percent of the respondents said that 'renovation of certificate is essential every year' and 'entire process needs heavy investment', respectively. However, four-fifth (80.00 percent) of the respondents said that 'need more documentation and record keeping', followed by (68.00 percent) 'non availability of residue analysis and soil and water testing laboratory in vicinity'.

However, 40.00 percent of the respondents faced problem like 'inefficient certification agencies and improper guidance' and

25.00 percent of the respondents faced problem like 'delay in receiving payments from exporter'.

2. Constraints in adoption of good agriculture practices by mango growers

The constraints encountered by respondents at various stages right from production upto export have been sub-divided and presented under sub-headings such as production constraints, economical constraints, storage and marketing constraints, export constraints and general constraints. They are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Constraints in adopting good agriculture practices by mango growers

Sl. No.	Constraints	Respondents (N=100)	
		Frequency	Percentage
A.	Production constraints		
1	Non availability of labour during peak period	96	96.00
2	Non availability of required manures/fertilizer in time	98	98.00
B.	Economic constraints		
1	Costly hired labour	100	100.00
2	Post-harvest losses	69	69.00
C.	Storage and marketing constraints		
1	Fluctuations in the market price	100	100.00
2	High cost of packing material	100	100.00
3	Mal practices of the middlemen	94	94.00
4	Low keeping quality of mango	92	92.00
5	High commission charges	82	82.00
6	Poor infrastructure – storage and cold chain etc.	74	74.00
D.	Export constraints		
1	Difficult to meet export standards	96	96.00
2	Lengthy procedures and formalities for export	84	84.00
3	Non-availability of updated export market information	75	75.00
E.	General constraints		
1	Climatic change i.e. Increase in temperature and unpredicted sudden rainfall	100	100.00
2	Lack of insurance support	92	92.00

It is observed from Table 2 that with regards to production constraints, nearly cent percent (96.00 percent) of the respondents perceived the constraint, 'non availability of labour during peak period', followed by 'non availability of manures/fertilizer in time' (98.00 percent). However, with respect to economic constraints, cent percent of the respondents perceived the constraint, 'costly hired labour', While 69.00 percent of the respondents faced constraints 'post-harvest losses results in economic losses'.

It is observed that with regards to storage and marketing constraints, cent percent of the respondents perceived the constraint, 'fluctuation in the market price' and 'high cost of packing material', respectively. Followed by 'mal practices of the middlemen' (94.00 percent), low keeping quality of mango (92.00 percent) 'high commission charges' (82.00 percent) and 'poor infrastructure – storage, cold chain etc.' (74.00 percent). In case of export constraints, nearly cent percent of the respondents (98.00 percent) expressed that it was very 'difficult to meet export standard'. More than four fifth (84.00 percent) of the respondents expressed that it is very 'lengthy procedure for export and formalities for export', and 'non-availability of updated export market information' (75.00 percent). In case of general constraints, cent percent of the respondents faced constraint 'climatic change i.e. increase in temperature and unpredicted sudden rainfall', while 'lack of insurance support' (92.00 percent).

Conclusion

Mango has become a cash crop for the farmers of the Konkan region. Efforts are being made at different levels to maximize the area, production and productivity of mango in Konkan region. The GLOBAL GAP standard is primarily designed to reassure the consumers about how food is produced on the farm by minimizing detrimental environmental impacts of farming operations, reducing the use of chemical inputs and ensuring a responsible approach to worker health and safety, as well as, animal welfare. GAP is a series of principles, rules and technical recommendations, with the aim of providing a safe product for direct consumption or industrial processing. Considering the scope and opportunity in the world market, there is a need to give importance to quality assurance of mango fruits. So also, there is a need to keep quality, hygienic

conditions and standard residue control, so that the fruits qualify all analytical tests.

There is need to have consortium of mango producers, scientists, extension agencies, input suppliers and marketing agencies, government officials to suggest strategy for maintaining quality of produce and increasing export share in the world market.

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