MAJOR CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED BY TURMERIC FARMERS OF ERODE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT: Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) is an ancient and sacred spice of India popularly known as „Indian Saffron" and it is an important commercial spice crop grown in India. Turmeric finds a place in offerings all types of religious and ceremonial functions. Turmeric is a vital component in traditional Chinese medicine and Indian Ayurvedic medicine. Turmeric"s finger-like underground rhizomes are dried and used as a spice or taken as a powder in capsule form and also prepared liquid extract of turmeric. Keeping this in view, the study was carried out in selected ten villages of , Kodumudi,Gobichettipalayam,Modakuruchi blocks of Erode district. The sample size consisted of 200 turmeric farmers. The respondents were interviewed personally through a well structured and pre-tested interview schedule. Arithmetic mean, percentage analysis, cumulative frequency, zero order correlation and multiple regressions were used to analyze the collected data. Major constraints experienced by the turmeric growers were high cost of fertilizers, followed by lack of availability of labour in time, more of disease attack, increase in labour cost and lack of rainfall.

Key words: Turmeric, Major Constraints, Socio-Economic constraints, Turmeric farmers

INTRODUCTION

Turmeric plays an important role in traditional Indian Ayurvedic medicine and Chinese medicine. The turmeric rhizomes are dried and used as powder or taken as spice in cooking and also prepared liquid extract of turmeric. Sometimes turmeric used as paste for applying on face and other regions of skin. Turmeric is known and important medicinal, aromatic and commercial important plant whichis considered as one of the golden resource with export potential as medicine, beauty component material, cooking spice, and as a dye. Rhizomes of well grown turmeric are having numerous traditional medicinal properties, used for stomachic, stimulant, and blood purifier. It also used to treatliver complaints, biliousness, jaundice, arthritic, musculardisorders, anorexia, cough, wounds of diabetic, hepatic complaints, rheumatism and sinusitis. Turmeric with warm milk used to cure common cold, severe bronchitis and asthma. Juice of fresh rhizomes is applied against many skin infections. Turmeric rhizomes are the constituents responsible for many bioactivities. The increasing demands for turmeric as natural products as food additives maketurmeric as ideal component for food colorant. The dried rhizome of Curcuma longa, a herbaceous perennial plant belonging to the family Zingiberaceae and a native of India. The leaves of turmeric are long, broad, lanceolate and bright green in colour. The flowers are pale yellow in colour and bome on dense spikes. The pseudostems are much shorter than leaves. The matured rhizomes are ready for harvesting after 7-9 months of planting. This study identifies the socio-economic constraints faced by turmeric farming community of Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The main objective to this study was centred around the turmeric framers, it was planned to select ten taluks viz.,Erode. Erode, Modakkurichi, Kodumudi, Perundurai, Bhavani,Anthiyur,Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam, Thalavadi and Nambiyur based on the maximum area under production of Turmeric in Erode District. Of the fourteen blocks, Kodumudi, Gobichettipalayam, Modakuruchi blocks were selected the maximum area under production of Turmeric in Erode district. Out of the 54 villages, Ten villages were selected based on the maximum covering of area under turmeric cultivation. From the list, Ten villages viz., Akkaraikodiveri, Alukuli, Kadathur, Sivagiri, Pasur, Unjalur, Thamaraipalayam, Arachalur, Avalpoondurai, Nanjai uthukuli occupied the first ten places were under maximum area under turmeric cultivation. Fromthe ten selected villages, the turmeric cultivating respondents were selected randomly for the purpose of data collection. A sample size of 200 respondents was considered adequate for the study. The total number of turmeric cultivating respondents to be selected from each block was arrived at one the basis of proportionate

random sampling procedure.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. *Socio-Economic Constraints Faced By Turmeric Cultivators In Erode District*

(n=200)

S No	Constr ains	No of respondents	Per cent	Rank
I	Socio- economic constrains			
1	High cost of labour	164	82	1
2	High cost of inputs	160	80	2
3	Lack of subsidy for inputs	145	72.5	3
4	Non availability of credit	134	67	4
II	Marketing constrains			
1	Lack of regulated market	172	86	1
2	Exploitation by middle man	167	83.5	2
3	High fluctuation in market price	144	72	3
4	Uncertain market	123	61.5	4
III	Physical constrains			
1	Labour scarcity	186	93	1
2	Lack of Co-operative societies	174	87	2
3	Inadequate facilities	170	85	3
IV	Extension constrains			
1	Lack of technical guidance	190	95	1
2	Lack of training	110	55	2

If could be seen from the table 1 that among a four majorcategories of constrains studied.

I. Socio-economic constrains
II. Marketing constrains
III. Physical constrains
IV. Extension constrains

I. Socio-economic constrains

The first important constraint expressed by the majority of the respondents cultivating turmeric (82) was high cost of labour. In this area most of the agricultural workers have migrated to other places where they have employmentand to earn higher wages in agriculture. This would have leads to labour scarcity and in turn would have resulted in high cost of labour. High cost of inputs was ranked as the second constrains expressed by 80 percent of the respondents. This might due to the raise in price of seeds, pesticides, and fertilizers every year. But at the same time, price of agricultural produce have not increasing proportionately. In addition sometimes due to the storage and inputs the traders sell their inputs at high cost. Lack of subsidy for inputs was expressed as a third constrains by 72.5 percent of the respondents. The inputs were distribute at subsidize rates mostly for small and marginal farmers. The respondents expressed that the subsidy amount given by the state and central governmentswere very low compared to actual selling price of varies inputs “Non availability of trained labour in time” was fourth constrains expressed by 67 percent of the respondents. In this study were most of the respondents expressed and reported that the available farm labourers were not having adequate knowledge. As this experience labours are engaged in high wages works like construction etc. They were not available at the

proper time for doing important operations in turmeric farmer.

II. Marketing constrains

Lack of regulated market (86 percent) was the predominant constraint in marketing expressed by a vast majority of the respondents. During post harvested period farmers get lower prices for their produce due to heavy arrival of the produce in the market. This might have prompted the respondents to feel lack of regular market of turmeric as a major constraint.Exploitation of middle man (83.5 percent) was the second reported major marketing constrains by turmeric growers follow by High fluctuation in market price (72 percent) by charging heavy rate of commissions, brokerage etc was also reported as constraint by turmeric growersUncertain market (61.5 percent) was also reported by the turmeric farmers .

III. Physical constraints

Labour scarcity (93 percent) was one of the majorphysical constraints. This might be due to this guaranteed and high wages employment in industry and other sectors. Farm labourers are slowly moving to other occupation. Lack of co operative society was the constraints (87 percent) by the respondent. The study area always depends on private input dealers and private organizations for input purchase and marketing at the harvested produce respectively. Further so the no effort has been made by the State Department of Horticulture for establishing of turmeric growers co-operative societies at village level. In adequate facilities (85 percent) was the third physical constraints. This might be due to the failing monsoon water table going down in summer season and absence of anyalternate so were of irrigation such as central or tankirrigation.

IV. Extension constraints

Lack of knowledge on technical guidance 95 percentwas the extension constraints expressed by majority of the respondents follow by lack of training (55%).

CONCLUSION

Major constraints experienced by the turmeric growers were high cost of labour (82 per cent), followed by High cost of inputs (80per cent), lack of regulated market (86 per cent), labour scarcity (93 per cent), Exploitation by middle man (83.5 per cent), lack of technical guidance (95per cent), high fluctuation in market price (72 per cent), lack of training (55 per cent), lack of co-operative socities (87 per cent),uncertain market (61.5 per cent) and inadequate facilities (85 per cent).

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