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TRAINING NEEDS OF FARMERS ABOUT IMPROVED OPIUM PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY IN PRATAPGARH DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

The opium (*Papaver somniferum* L.) is one of the most important medicinal plants. Opium is highly paying cash crop owing to the pricing policy of the Government of India. The opium latex is extracted from green but fully grown capsules which contain several alkaloids like morphine, codeine, thebaine, narcien, naroctine and papaverine etc. Opium dominantly contains analgesic, anti-tissue and antispasmodic properties, which are utilized in majority of the medicines. This study was conducted in in villages of two Tehsils Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan state on a sample of 120 opium growers. Findings reveal that opium growers required more training needs in some of crucial training area viz; "Plant protection measures", "Method of lancing", "New techniques for latex collection", "Opium storage", "Quantity and method of manure and fertilizer application" and "Time of lancing". The "Processing", "Weed control management" and "Post-harvest technology" were least needed training areas of opium growers about improved opium production technology.

INTRODUCTION

The opium (*Papaver somniferum* L.) is one of the most important medicinal plants. Opium is cash crop owing to the pricing policy of the Government of India. The opium latex is extracted from green but fully grown capsules which contain several alkaloids like morphine, codeine, thebaine, narcien, naroctine and papaverine etc. Opium dominantly contains analgesic, anti-tissue and antispasmodic properties, which are utilized in majority of the medicines. It is highly nutritive and contains high percentage of linoleic acid, which helps in reducing cholesterol level in human body. Opium also contains narcotic, sedative, antispasmodic, hyponotic and sudorific properties. The opium seed contains upto 52% edible oil, which is widely used for culinary purpose.

India is one of the largest producer of opium alkaloids in the world and also contributes to a supply of opium to the world for meeting out the demand of its alkaloids in medicine. The Narcotics Department, Govt. of India annually renews the license for opium cultivation and there are many legal complications.

At present the area under opium cultivation has also been reduced continuously in the country. The cultivation of opium poppy is confined to north-western and central part of India including the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The major area under opium poppy cultivation is spread to the districts Faizabad, Barreilly and Shahajahanpur in Uttar Pradesh, Neemuch, Mandsaur and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh and Kota, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh and Jhalawar in Rajasthan. The climate of Rajasthan state is considered suitable for growing opium crop. The soil of this area are also treated as potential for its production. The present study was undertaken to find out the training needs of farmers about opium productions technology.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan which was selected purposively. The Pratapgarh district consists of five tehsils. Out of which two tehsils namely, Pratapgarh and Arnod were selected randomly. Pratapgarh and Arnod tehsils comprises of 42 and 28 gram panchayats, respectively. Among these, four gram

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panchayats from Pratapgarh tehsil and three gram panchayats from Arnod tehsil were selected randomly. Fourteen villages were selected from the selected gram panchayats randomly. A sample of 120 opium growers was selected from these selected vil-lages.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Training needs of opium growers about im-proved opium production technology

It is commonly accepted fact that training plays a vital role in imparting vocation-oriented skill which facilitates the speedy transfer of technology. In or-

der to make training a really profitable venture it must be location specific and need based. Training is one of the most commonly used device that impart knowl-edge and skill to the opium growers. Hence, in the present study, efforts was made to find out training needs of the opium growers.

It is evident from the mean scores (Table 1) that the opium growers perceived the most needed training areas in order “Plant protection measures”, “Method of lancing” with 2.36 MS and 2.29 MS and were ranked at first and second place, respectively. The other training in under of preferences are like “New techniques for latex collection”, “Opium stor-

Table 1: Training needs of opium growers about improved opium production technology n = 120

S.No.	Area of Training	Most needed		Needed		Least needed		Mean score	Rank
		f	%	f	%	f	%		
1.	High yielding varieties	42	35.00	49	40.83	29	24.17	2.10	XII
2.	Selection of seeds	47	39.17	40	33.33	33	27.50	2.11	XI
3.	Seed treatment	36	30.00	64	53.33	20	16.67	2.13	IX
4.	Field preparation	40	33.33	55	45.83	25	20.84	2.12	X
5.	Method of sowing	37	30.83	51	42.50	32	26.67	2.04	XIV
6.	Management of irrigation water	30	25.00	63	52.50	27	22.50	2.02	XV
7.	Use of improved implements	43	35.83	51	42.50	26	21.67	2.14	VIII
8.	Quantity and method of manure and fertilizer application	46	38.33	53	44.17	21	17.50	2.20	V
9.	Plant protection measures	60	50.00	44	36.67	16	13.33	2.36	I
10.	Weed control management	26	21.67	59	49.17	35	29.16	1.92	XVIII
11.	Crop rotation	35	29.17	56	46.67	29	24.16	2.05	XIII
12.	Harvesting and threshing practices	33	27.50	50	41.67	37	30.83	1.96	XVI
13.	Opium storage	44	36.67	61	50.83	15	12.50	2.24	IV
14.	Post-harvest technology	24	20.00	62	51.67	34	28.33	1.91	XIX
15.	Processing	31	25.83	51	42.50	38	31.67	1.94	XVII
16.	Time of lancing	51	42.50	41	34.17	28	23.33	2.19	VI
17.	Method of lancing	57	47.50	41	34.17	22	18.33	2.29	II
18.	Time of latex collection	48	40.00	42	35.00	30	25.00	2.15	VII
19.	New techniques for latex collection	50	41.67	52	43.33	18	15.00	2.26	III

age”, “Quantity and method of manure and fertilizer application”, “Time of lancing”, “Time of latex collection”, “Use of improved implements”, “Seed treatment”, “Field preparation”, “Selection of seeds”, “High yielding varieties”, “Crop rotation”, “Method of sowing”, “Management of irrigation water” and “Harvesting and threshing practices”.

The other training areas like “Processing”, “Weed control management” and “Post-harvest technology” were reported with 1.94 MS, 1.92 MS and 1.91 MS and as were ranked at 17th, 18th and 19th place, respectively.

From the above results it may be concluded that “Plant protection measures” and “Method of lancing” were perceived by the opium growers as the most needed training areas responsible for improved opium production technology whereas, “Post-harvest technology” was perceived as the least needed training area by the opium growers

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the opium growers required more training needs in some of crucial training areas viz; “Plant protection measures”, “Method of lancing”, “New techniques for latex collection”, “Opium storage”, “Quantity and method of manure and fertilizer application” and “Time of lancing”. The “Processing”, “Weed control management” and “Post-harvest technology” were least needed training areas of opium growers about improved opium production technology.

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