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Constraints faced by the castor growers in adoption of recommended castor production technology

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Abstract
Production of a new technology is generally not the major problem now-a-day in our country. The agricultural scientists are capable of producing appropriate technology. The main problem as it exists today is that of diffusion and adoption of new farm technologies among the farmers. Diffusion of knowledge is relatively an easy task. Getting people to understand, accept and apply is the difficult one. The present study was purposively undertaken in the three talukas *viz.*, Patan, Saraswati and Harij talukas of Patan district of Gujarat state. The ex-post facto research design and multistage sampling technique were followed for present study. Five villages were randomly selected from each taluka having castor cultivation. Thus, total fifteen villages were selected. From each selected village, ten farmers were selected randomly by making a sample of 150 respondents. The study revealed that major constraints faced by the castor growers in the adoption of recommended castor production technology were; unavailability of certified seed at local level, shortage and high wages of labour, high cost of fertilizers and inadequate finance. The most important suggestions expressed by castor growers to overcome the constraints faced by them in maximum adoption of recommended castor production technology were; reasonable price should be given to agricultural produce, certified seed should be made locally and price of agricultural inputs should be minimized.

Keywords: constraints, suggestions & castor production technology

Introduction
Agriculture forms the backbone of Indian economy, as 70.00 percent of its population is living in villages and majority of them are related to agricultural enterprise. For improving their economic condition, agricultural production has to be increased through improved techniques suited to local condition. Diffusion of knowledge is relatively an easy task. Getting people to understand, accept and apply is the difficult one**.** Low agricultural production is due to the gap between the scientific knowledge devolved by the scientists and the extent to which, it has found in practical application by the farmers. Generally, people do not adopt new practice or idea as soon as they hear and know about it. They may wait for several months or even years before trying the idea. Therefore, the wide time leg might be observed between the introduction of an innovation and it's adoption, even though the best efforts of the extension agencies made in the process of transfer of farm technologies.
The low yield of castor could be attributed to the fact that the farmers have not still adopted all the recommended cultivation practices of the crop to the desired extent, in-spite of continuous efforts of the extension workers. Moreover, the farmers also facing various constraints in adoption which may hinder the adoption of recommended farm technology. Such constraints may be technological, socio-economic, organizational, infrastructural facilities and extension service related. Considering all these aspects, the present study was conducted with following objectives.

Objectives
1. To know the constraints faced by the castor growers in adoption of recommended castor production technology
2. To seek the suggestions from the castor growers for maximum adoption of recommended castor production technology

Methodology
The present study was purposively undertaken in the three talukas *viz.*, Patan, Saraswati and Harij of Patan district of Gujarat state based on higher area and production as compare to other

talukas of the district. Five villages were randomly selected from each taluka on the basis of higher area under castor cultivation. Thus, total fifteen villages were randomly selected. From each selected village, 10 farmers were selected randomly by making a sample of 150 respondents.

The present study was confined to ex-post-facto research design. An interview schedule was developed according to objectives of study and the data were collected by arranging personal interview. The collected data were classified, tabulated and analysed in order to make the findings meaningful. A simple ranking technique applied to measure the problems and suggestions to overcome problems of adoption of castor production technology. The statistical tools used to analyse the data were percentage, mean score and standard deviation.

Results and Discussion

Constraints faced by the castor growers in adoption of recommended castor production technology

As far as the problems confronting the farmers in adoption of castor production technology are concerned, there are certain circumstances, which restrict in adoption of improved technology. It is well known fact that the problems in adoption of improved technology can never be removed, but they may be minimized. The farmers were asked to express their problems in adoption of castor production technology. Frequencies and percentage were computed and ranked were given to the collected information.

Table 1: Distribution of castor growers according to constraints faced by them in adoption of castor production technology (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Per cent	Rank
1	Unavailability of certified seed at local level	120	80.00	I
2	Shortage and high wages of labour	118	78.66	II
3	High cost of fertilizers	115	76.66	III
4	Inadequate finance	110	73.33	IV
5	High cost of seed	109	72.76	V
6	Attack of pests and diseases	105	70.00	VI
7	Lacking of technical guidance	100	66.66	VII
8	Non-remunerative price of production	90	60.00	VIII

As seen from Table 1 that the major constraints faced by the castor growers in adoption of recommended castor production technology were; unavailability of certified seed at local level (80.00%), shortage and high wages of labour (78.66%), high cost of fertilizers (76.66%), inadequate finance (73.33%), high cost of seed (72.76%), attack of pests and diseases (70.00%), lacking of technical guidance (66.66%) and non-remunerative price of production (60.00%) which were ranked as I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII, respectively.

It can be inferred from the above results that unavailability of certified seeds at local level, shortage and high wages of labour and high cost of fertilizers were the main constraints.

This finding is in partial agreement with those findings of Desai (2013) [3], Machhar *et al.* (2015) [4] and Chaudhary (2016) [1].

Suggestions from the castor growers for maximum adoption of recommended castor production technology

Suggestions were collected from the castor growers to overcome their problems and difficulties for better adoption of castor production technology. The castor growers were asked to suggest possible solution to overcome the problems associated with adoption of recommended castor production technology. The responses were converted in frequency, percentage and on the basis of percentage the rank assigned to each suggestion and same is presented in Table-2.

Table 2: Distribution of castor growers according to seek suggestions given by them for maximum adoption of recommended castor production technology (n = 150)

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Per cent	Rank
1	Reasonable price should be given to agricultural produce	105	70.00	I
2	Certified seed should be made locally	100	66.66	II
3	Price of agricultural inputs should be reasonable	87	58.00	III
4	Timely technical guidance should be provided	80	53.33	IV
5	Crop loan should be provided to the farmer	50	33.33	V

As seen from Table 2 that the most important suggestions expressed by castor growers to overcome the constraints faced by them in maximum adoption of recommended castor production technology were; reasonable price should be given to agricultural produce (70.00%), certified seed should made locally (66.66%), price of agricultural inputs should be reasonable (58.00%), timely technical guidance should be provided (53.33%) and crop loan should be provided to the farmers (33.33%) which were ranked as I, II, III, IV and V, respectively.

From the above results, it can be said that important suggestions expressed by the castor growers were; reasonable price should be given to agricultural produce, certified seed should be made locally and price of agricultural inputs should be reasonable.

These findings are in partial agreement with those findings of Chaudhary (2019) [2].

Conclusion

The study revealed that majority constraints faced by the farmers in the adoption of castor production technology were unavailability of certified seeds at local level, shortage and high wages of labour, high cost of fertilizers, inadequate finance and high cost of seed. While reasonable price should be given to agricultural produce, certified seed should be made locally and price of agricultural inputs should be reasonable were important suggestions to overcome/ minimize the constraints in adoption castor production technology by the castor growers. This constraints and suggestions expressed by the castor growers should take into account by various policy makers of concerned departments to increase the adoption of recommended castor production technology.

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