

TRAINING NEEDS OF OPIUM GROWERS IN PRATAPGARH DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

Opium poppy (*Papaver somniferum L.*) is the most valued medicinal plant from ancient times. This crop is mainly grown in Chittorgarh and Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan. The present study was conducted in Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan. The Pratapgarh district consists of five tehsils, Out of which two tehsils namely Pratapgarh and Arnod were selected randomly. These two tehsils comprises of 42 and 28 gram panchayats, respectively. Among these, four gram panchayats from Pratapgarh tehsil and three gram panchayats from Arnod tehsil, in which fourteen villages were finalized by using simple random sampling technique. Finally a sample of 120 opium growers was selected randomly with proportionate to the size of sample. Training plays an important role in adoption of new technology at farmer's field. From the study the findings indicated that opium growers were having training needs viz; Plant protection measures, Method of lancing and new techniques for latex collection as the most adequate area of training. These were followed by Opium storage, 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 least adequate area of training was Processing, Weed control management and Post-harvest technology.

INTRODUCTION

Opium/poppy (*Papaver somniferum L.*) is the most valued medicinal plant from ancient times. Commercially opium is obtained from unripe capsules of poppy plant. Opium is known as the oldest and the best pain killer drug from time immemorial. Sleep property of opium was known to Greeks even in the 3rd century B.C. and exploited throughout the course of human history. Even today, its pharmaceutical significance in modern medicine is unparalleled, mainly because of presence of 3 morphinone alkaloids (morphine, codeine and thebaine) and phthalide isoquinoline alkaloids (papaverine, narcotine and narcine) used as analgesic and antispasmodic. It is also grown as a source of edible seeds (khaskhas). Seed oil is rich in protein and unsaturated fatty acids (oleic and linoleic acid).

The total area under opium cultivation in India was 62.66 thousand ha. with an annual production of 346 metric tonnes, whereas the Rajasthan state covered 28.23 thousand ha. area with an annual production of 145 metric tonnes in year 2006-07. This crop is mainly grown in Chittorgarh and Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan. Opium occupies 1.61 thousand hectare in Pratapgarh with an annual production of 105 metric tonnes. Looking to the importance of opium in Pratapgarh a study entitled 'Training needs of opium growers in Pratapgarh District of Rajasthan' was undertaken with the specific objective.

- To find out the training needs of opium growers.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Pratapgarh

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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
		Frequency	Pre cent	Frequency	Pre cent	Frequency	Pre cent		
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

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 by randomly. Pratapgarh

and Arnod tehsils comprises of 42 and 28 gram panchayats, respectively. Among these, four gram panchayats from Pratapgarh tehsil and three gram panchayats from Arnod tehsil and Fourteen villages

were selected randomly. A sample of 120 opium growers was selected from these selected villages by randomly proportion to the size of sample.

It is important to know the training needs of the opium growers i.e. what is and what ought to be for achieving the desired results. The training areas are classified as: most needed, needed and least needed on the basis of their frequency, per cent and mean scores are analyzed for each sub area among the 19 selected broad areas.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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 to "Plant protection measures", "Method of lancing" were reported with 2.36 MS and 2.29 MS and as such these were ranked at first and second places, respectively. The other training areas like "New techniques for latex collection", "Opium storage", "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" were reported with 2.26 MS, 2.24 MS, 2.20 MS, 2.19 MS, 2.15 MS, 2.14 MS, 2.13 MS, 2.12 MS, 2.11 MS, 2.10 MS, 2.05 MS, 2.04 MS, 2.02 MS and 1.96 MS and as such these were ranked at 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th places, respectively.

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 such these were ranked at 17th, 18th and 19th places 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.

This might be due to the fact that the opium growers were interested to acquire training regarding improved opium production technology in general and particularly in practices like "Plant protection measures", "Method of lancing" and "New techniques for latex collection" as the most adequate area of training, followed by "Opium storage", "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 least adequate area of training was "Processing", "Weed control management" and "Post-harvest technology". The findings of the study was in line with the findings of Deshmukh and Mane (1999), Landge and Tripathi (2006) and Rajput et al. (2007).

CONCLUSION

The study was revealed that the opium growers required more training in some of crucial training area viz; "Plant protection measures", "Method of lancing" and "New techniques for latex collection" followed by "Opium storage", "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 least adequate area of training was "Processing", "Weed control management" and "Post-harvest technology". Thus it helps in training programmer to organize schedule according to findings of the study.

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