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Input availability sources for rice growers of Palghar district

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Abstract

The present study was conducted in Palghar district of Konkan region of Maharashtra state. Two tahsils namely Wada and Palghar selected purposively for this study on the basis of maximum area under cultivation of rice crop. From each selected tehsil, six villages were selected on the basis of higher production of rice. Total twelve villages were selected randomly. From each selected village 10 rice growers were selected from each village making a total sample of 120 farmers. The data were collected through personal interview method. The result of the study showed that majority (82.50 per cent) of the respondent get seed from Krishi Seva Kendra, followed by (84.17 per cent) get fertilizer and organic manure from 'Krishi Seva Kendra, (78.34 per cent) get insecticide and pesticide from 'Krishi Seva Kendra, (89.17 per cent) get implements from self. Overall inputs availability, majority (75.84 per cent) of rice growers had 'medium' input availability.

Keywords: Inputs availability sources, rice growers

Introduction

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is one of the most important cereal grains in the world today and serves as a staple food source for more than half of the world's population (Source: www.thecropsite.com). India is facing the challenges of food and fodder production to meet the demand of rising human and cattle population. The world rice cultivated on the area of 221.61 million hectares with production of 728.07 million metric tons in the year 2013-2014. Thus, rice production; consumption and trade are concentrated in Asia. More than 90 per cent of global production is occurring in tropical and semi-tropical Asia. China and India are the major rice producing countries in the world, together contributing 55 per cent of the world rice production. (Source: www.usda.com). In India, rice is the promising crop to acquire self sufficiency of food grain production for the population. It was cultivated on the area of 43.95 million hectares with production of 106.54 million tons in the year 2013-2014. In the year 2013-2014, the area under rice crop in India was maximum (5.98 million hectares) in Uttar Pradesh followed by West Bengal (5.50 million hectares). In terms of production of rice, West Bengal ranked first (15.31 million tons) followed by Uttar Pradesh (14.63 million tons). In Maharashtra rice is grown on area of about 1.56 million hectares with a production of about 2.95 million tons (www.irri.org). In Maharashtra State, rice is the main crop grown in the coastal districts of the Konkan region mainly in the five districts namely Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Palghar districts. In Konkan region the area is about 0.44 million hectares with a production of about 15.10 lakh tons in the year 2013-2014. (Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and cooperation, GOI 2013-2014). The area, production and productivity of rice crop in Palghar district was 14980 ha., 36641 qtls, 2446 kg / ha. respectively, in the year 2014. It occupies an area of about 0.44 million hectares with annual production of nearly 15.10 lakh tones. However, productivity of Konkan region is 2.40 tons per hectare. Palghar district is newly formed in the year 2014 and data about adoption of package of practices of rice are limited.

Material and Methods

Present study was carried out in Palghar district of Konkan region of Maharashtra state. Two tahsils namely, Wada and Palghar selected purposively for this study on the basis of maximum area under cultivation of rice crop. From each selected tahsil six villages were randomly selected, applying the criterion of maximum rice area. Thus, total twelve villages were selected. From each selected village ten respondents were selected randomly.

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Thus, total 120 respondents were randomly selected for this study. Ex- post facto study design was used. The obtained final scores were categorized into three groups namely,

'Low', 'Medium' and 'High', considering the mean and standard deviation.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to their input availability Sources

Sl. No	Category	Respondents (N=120)			
		Seed	Fertilizers and organic manures	Insecticide/ Pesticide	Implements
1.	Self	95 (79.17)	101 (84.17)	15 (12.50)	107 (89.17)
2.	Friends/Relatives	67 (55.84)	52 (43.34)	21 (17.50)	38 (31.67)
3.	Panchayat Samiti	62 (51.67)	62 (51.67)	29 (24.17)	46 (38.34)
4.	KVK	20 (16.67)	05 (1.17)	03 (2.50)	01 (0.84)
5.	Kharedi Vikri Sangh	49 (40.84)	15 (12.50)	04 (3.34)	04 (3.34)
6.	Krishi Sewa Kendra	99 (82.50)	101 (84.17)	94 (78.34)	85 (70.84)
7.	Self Help Group	6 (5.00)	05 (1.17)	11 (9.17)	15 (12.50)

It is evident from Table 1 that majority (82.50 per cent) of the respondent get seed from 'Krishi Seva Kendra' followed by 'Self' (79.17 per cent), 'Relatives or friends' (55.84 per cent), 'Panchayat samiti' (51.67 per cent), 'Kharedi vikri sangh' (40.84 per cent), 'Khishi Vigyan Kendra' (16.67 per cent), and 'Self-help group' (5.00 per cent). The majority (84.17 per cent) of the respondent get fertilizer and organic manure from 'Krishi Seva Kendra' followed by 'Self' (84.17 per cent), 'Panchayat samiti' (51.67 per cent), 'Relatives or friends' (43.34 per cent), 'Khishi Vigyan Kendra' (16.67 per cent), 'Kharedi vikri sangh' (12.50 per cent) and 'Self-help group' (1.17 per cent). The majority (84.17 per cent) of the respondent get insecticide and pesticide from 'Krishi Seva Kendra' followed by 'Relatives or friends' (55.84 per cent), 'Panchayat Samiti' (38.34 per cent), 'Self' (17.50 per cent), 'Self-help group' (9.17 per cent), 'Kharedi vikri sangh' (3.34 per cent) and 'Khishi Vigyan Kendra' (2.50 per cent). The majority 'Self' (89.17 per cent) and (70.84 per cent) of the respondent get implements from 'Krishi Seva Kendra' followed by 'Panchayat samiti' (38.34 per cent), 'Relatives or

friends' (31.67 per cent), 'Self-help group' (12.50 per cent), 'Kharedi vikri sangh' (3.34 per cent) and 'Khishi Vigyan Kendra' (0.84 per cent).

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their overall input availability sources

Sl. No.	Category	Respondents (N=120)	
		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Low (up to 7)	11	9.16
2.	Medium (8 to 13)	91	75.84
3.	High (14 and above)	18	15.00
Total		120	100

It is seen from Table 2 that majority (75.84 per cent) of the respondents had 'medium' input availability category, while 15.00 per cent of the respondents had 'high' input availability and 9.16 per cent of the respondents had 'low' input availability category. These findings were supported by Anonymous (2013)^[2] and Prajakta Telange (2015)^[7].

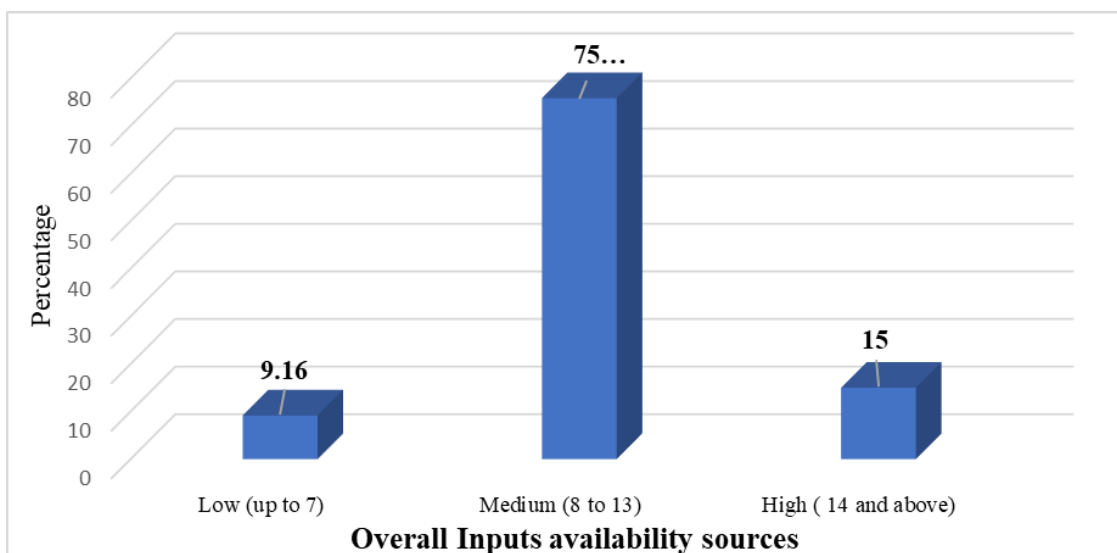


Fig 1: Distribution of respondents according to their overall input availability sources

Conclusion

It can be concluded from these findings, overall input availability sources for the rice farmers was at medium level. The study has clearly indicated that the majority of rice growers perches the inputs from the Krishi Seva Kendra. There is many wide scope to create the awareness about various inputs availability sources along with arrangements for supply of required inputs at reasonable price.

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