



PROBLEMS FACED BY TRIBAL FARMERS IN VEGETABLE GROWING AND MARKETING

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Abstract: The study was conducted with tribal vegetable growers in purposively selected Ranchi district of Jharkhand state. Two blocks namely Kanke and Mandar were selected randomly. Five villages were selected randomly from each block. 180 respondents were selected through proportionate random sampling technique. For collection of data, a structured schedule was developed. The respondents were contacted personally for data collection. Frequency, percentage, mean and ranks were used for analysis of data and inferences were drawn. They need to be empowered to utilize their potential with proper mass media and training support; regular technical advice or training on improved technique can help to enhance their production thereby enhancing their income. Extension personnel's should be provided scientific knowledge and training at village levels about vegetable production and marketing technology for effective dissemination of package of practices. The training on value addition in agriculture and its allied sector should be must with a view to make the rural families economically sound.

Key words: Problems, Production and Marketing, Tribal Vegetable growers

Introduction: Agriculture Production, processing and marketing are the three pillars of an agricultural economy like India. Agricultural production is seasonal in nature. During a particular season crops are produced in bulks which are to be distributed throughout the year keeping pace with the demand. A good marketing system can link both surplus and deficit regions, reduce price fluctuation, assure incentive price to the farmers and at the same time protect the consumer from speculative actions of dishonest traders ^[1]. According to the 2011 Census, the population of Scheduled Tribes in the country is 10.43 crore, which is 8.6% of the total population of the country. The population of Scheduled Tribes has been on the increase since 1961.

There is a need to make farmers aware about what to produce, how to produce, when to produce, how much to produce, where to sell, at what price to sell, in what form they will sell their produce, market plan, price trends of crop, post harvest disposal, quality based production etc. As per the knowledge of research workers less number of studies have been conducted related to vegetable production and marketing of tribal farmers. The problems of tribal vegetable

growers are numerous. However, lack of market infrastructure and communication facilities seems to be major bottleneck in the sustained development of vegetable production. Middlemen purchase the vegetables from the farmers and dispatch them to the distant markets where they get premium price for these high quality vegetables. The major share of the profits thus, goes to the intermediaries while the primary producers get too less for their endeavors.

Objectives: Keeping in view this backdrop the present study was designed to study the following objectives:

1. To study the problems faced by tribal farmers in vegetables growing and marketing.
2. To seek the suggestions of respondents in relation to growing and marketing of vegetables.

Methodology

The study was conducted on tribal vegetable growers in Ranchi district of Jharkhand state, selected purposively. Two blocks namely Kanke and Mandar were selected randomly. Five villages were selected randomly from each block. 180 respondents were selected through proportionate random sampling. For collection of data, a structured schedule was

developed. The respondents were contacted personally for data collection. Frequency,

percentage, mean and rank were used for analysis of data and inferences were drawn.

Results and Discussion

Problems Faced by Tribal Farmers in Vegetables Growing and Marketing

(A) Production Problems

Table 1: Distribution of respondents' according to vegetable production problems

S. N.	Statements	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Non availability of Tractor for ploughing at required time	68	37.77	VIII
2.	Lack of scientific knowledge about vegetable cultivation	115	63.88	IV
3.	Non-availability of seed and planting material at required time	72	40.00	VII
4.	High cost of seed, pesticides and fertilizers	147	81.66	I
5.	Lack of soil testing facilities	58	32.22	IX
6.	Inadequate irrigation facilities	120	66.66	III
7.	Lack of knowledge about the control measures for various pests and diseases	110	58.88	V
8.	Lack of knowledge about improved method of harvesting	95	52.22	VI
9.	Lack of post harvest technology	134	74.44	II

Table-1 shows the rank order of production problems faced by tribal Vegetable growers. Findings reveal that high cost of seed, pesticides and fertilizers was number one problem reported by the majority of farmers (81.66%) followed by 'Lack of post harvest technology' ranked IInd (74.44%), 'Inadequate irrigation facilities' ranked IIIrd (66.66%), 'Lack of scientific knowledge about vegetable cultivation' ranked IV (63.88%), 'Lack of

knowledge about the control measures for various pests and diseases' ranked V (58.88%), 'Lack of knowledge about improved method of harvesting' ranked VI (52.22%), 'Non-availability of seed and planting material at required time' ranked VII (40.00%), 'Non availability of Tractor for ploughing at required time' ranked VIII (37.77%), and 'Lack of soil testing facilities' ranked IX (32.22%). This is in conformity with the finding of earlier studies^[2].

(B) Marketing Problems

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents' According to Vegetable Marketing Problems

S.N.	Statements	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Lack of knowledge about grading and standardization of vegetable	160	88.88	I
2.	Inadequate storage facilities	115	63.88	V
3.	Inadequate transportation facilities	140	77.77	IV
4.	High charges on transportation	107	59.44	VII
5.	Long chain of intermediaries	95	52.77	VIII
6.	Forced sale	82	45.55	IX
7.	Low price / lack of remunerative price	145	80.55	III
8.	Non-availability of market information	150	83.33	II
9.	Inadequate physical facilities in the market	108	60.00	VI
10.	Lack of organized marketing	80	44.44	X

Table-2 show the rank order of marketing problems faced by tribal Vegetable growers. Among various problems reported by farmers 'Lack of knowledge about grading and standardization of vegetable' ranked Ist (88.88%) followed by 'Non-availability of market information' ranked IInd (83.33%), 'Low price / lack of remunerative price' ranked IIIrd (80.55%), 'Inadequate transportation facilities'

ranked IV (77.77%), 'Inadequate storage facilities' ranked V (63.88%), 'Inadequate physical facilities in the market' ranked VI (60.00%), 'High charges on transportation' ranked VII (59.44%), 'Long chain of intermediaries' ranked VIII (52.77%), 'Forced sale' ranked IX (45.55%) and 'Lack of organized marketing' ranked X (44.44%). This is in conformity with earlier studies^[3,4,1].

(C) Other Problems (Social, Organizational, Technology Transfer and Economic)

Table 3: Distribution of respondents' according to vegetable Other Problems

S.N.	Statements	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Traditional norms of farmers	105	58.33	VII
2.	Lack of community awareness	99	55.00	VIII
3.	Poor co-ordination and co-operation among grass root level extension workers	130	72.22	IV
4.	Non availability of vegetable growing and marketing related information through Mobile SMS	150	83.33	II
5.	Lack of proper training with respect to vegetable growing and marketing	160	88.88	I
6.	Less availability of agriculture farming /market related news paper, farm magazine, literature etc particularly in rural areas	109	60.55	V
7.	Poor economic condition of farmers	85	47.22	IX
8.	Non availability of production inputs timely	110	61.11	VI
9.	Lack of credit facilities	135	75.00	III

Table-3 indicates that the rank order of Other Problems faced by tribal Vegetable growers. Among other problems reported by farmers 'Lack of proper training with respect to vegetable growing and marketing' was at rank Ist (88.88%) followed by 'Non availability of vegetable growing and marketing related information through Mobile SMS' ranked IInd (83.33%), 'Lack of credit facilities' IIIrd (75.00%), 'Poor co-ordination and co-operation among grass root level extension workers'

ranked IVth (72.22%), 'Less availability of agriculture farming /market related news paper, farm magazine, literature etc particularly in rural areas' ranked Vth (60.55%), 'Non availability of production inputs timely' ranked VI (61.11%), 'Traditional norms of farmers' ranked VII (58.33%), 'Lack of community awareness' ranked VIII (55.00%) and 'Poor economic condition of farmers' ranked IX (47.22%). This is conformity with the finding of earlier studies [5].

(2) Suggestions about Vegetables Growing and Marketing

Table 4: Respondents' suggestions about vegetable growing and marketing

N- 180

S. N.	Statements	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
A. Production related suggestion				
1.	Arrangements and Timely supply of inputs along with recommended practices	176	97.77	I
2	Frequent visits of scientists/extension personnel/ NGOs to the farmers field	150	83.33	IV
3.	Recommended chemical for seed treatment should be available in near market	130	72.22	V
4.	Soil testing facilities should be provided by government	126	70.00	VI
5.	Government should provide irrigation facilities through water storage dam, tube well.	158	87.77	III
6.	Government should provide cold storage facilities	115	63.88	VII
7.	Advisory services related to vegetable cultivation should be provided by responsible organization	165	91.66	II
B. Marketing related suggestion				
1.	Marketing facilities should be provided on near locality	146	81.11	III
2.	Transportation facilities should be provided on cheap rate basis	152	84.44	I
3.	Proper market information(related to Price/ time etc) should be provided at required time	148	82.22	II
4.	Government should fix vegetable price	135	75.00	IV
C. Other suggestion				
1.	Increase literacy rate among farmer	150	83.33	IV
2.	Conduct training programmes related to vegetable production and marketing	175	97.22	I
3.	Provide more updated and useful vegetable production and marketing related information through Television, Radio and other mass media methods	170	94.44	II
4.	Vegetable production and marketing related information through Mobile SMS should be provided to tribal farmers	169	93.88	III

A. Production Related Suggestions

Table- 4 at serial No. A presents the findings related to suggestions of farmers with regards to production of vegetables. Arrangements and Timely supply of inputs along with recommended practices was at rank Ist which was suggested by majority (97.77%) of farmers followed by 'Advisory services related to vegetable cultivation should be provided by responsible organization' ranked IInd (91.66%), 'Government should provide irrigation facilities through water storage dam, tube well' IIIrd (87.66%), 'Frequent visits of scientists/extension personnel/ NGOs to the farmers field' ranked IVth (83.33%), 'Recommended chemical for seed treatment should be available in near market' ranked Vth (72.22%), 'Soil testing facilities should be provided by government' ranked VI (70.00%) and 'Government should

provide cold storage facilities' ranked VII (83.88%).

B. Marketing Related Suggestions

Table- 4 at serial No. B presents the findings related to suggestions of farmers with regards to Marketing of vegetables. Transportation facilities should be provided on cheap rate basis was at rank Ist (84.44%) followed by 'Proper market information(related to Price/ time etc) should be provided at required time' ranked IInd (82.22%), 'Marketing facilities should be provided on near locality' IIIrd (81.11%) and 'Government should fix vegetable price' ranked IVth (75.00%). Similar finding is reported by earlier studies [4].

C. Other Problems (Social, Organizational, Technology Transfer and Economic)

Table- 4 at serial No. C presents the findings related to other suggestions of farmers. Conduct training programmes related to

vegetable production and marketing was at rank Ist (97.22%) followed by 'Provide more updated and useful vegetable production and marketing related information through Television, Radio and other mass media methods' ranked IInd (94.22%), 'In tribal areas there should be provision of vegetable production and marketing related information through Mobile SMS' IIIrd (93.88%) and 'Increase literacy rate among farmer' ranked IVth (83.33%).

Conclusion

On the basis of finding of the present study it can be said that the tribal farmers have number of farmers related to vegetable production and marketing. They have suggested various ways to ease their path of development through vegetable production. Efforts should be made to make the better best. Government institutions and personnel should make effort in providing them quality vegetable seed at low cost. They should also be trained in scientific vegetable production. Latest mass media should be used to pass relevant production and marketing messages. The training on value

addition in vegetable production is must with a view to make the tribal families economically sound.

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