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The constraints faced by the nursery growers in Akola district

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Akola district. The sample constituted 50 of the nursery growers. Nursery growers face problems of more than three fourth (86.00 per cent) of the respondents were express financial constraints like high investment. Whereas the respondents expressed non availability of inputs like lack of quality plantings materials such as seed, seedling, rootstock etc. (58.00 per cent), high cost of chemical fertilizers (94.00 per cent), and Irregular supply of electricity (86.00 per cent). Major labour problems were faced by the respondents includes high cost of labour (90.00 per cent), Lack of skilled labour (68.00 per cent) and Unavailability of labour (32.00 per cent). A major problem of technical knowledge like lack of guidance for control of pest and disease were expressed by 58.00 per cent of the respondents. However the respondents expressed marketing constraints like transportation problems (58.00 per cent), Low market price of planting material (68.00 per cent), Lack of market knowledge (92.00 per cent) and exploitation by middleman (62.00 per cent) are the major problems in the area of marketing.

Keywords: Constraints, Nursery growers

Introduction

Nursery raising is one of the highly economic enterprise and commercial venture in horticulture sector. As the demand for high quality planting material is steadily increasing there is need of setting up plant nurseries by small and marginal farmers as well as by gardeners and farmhouse owners. Also there is profound scope for starting the small nurseries, which will serve to augment the income of needy section of rural society. The history of civilization is rich with verses pertaining to agriculture. Almost all of them candidly connote the nature of agriculture as a food obtaining activity. The major constraints faced by the respondents were unavailability of finance, high cost of inputs and labours, lack of storage and transportation facility, lack of knowledge about export oriented practices etc. Accordingly respondents suggested to provide support for initial infrastructure development, training on use of plant protection chemicals, bonsai preparation, increase in subsidy, good quality and timely inputs, export oriented market information. Further study can be concluded that nursery owners should form strong organization, more agriculture graduates should enter in this business and become successful entrepreneurs to address the problem of unemployment.

Methodology

As more number of nurseries are located around the Akola city, so this formed the research area for present study. As selected area fall under the Akola district. From the selected area 20, 20 and 10 private nursery growers engaged in ornamental and floriculture nurseries from Akola district respectively were selected by using purposive sampling method. Data were collected with the help of well-structured and pretested interview schedule. All the selected respondents were personal interviewed with the help of pre tested interview method and data were collected. For obtaining results, frequency, percentage and correlation coefficient was worked out. Data were categorized by calculating mean and standard deviation.

Results and Discussion

Table No 1: Distribution of respondents according to constraints faced by the nursery growers

Sl. No.	Particulars	Frequency (N=50)	Per cent
1	Financial		
	High initial investment	45	86.00
2	Input		
i.	Lack of quality planting material (seed, seedlings, rootstock etc.)	29	58.00
ii.	High cost of chemical fertilizers	47	94.00
iii.	Irregular supply of electricity	43	86.00
3	Labour		
i.	High cost of labour	45	90.00
ii.	Lack of skilled labour	34	68.00
iii.	Unavailability of labour	16	32.00
4	Technical		
	Lack of guidance for control pest and Disease	29	58.00
5	Marketing		
i.	Transportation problems	29	58.00
ii.	Low market price of planting material	34	68.00
iii.	Lack of market knowledge	46	92.00
iv.	Exploitation by middle man	31	62.00

From table 1 it can be observed that, more than three fourth (86.00 per cent) of the respondents were express financial constraints like high investment. Whereas the respondents expressed non availability of inputs like lack of quality plantings materials such as seed, seedling, rootstock etc. (58.00 per cent), high cost of chemical fertilizers (94.00 per cent), and Irregular supply of electricity (86.00 per cent). Major labour problems were faced by the respondents includes high cost of labour (90.00 per cent), Lack of skilled labour (68.00 per cent) and Unavailability of labour (32.00 per cent). A major problem of technical knowledge like lack of guidance for control of pest and disease were expressed by 58.00 per cent of the respondents. However the respondents expressed marketing constraints like transportation problems (58.00 per cent), Low market price of planting material (68.00 per cent), Lack of market knowledge (92.00 per cent) and exploitation by middleman (62.00 per cent) are the major problems in the area of marketing. Some of the similar findings of above constraints have identified by Singh (2004) [3] and Sadanshiv (2006) [1] respectively.

Conclusion

We conclude that the problems faced by the nursery growers, there is need to conduct training programmes on plant protection measures and provide guidance regarding marketing aspects by the experts and scientist of SAUs. Also, there is a need to have strong association of all the nursery growers to address their problems and to develop good marketing network for marketing of their planting material.

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