

Constraints Faced by the Farmers in Blackgram Production and Marketing in Lalitpur District of Uttar Pradesh

Nimit Kumar^{1*}, Gunadhar Dey², Brijpal Singh Rajawat¹, Sudhakar Dwivedi³, Sanjay Prakash Singh³, Anil Bhat³ and Akshay Deep Singh³

¹College of Agriculture Sciences, TMU, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, India

²Department of Agricultural Economics, BCKV, West Bengal, India

³Division of Agricultural Economics and Agri-business Management, SKUAST- J, Chatha, Jammu (J&K), India

*Corresponding author: nimittomar008@gmail.com

Received: 26-02-2023

Revised: 31-05-2023

Accepted: 10-06-2023

ABSTRACT

An investigation entitled "Constraints faced by the farmers in Blackgram production and marketing in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh" was conducted in blackgram grown four different development blocks of Lalitpur district. Five villages from each block, 15 farmers from each village were selected randomly, so as to constitute an ultimate sample size of 300 farm households. Primary data regarding constraints in production and marketing were collected by the survey method by interviewing the blackgram growers through an especially structured and pre-tested schedule. The major production constraints identified were high labour cost, unavailability of labour during peak period, involvement of uneducated members in farming, lack of latest technical knowledge, lack of finance and credit facilities, occurrence of diseases, high cost of pesticides and lack of good quality seeds. In marginal size category, high labour cost was a constraint to 97 per cent of the farmers. In small size category also, high labour cost was considered as a problem by 67 per cent of the farmers. But in semi-medium, medium and large size category of farms, the constraint like unavailability of labour during peak period was a problem to a majority 62 per cent, 58 per cent and 48 per cent of the farmers, respectively. The marketing constraints included lack of remunerative price for the produce, lack of marketing information, unorganized market, high commission charges, high cost of transportation and cheating by middlemen. In marginal size category, majority of the farmers faced the marketing problems resulting from lack of remunerative price for the produce, lack of market information, existence of unorganized market and high commission charges. Among these constraints, lack of remunerative price for their produce was noted to adversely affect 81 per cent of the farmer in this size category.

Keywords: Sample farmers, farmer's category, Production constraints and Marketing Constraints

Pulses are highly important as a component of daily diet, its contribution to human nutrition (protein) and also in terms of its contribution to farmers' income and employment. Most importantly all pulse crops improve soil fertility by fixing atmospheric nitrogen into soil and help in increasing sustainability of the

soil fertility. Pulses in India have been poor men

How to cite this article: Kumar, N., Dey, G., Rajawat, B.S., Dwivedi, S., Singh, S.P., Bhat, A. and Singh, A.D. (2023). Constraints Faced by the Farmers in Blackgram Production and Marketing in Lalitpur District of Uttar Pradesh. *Agro Economist - An International Journal*, 10(02): 195-199.

Source of Support: None; **Conflict of Interest:** None



diet since long. Pulses are grown on an area of 22-23 million hectares with an annual production 13-18 million tonnes (MT). There is a steep increase in the price of pulses due to short supply following the growing demand due to burgeoning population. The net availability of pulses has come down from 70.1gm/day/person in the year 1951 to 45 gm/day/person in the year 2021 (Indian Council of Medical Research recommended 65 gm/day/capita in 2008). Recently, under the National Food Security Mission (NSFM), high priority has been given for increasing the production of pulses across the country to curtail growing imports, arrest protein deficiency in nutrition and make pulses available at affordable price to the common people. In India, the important reasons for stagnation of production of pulses can be attributed to replacement of pulse area by high yielding varieties of cereals and other crops following expansion of irrigation facilities in dry areas. To meet the domestic requirement, there is need to increase the pulse production which can be increased either by bringing more area under cultivation or by enhancing their productivity. India is the largest producer as well as consumer of blackgram. It produced 1.95 MT of urad from 2.52 M ha. of area in the year of 2014-15 (Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare). In India black gram is mostly grown in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha states which together account for about 86.78 per cent area and 86.53 per cent production (Lahre *et al.* 2017). As per the available estimates, UP and Andhra Pradesh occupy the first two positions, contributing over 40% of the total production. Maharashtra contributes about 14% while Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh account for about 10 % and 8.5 % respectively of total production in the country. In Uttar Pradesh the largest area to the extent of 160879 ha. (28.13 %) is covered by Lalitpur district and this also makes the highest contribution in the production of the state. This contributed about 124355 tonnes (32.72 %) of the total production in the year of 2012-13 (Ministry of Agriculture, GOI, 2013-14).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out on the basis of primary data collected from 5 villages (with random selection

of 15 farms each) of Birdha block, 5 villages (with random selection of 15 farms each) of Mahrauni block, 5 villages (with random selection of 15 farms each) of Bar block and 5 villages (with random selection of 15 farms each) of Jakhaura block. These blocks were chosen specifically because these blocks cover a large chunk of area under black gram cultivation than other blocks growing black gram in the region. Then a sample of 300 farmers was selected randomly. The farms were categorized into five groups viz, marginal (upto 1 ha.), small (1.01-2 ha.), semi-medium (2.01-4 ha.), medium (4.01-10 ha.) and large (> 10 ha.). The reference year of the study was agricultural year 2014-15. The required data from sample farmers were collected through a pre-tested schedule and questionnaires by personal interview method for analyzing the constraints faced by them at various levels. The information on different aspects of production and marketing constraints faced by the farms was tabulated into frequency tables and expressed in percentages against each of the item.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The tables 1 display distribution of farm households to different size categories e.g., marginal, small, semi-medium, medium and large in different blocks of Lalitpur district. In the district as a whole, out of 300 farm households growing blackgram, 62 & 78 numbers of households belong to marginal and small size categories, respectively. There existed 86, 45 and 29 number of households in semi-medium, medium and large size categories, respectively.

Production constraints

The farmers face various types of constraints in the cultivation of blackgram. These constraints create hindrance to the smooth growing of the crop by the farmers. These constraints in the study area are shown according to different size categories of farms in table 2. The constraints identified were high labour cost, unavailability of labour during peak period, involvement of uneducated members in farming, lack of latest technical knowledge, lack of finance and credit facilities, occurrence of diseases, high cost of pesticides and lack of good quality seeds. In marginal size category, high labour cost was a constraint to 97 per cent of the farmers. The other constraints which

Table 1: Category wise sample farms growing blackgram under Lalitpur district

Size Categories	Maharauni Block	Bar Block	Birdha Block	Jakhaura Block	Total Size of Sample
Marginal	20	16	11	15	62
Small	19	22	17	20	78
Semi-medium	20	18	25	23	86
Medium	11	13	12	9	45
Large	5	6	10	8	29
All farms	75	75	75	75	300

Table 2: Constraints faced by the blackgram growers in its cultivation

Sl. No.	Constraints	Number of farmers (N)						Rank
		Marginal (N=62)	Small (N=78)	Semi-medium (N=86)	Medium (N=45)	Large (N=29)	All Farms (N=300)	
(A) Production Problems								
1	High labour cost	60 (96.77)	52 (66.67)	40 (46.51)	18 (40.00)	10 (34.48)	180 (60.00)	I
2	Unavailability of labour during peak period	32 (51.61)	37 (47.44)	53 (61.63)	26 (57.78)	14 (48.28)	162 (54.00)	II
3	Involvement of uneducated members in farming	45 (72.58)	50 (64.10)	44 (51.16)	15 (33.33)	6 (20.69)	160 (53.33)	III
4	Lack of latest technical knowledge	40 (64.52)	35 (44.87)	22 (25.58)	20 (44.44)	8 (27.59)	125 (41.67)	IV
5	Lack of finance and credit facilities	36 (58.06)	30 (38.46)	22 (25.58)	18 (40.00)	10 (34.48)	116 (38.67)	V
6	Occurrence of diseases	28 (45.16)	25 (32.05)	20 (23.26)	15 (33.33)	12 (41.38)	100 (33.33)	VI
7	High cost of pesticides	30 (48.39)	20 (25.64)	20 (23.26)	16 (35.55)	8 (27.59)	94 (31.33)	VII
8	Lack of good quality seed	18 (29.03)	20 (25.64)	15 (17.44)	12 (26.67)	5 (17.24)	80 (26.67)	VIII

Figures in parentheses are the percentages of the total number of farmers of the respective size categories.

impeded majority of the farmers in growing their crops were involvement of uneducated members in farming, lack of latest technical knowledge, lack of finance and credit facilities and unavailability of labour during peak period. In small size category also, high labour cost was considered as a problem by 67 per cent of the farmers. The other important constraints faced by this size category of farms included involvement of uneducated members in farming, unavailability of labour during peak period, lack of latest technical knowledge, lack of finance and credit facilities, etc. But in semi-medium size category of farms, the constraint like unavailability of labour during peak period was a problem to a majority (62%) of the farmers. The other important constraints in this category were involvement of uneducated members in farming, high labour cost, etc. In medium size category, unavailability of labour

during peak period was a constraint to 58 per cent of the farmers. In this category, the other important constraints were lack of latest technical knowledge, lack of finance and credit facilities, higher labour cost, etc. In large size category, 48 per cent farmers faced the problem of unavailability of labour during peak period. The other important problems in this category were occurrence of diseases, lack of finance and credit facilities, high labour cost, etc. Irrespective of the size categories, it was found that high labour cost was a constraint for 60 per cent of the total farmers. In ranking of the constraints, high labour cost was noted to occupy the 1st position. The constraints like unavailability of labour during peak period and involvement of uneducated members in farming were also found to impede majority of the farmers in growing their crop smoothly. These two constraints were observed in 2nd and 3rd positions

respectively in the ranking. The other constraints like lack of latest technical knowledge, lack of finance and credit facilities, occurrence of diseases, high cost of pesticides and lack of good quality seeds were found to occupy fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth position in the ranking of all constraints faced by the farmers in the area under study. Similar have also been reported by Kumar *et al.* (2014) and Ganesh *et al.* (2023).

Marketing constraints

Marketing of any commodity produced by the cultivator is important from the view point of its sale at profitable price. In marketing of his produce the farmers face a number of constraints. In this study, the farmers faced six different constraints which are presented in table 3. These constraints included lack of remunerative price for the produce, lack of marketing information, unorganized market, high commission charges, high cost of transportation and cheating by middlemen. In marginal size category, majority of the farmers faced the marketing problems resulting from lack of remunerative price for the produce, lack of market information, existence of unorganized market and high commission charges. Among these constraints, lack of remunerative price for their produce was noted to adversely affect 81 per cent of the farmer in this size category. In small size category, constraints like lack of remunerative price for the produce, lack of market information and unorganized market created problems to the majority of the producers. Among these constraints, lack of

remunerative price was found to affect about 77 per cent of the farmers in this size category. In semi-medium size category, majority of the farmers faced problems resulting from the constraints like lack of remunerative price and lack of market information. Lack of remunerative price was noted to affect about 64 per cent of the farmers in this category. In medium size category also, these two constraints were faced by majority of the farmers. About 67 per cent of the farmers considered lack of remunerative price for their produce to be a constraint for them in this size category. But in large size category, only lack of remunerative price for the produce was a big constraint for majority of the farmers. About 52 per cent of the farmers in this category reported about the problem. Irrespective of the size categories, two constraints viz; lack of remunerative price and lack of market information created problems in marketing for majority of the farmers in the area under study. These two constraints were found to affect 70 per cent and 61 per cent of the total farmers in the district. In ranking of these constraints in terms of percentage of farmers being affected based on their own opinion it was found that lack of remunerative price for the produce and lack of market information occupied the 1st and 2nd positions respectively. The other constraints like unorganized market, high commission charges, high cost of transportation and cheating by middlemen were observed to exist in the subsequent positions as indicated in table 3. Similar have also been reported by Kumar *et al.* (2014) and Ganesh *et al.* (2023).

Table 3: Constraints faced by the blackgram growers in marketing

Sl. No.	Constraints	Number of farmers (N)					All Farms (N=300)	Rank
		Marginal (N=62)	Small (N=78)	Semi-medium (N=86)	Medium (N=45)	Large (N=29)		
(A) Marketing Problems								
1	Lack of remunerative price for the produce	50 (80.64)	60 (76.92)	55 (63.95)	30 (66.67)	15 (51.72)	210 (70.00)	I
2	Lack of market information	47 (75.81)	53 (67.95)	50 (58.14)	25 (55.55)	7 (24.14)	182 (60.67)	II
3	Un-organized market	45 (72.58)	45 (57.69)	42 (48.84)	20 (44.44)	8 (27.59)	160 (53.33)	III
4	High commission charges	40 (64.52)	30 (38.46)	30 (34.88)	14 (31.11)	6 (20.69)	120 (40.00)	IV
5	High cost of transportation	30 (48.39)	25 (32.05)	24 (27.91)	12 (26.67)	5 (17.24)	96 (32.00)	V
6	Cheating by middlemen	20 (32.26)	18 (23.08)	22 (25.58)	10 (22.22)	5 (17.24)	75 (25.00)	VI

Figures in parentheses are the percentages of the total number of farmers of the respective size categories.

CONCLUSION

The major production and marketing constraints faced by blackgram growers were high labour cost, unavailability of labour during peak period, involvement of uneducated members in farming, lack of remunerative price for the produce and lack of market information, etc. The constraints are appropriately addressed and overcome if educated members involved in farming otherwise provide some training to farmers regarding adoption of new technology and also disseminate the market information to the farmers.

REFERENCES

- Ganesh, S., More, M.S., Rathod, V.J., Bagde, N.T. and Suryawanshi, S.N. 2023. Marketing of black gram and constraints faced by farmers in production and marketing of black gram in Washim District. *The Pharma Innovation J.*, **12**(1): 1112-1116.
- Goswami, A.J., Deka, C.K. and Das, P.K. 2017. Problems faced by the farmers in adoption of recommended package of practices of black gram: A study in Nagaon district of Assam. *Agriculture Update*, **12**(2): 274-276.
- Jat, S., Dangi, K.L. and Kumhar, B.L. (2017). Constraints in Adoption of Improved Cultivation Practices of Black Gram. *Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci.*, **6**(5): 1820-1824.
- Kumar, N., Singh, S.P., Bhat, A., Parihar, P. and Singh, H. 2014. Constraints faced by the farmers in Basmati rice production and marketing in Jammu district of J&K state. *New Agriculturist*, **25**(2): 169-173.
- Kumar, R., Singh, R., Singh, K.K., Raghuvanshi, T., Singh, C., Singh, M.K. and Kumar, M. 2017. Constraints and suggest suitable policy measure of black gram, grower on sample farms in Shahjahanpur district of western Uttar Pradesh. *Journal of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry*, **6**(6): 1029-1033.
- Singh, S.K., Singh, A.K. and Jakhar, K. 2017. Study on Constraints and Adoption of Black Gram Production Technology by the Farmers in Mirzapur District of Uttar Pradesh, India. *Int. J. Curr. Microbiol. App. Sci.*, **6**(10): 174-178.

