



PROBLEMS OF ONION PRODUCTION AND PROSPECTS IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT:

Indian agriculture can play a pivotal role in socio-economic development of farmer community as well as nation. Agricultural production rapidly increases in last three decades but the condition of farmers is not improved with that rate. India has tremendous potential to cultivate Onion at small as well as commercial scale. It is the most important cash crop cultivated in large part of country since ancient period. It plays vital role in human diet as well as medicinal importance. The cultivation of Onion can become economically profitable when get good price in market. In early *kharif* and *Rabbi* Season Onion is highly perishable so it sold in market at earlier, that time profit of farmer depend on market price. Sometime farmers get big loss due to price fluctuation. Rabi Onion is semi-perishable as it store up to four to six months. It means that storage plays an important role in marketing of Onion. Storage facility and capacity depends on economic conditions of the farmer. Storage facility and capacity, labor, climatic hazards, export policy of Government, middleman, traders and type of market these are the major problems for Onion cultivation. Present study focused on problems and prospects of Onion production with respect to geographical and socio-economic point of view. Today agriculture sector is facing serious challenges. The share of agriculture to gross domestic production has steadily declined. Agriculture labor force is shifting towards other fields, causing shortage of labor, result of this, that increase wages of agriculture labor. This wages are not affordable to farmer. In irrigated areas, monoculture is the biggest problem. As a result the productivity of agriculture is rapidly decline. The excess use of water, chemical fertilizers and pesticides negatively affects the yield of crops. Today, high input cost and low output are the twin problems of agriculture.

Keyword: Socio-economic development, market price, productivity of agriculture

INTRODUCTION:

In India, onion is cultivated mainly in three different seasons rainy kharif (20 %), late kharif (20 %) and rabi (60%). Sowing of rainy kharif takes place during February-April in Southern India while in Maharashtra and other parts takes place during May-June. And so, late kharif is in August-September and Rabi is in October-November. Erratic weather and volatile market

price is the major factors causing fluctuation in production which result in excess supply or demand. This in turn leads to instability in production. The implication of instability is, on the one hand, price rise upsets consumers and contributes to inflationary pressures on economy and, on the other hand, a price fall diminishes the farm income thereby increases the poverty in rural areas Production and price instability lead to capital rationing and less than

optimal resource allocation in agriculture. Instability in agriculture may adversely affect growth in production, investment, employment, consumption, and income distribution, which may impede the economic development and growth of the country

Ahmednagar district is one of the forward districts in Maharashtra. The agricultural situation of district is significant. It occupies the first position a leading district in terms of sugarcane production and second position in Onion production in Maharashtra. Onion is the cash crop which is the highest marketable surplus and most of the marketed surplus Onion is exported. In this context, this study is very significant one as the Onion is life giving produce for the farmers in Ahmednagar district. Therefore the present study made an attempt to throw light on geographical, socio-economic condition as well as problems and prospects of area, production and productivity of Onion cultivators in Ahmednagar District. The present study analyses the problems faced by Onion farmers in Ahmednagar district. Spatio-temporal changes in area and production of Onion was also studied.

The present study “Problems and Prospects of Onion Production” has been developed to meet the demands of food supply for increasing population. The Onion crop area has been expanded over the land where the physical conditions for cultivation might be suitable. However in this area, the land is prone to degrade to its productivity and the distribution of cropped area may change temporarily.

Agriculture has been taken into consideration because agriculture is the main source of income for the people. The crop pattern of any area is generally controlled by physical, socio-economic and technological factors. The catchment areas of Ahmednagar district collects water from rain and cultivate different crops.

OBJECTIVE:

1. To find out Problems of Onion Production of Ahmednagar District.
2. To give Prospects and remedies for Problems.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:

The broad picture of present study with the help of secondary data Sources and used for period of 2000-01 to 2017-18

Secondary data:

- Documental Records from: Agriculture and Irrigation Dept. Ahmednagar.
- Census of India: Ahmednagar District Censes Hand book, 1991 and 2001, 2011 Census Governmental website, Gazetteer, Socio-Economic Abstract and Strategic Research and Extension Plan of Ahmednagar District,
- Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (Rahuri) and PIRENCE (Babhaleshwar) Research Institute Report, Project work, Research work etc.
- Reference Books, Other Published and unpublished Information's, various website etc.

PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS

After the study of landuse and cropping pattern we will get some conclusions that if the

farmers of this area will think about the climatic condition, physiography, soil types, new farming technologies, there may be considerable changes in their future cropping pattern.

1. **Malpractices in Fertilizers, Pesticides and Duplicate Seeds:**

Farmers are facing the problem of getting duplicate fertilizers, pesticides and seeds from the cessary inputs to the farmers. As a result, shopkeepers who are selling these farmers are not able to get good production of Onion from their farmland.

Farmer has to purchase chemical fertilizers from authorised dealers and from tural University, Rahurithe agricultural universities. For eg. Mahatma Phule Agricul . Vikas Society of the village should provide chemical fertilizers to the farmers at very reasonable rate or in the form of loan.

2. **Less Number of availability of Labors:**

Many of the agricultural laborers are changing their occupation from agriculture to other due to uncertainty in climate. As a result, there is shortage of labors.

Farmers have to use various modern techniques and equipment for the sowing, ploughing of Onion seeds.

3. **High input but less output:**

Farmers are putting high inputs, including cost of the seeds, sampling of Onion, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, labor cost, harvesting, transportation etc. But the farmers are getting very less output,

Sometimes, they are getting rate of Rs.0.50/ kg.

Government have to control on the cost of the seeds, sampling of Onion, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, labour cost, harvesting, transportation. As well as, the government has to include Onion crop in FRP Policy.

4. **Availability of water:**

The study area is lying under rain shadow region. There is scarcity of water. Therefore, the size of Onion is small.

Farmers should have to adopt sprinkler or drip irrigation system instead of flood method of water supply. It will help to reduce water wastage and specific amount of water will get to specific Onion.

5. **Storage of Onion:**

The economic condition of some Onion farmers is poor. They don't have storage facility.

Government has to provide storage facility at village level through Vikas Societies and make available the loan facility on Onion crop to the onion producing farmers.

6. **Poor Economic Condition:**

The economic condition of Onion farmers is poor. After getting Onion crop, these farmers are selling it in the market yard at any cost. The government has to include Onion crop in FRP Policy. Therefore, the Onion cultivator farmers will get a good rate for onion in Market Yard. Even govt. has to link

agricultural credit with adoption of technology and market along with popularizing concept of Kisan Credit Card and popularizing agricultural insurance scheme. To provide credit card to women SHG members, encouraging them for saving and facilitating for advance against godown receipt. Canvassing and mobilizing banks to develop schemes for restructuring of bad agree loans.

7. Monopoly of the Merchants:

There is monopoly of the merchants in the market. This monopoly is not permitting to farmers to sell Onion at high price.

The government has to set up a redressed system to control on these merchants.

8. Agricultural Marketing:

An efficient agriculture marketing system is indispensable for the overall development of the district/state/country's economy. It requires a healthy environment, smooth channels for the transfer of produce, physical infrastructure to support marketing of the produce; easy cash support to widely scattered community of producers and also promotes a sense of market orientation among the farmers. The absence of rural road connectivity and other infrastructure, combined with improper management, lack of marketing intelligence has resulted in a system that is unfavorable to the farmers. The adverse impact of all theses is more pronounced in the case of the small and marginal farmers who constitute about 70 % of the entire farming community.

Government has to arrange training for farmers group and KVM for marketing and value addition of Agricultural produces. Creating growers organization of Onion and encourage them for marketing, even for export and value addition also. Government should create Godown infrastructure at every village for cleaning, grading and storage. As well as use this godown receipt for pledge loans. To seek approvals of these godowns from banks and commodity markets. To improve the capacity of building Cooperative Societies, KVM and growers organization in markets intelligence by providing them e-connectivity and market information.

9. Problems of physical factors:

Agricultural crops are subjected to the vagaries of nature like untimely, uneven and insufficient rainfall. Sometimes crops also suffered due to hail, storms, droughts and floods, pest and disease infestations severely affecting the crop production and productivity. Due to these calamities the economy of farmer community gets restricted.

Government has to implement National Crop Insurance Scheme intensively at tehsil level also.

CONCLUSION:

From the geographical point of view Ahmednagar district has high disparity as well as diversity. It may be considered to be quite suitable for a study of problems and prospects of Onion

production. To understand significance sound evolution and future planning for increasing Onion production and productivity is consider for this topic or study. So this study is very useful for increasing onion production, social and economic development of the Onion cultivators, social organization, N.G.Os, educational and governmental institutions, rural development policies, planning and agro-based small scale industries in the future. This research is based only on Ahmednagar district. The conclusion may not be applicable for other district because the climatic and physical characteristics may be differing from region to region.

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