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Problem experienced by the kharif potato growers during adoption of recommended potato production technology and their suggestions to overcome the problems

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Abstract

Potato is a temperate crop grown under subtropical conditions in India. Potato is a crop which has always been the 'poor man's friend'. Potato is being cultivated in the country for the last more than 300 years. For vegetable purposes it has become one of the most popular crops in this country. It is necessary to assess the problems experienced by the farmers during cultivation of potato. The present study entitled "An Economic Analysis of Kharif potato cultivation in Mainpat of Surguja district of Chhattisgarh" was carried out in the year 2021-22 in Mainpat block because maximum number of kharif potato growers were living in this block. For the present study 120 kharif potato growers were selected randomly from the selected block, thus total 120 kharif potato growers were selected as respondents. It was observed that the important problems reported by the respondents are rate of fertilizers and insecticides are high and improper market facilities etc. The suggestions given by the respondents were improved variety should be provided followed by training should be provided at the proper time to better production and management of potato cultivation.

Keywords: Potato production technology, problems, suggestions

Introduction

Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.) is one of the most important food crops grown in more than 100 countries in the world. In the 18th and 19th centuries it was already an important food crop, especially for the poor in various countries in Europe. In North America too, where immigrants from Europe had taken tubers along with them, it found its place among other food crops. During the 19th century the potato was introduced to several tropical and sub-tropical countries, mainly by colonists from Europe. In more recent years the potato has spread to many countries with warmer and drier climates and it has become important in regions such as North Africa, the plains of India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, Central America, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and the coastal plains of Peru. In 2020, world production of potatoes was 359 million tones, led by China with 22% of the total production. Other major producers were India, Russia, Ukraine and the United States. It remains an essential crop in Europe (especially northern and eastern Europe), where per capita production is still the highest in the world, but the most rapid expansion over the past few decades has occurred in southern and eastern Asia. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, a typical raw potato is 79% water, 17% carbohydrates (88% is starch), 2% protein, and contains negligible fat (see table). In a 100-gram (3+1/2-ounce) portion, raw potato provides 322 kilojoules (77 kilocalories) of food energy and is a rich source of vitamin B6 and vitamin C (23% and 24% of the Daily Value, respectively), with no other vitamins or minerals in significant amount (see table). The potato is rarely eaten raw because raw potato starch is poorly digested by humans. It flowers in cymose panicles. Potato is grown almost in all states of India. However, the major potato growing states are Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal, Bihar and Assam. In Chhattisgarh, potato cultivation is done in almost all the districts. To promote the agriculture sector in the state, the Agricultural University, which is located in Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur. The climate zone in Chhattisgarh is divided into three parts. Chhattisgarh plain, northern hilly region, Bastar plateau, where 5 districts are included in the northern hill region, Balrampur, Jashpur, Korea, Surajpur, Ambikapur (Surguja).

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Material and Methods

The study was conducted in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh, during the year 2021-22. Out of 7 blocks of the Surguja district, only Mainpat block was selected purposively for the study because maximum number of kharif potato growers were living in this block. For this study 120 kharif potato growers were selected randomly from selected block, thus total 120 kharif potato growers were be selected as respondents.

Results and Discussion

As far as the problems faced by the potato growers are concerned, it was found that the majority of the respondents (73.33%) reported that the rate of fertilizers and insecticides are high, followed by improper market facilities (71.66%), lack of availability of seed of improved variety at the proper time (68.33%), lack of scientific knowledge about Kharif potato production (65.83%), shortage of labours (60.83%), lack of storage facilities (52.50%), high costs transportation (41.16%), lack of financial facilities (30.00%) and automatic planting machinery costs are high (21.66%) respectively.

Table 1: Problems faced by kharif potato growers

Sl. No.	Problems	F	%	Rank
1	Lack of scientific cultivation of kharif potato production.	79	65.83	IV
2	Lack of storage facilities.	63	52.50	VI
3	Lack of availability of seed of improved variety at proper time	82	68.33	III
4	Lack of financial facilities	36	30.00	VIII
5	Shortage of labours	73	60.83	
6	Improper Market facilities	86	71.66	II
7	High costs transportation	53	44.166	VII
8	Automatic planting machineries costs are high	26	21.66	IX
9	Rate of fertilizers and insecticides are high	88	73.33	I

Table 2 indicated that the majority of the respondents (67.50%) suggested that improved variety should be provided, followed by training should be provided at the proper time (63.33%), shortage of labours can be minimized by machinery (59.16%), storage facilities should be provided (55.00%)

Table 2: Suggestion given by kharif potato growers

Sl. No.	Suggestion	F	%	Rank
1	Training should be provided at proper time	76	63.33	II
2	Storage facilities should be provided	66	55.00	IV
3	Improved variety should be provided	71	59.16	I
4	Financial facilities should be provided	26	21.66	IX
5	Shortage of labours can be minimized by machineries	81	67.50	III
6	Market related facilities should be improved	62	51.66	VI
7	Transportation facilities should be provided	46	38.33	VII
8	Implement should be provided at proper time	43	35.83	VIII
9	Farmers should make FYM and composts to reduce excessive use of fertilizers in the field	88	73.33	V

Farmers should make FYM and composts to reduce excessive use of fertilizers in the field (54.16%), market-related facilities should be improved (51.66%), transportation facilities should be improved (38.33%), implements should be provided at the proper time (35.83%) and financial assistance should be provided (21.66%) respectively.

Conclusion

It may be concluded that the majority of the respondents reported that the rate of fertilizers and insecticides are high followed by improper market facilities is emerged as major problems faced by the kharif potato growers and the majority of them suggested that improved variety should be provided financial facilities should be provided and followed by training should be provided at the proper time.

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