A Study of Various Constraints in Lentil Production and Marketing in District Lakhimpur (Kheri) of Uttar Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

Background: Lentil pulse crop on account of their vital role in nutritional security and soil ameliorative properties have been an integral part of sustainable agriculture since ages. The decrease in production and shrinkage in the area of pulse crops in Lakhimpur (Kheri), Uttar Pradesh is a cause of great concern. Keeping in view the importance of lentils, the study was carried out to examine the various constraints faced by the different groups of farmers.

Aims: To study the various Constraints in lentil production and marketing.

Place and Duration of Study: Lakhimpur (Kheri) district of Uttar Pradesh, between year 2020 and 2021.

Methodology: A total of 100 respondents were selected randomly from the Mitauli block of Lakhimpur (Kheri) district, Uttar Pradesh and a pre-structured questionnaire was used to collect the data from the farmers. Respondents were classified into three categories based on their size of land holdings.

Results: It is revealed by the Garrett scores that the major production constraint faced by most of the farmers was unfavorable weather condition (score of 66.39) and major marketing constraint faced was small quantity of marketable surplus (score of 61.98).

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2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Out of 15 Blocks of Lakhimpur (Kheri) District, Mitauli was selected purposively as Lentil growers were found in large numbers. 5 villages namely Khundehra, Janakinagar, Lohanna, Pipariakhagi and Bichiyanagar were selected purposively where production of lentils was found to be highest.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To know the acceptance of respondents and constraints in processing and marketing of lentils Garrett’s ranking technique can be used. Basically it gives the change of orders of constraints and advantages into numerical scores. The major advantage of this technique as compared to simple frequency distribution is that the constraints and advantages is arranged based on their importance from the point of view of respondents. Hence the same number of respondents on two or more constraints may have been given different rank (Kumar and Pandey, 1999).

Per cent position = 100 \( \frac{R_j-0.5}{N_j} \)

Where,

\( R_j \) = rank given for \( i^{th} \) factor by \( j^{th} \) individual
The per cent position of each rank is then converted into scores referring to the Table given by Garret and Woodwordh (1969). For each factor, the scores of individual respondents were added together and divided by the total number of the respondents for whom scores were added. These mean scores for all the factors were arranged in descending order, ranks were given and most important factors were identified. Garrett’s ranking technique was adopted for studying problems faced by borrowers regarding credit utilization.

The major constraint faced by most of the farmers was unfavorable weather condition with a score of 66.39 (rank 1). The second most important constraint faced by the lentil growers was quality water for irrigation (overall Garrett score 64.49). The other most important constraints reported by the growers was non-availability of adequate knowledge of recommended packages and practices of lentil (overall Garrett score 60.71), lack of knowledge about latest production technology (overall Garrett score 56.53) and shortage of labour (overall Garrett score 52.16). In addition to the above problems, the farmers also faced the minor problems of low productivity of pulses (VI), non-availability of credit (VII) and HYV seed (VIII). It is also clear from the table that the problem of lack of adoption of plant protection measures is not so prominent and the quality of land is good for the cultivation of lentils.

From the contents of Table 2, it was indicated that small quantity of marketable surplus was ranked as the most important constraint among the lentil growers with mean score value of 61.98 followed by problem faced due to market news and intelligence not available for most of farmers (overall Garrett score 59.46). Price fluctuation got rank III with a score of 56.02. Fourth major constraint reported by the lentil growers was involvement of large number of intermediaries in the marketing which resulted in decrease of farmer’s share in consumer’s rupee.
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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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