

Socio-economic characteristics and information needs of onion growers

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Abstract

The study was conducted in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand to know the socio-economic characteristics and information needs of the onion growers. The findings of the study depicts that onion growers were middle age group, education up to high school level having 1 to 5 acre of land, low income group, medium level of extension group contact, scientific orientation etc. Majority of respondents have information needs as Selection of variety, Application of manure and fertilizer, Insect pest and disease management etc.

Keywords: onion growers, information need, socio-economic

Introduction

India occupied second position with 5.5 lakh hectares of area and 77 lakh tonnes of production of onion next to China in the world. In India the onion growing states are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. India occupied second position with 5.5 lakh hectares of area and 77 lakh tonnes of production of onion next to China in the world. According to Asmatoddin *et al.* (2009) [1] Onion growers bring their produce to market for sale immediately after the harvest, because of lack of storage facilities and financial problems. This results in glut of onion in market and fall in the market prices of the onion.

Past researches revealed that Onion growers have lack of knowledge and information on many aspects. There is medium level marketing knowledge of onion growers and majority of them had no knowledge about schemes and facilities provided by the APMCs and about government agencies which are procuring the produce. This reflects the need for training in marketing aspects, awareness programmes about various marketing aspects. (Yashodhara *et al.*, 2012) [2].

In India the onion growing states are Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, and Madhya. Keeping the above facts in view, the present study was undertaken to study the socio-economic characteristics of onion growers and to assess the information need of onion growers.

Material and Method

The study was conducted in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand state and 120 onion growers who had grown onion since last five years were selected randomly from 8 villages. The data was collected by telephonic interview and online questionnaire. The collected data were scored, tabulated and analyzed by using suitable statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation and Correlation test.

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Socio-economic characteristics of onion growers

S. No.	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Age			
1.	Young age (<42)	24	20.00
2.	Middle age (42-62)	81	67.50
3.	Old age (>62)	15	12.50
Education			
1.	Illiterate	5	4.16
2.	Upto 5 th standard	25	20.80
3.	Upto 8 th standard	27	22.50
4.	High school	39	32.50
5.	Intermediate	17	14.18
6.	Graduate	6	5.00
7.	Post graduate	1	0.86
Land Holding			
1.	No land	0	0
2.	Up to 1 acre	38	31.6
3.	1 to 5 acre	64	53.4
4.	5 to 10 acre	16	13.4
5.	More than 10 acre	2	1.6
Annual Income			
1.	Low income	74	61.60
2.	Medium income	30	25.00
3.	High income	16	13.40
Occupation			
1.	Major occupation (Onion growing)	120	100
2.	Subsidiary occupation (farming)	120	100
Experience in Onion farming			
1.	Less than 5 yr	13	10.80
2.	Medium (5-7 yr)	86	71.70
3.	High (>7 yr)	21	17.50
Scientific Orientation			
1.	Low (<12.08)	30	25.00
2.	Medium (12.08-16.44)	66	55.00
3.	High (>16.44)	24	20.00
Extension Contact			
1.	Low (<1)	34	28.30
2.	Medium (1 to 4)	71	59.20
3.	High(>4)	15	12.50

Age

The data presented in table 1 reveals that out of 120 onion growers, 67.5 per cent respondents belonged to middle age group followed by 20 per cent respondents from young age group and rest 12.5 per cent respondents were found in old age group.

Education

It is clear from the table that the maximum number of respondents (32.50 %) were having high school education followed by those who were educated 8th standard (22.50 %), Up to 5th standard 20.80 percent, 14.18 per cent respondents were educated Intermediate, graduate (5%), postgraduate (0.86 %), and 4.16 percent of respondents were illiterate.

Land Holding

Out of total 120 Onion growers, majority (53.4%) of the onion growers were having landholding between 1 to 5 acres while 31.6 percent potato grower Onion growers s were having small size of land holding up to 1 acre, 13.4 percent respondents were having 5 to 10 acres and rest 1.6 percent potato growers were having more than 10 acre of landholding.

Annual Income

Out of total 120 Onion growers, 61.6 percent were found in low income group, whereas 25 percent were found in medium income group and only 13.4 percent were found in high income group.

Occupation

Onion growers solely depend on farming as source of income is concerned. It also reflects the tendency of farming community to practice diversification in area of study.

Experience in Onion farming

Majority of the respondents (71.70%) had medium experience in Onion farming followed by 17.50 per cent of those who had high experience in onion farming and only 10.80 per cent of the respondents had less experience in onion farming.

Scientific Orientation

Majority (55 %) of onion growers were having medium level of scientific orientation, while 25 per cent onion growers were having low scientific orientation and rest 20 per cent onion growers were highly scientifically oriented.

Extension Contact

It is evident from the above table for extension contact that majority (59.2 %) of the respondents had medium level of extension contact followed by low for 28.3 per cent of the respondents. Only, 12.5 per cent respondents had extension contact of high level.

Information Need Assessment

Data regarding the information need is presented in table which indicates that Insect pest and disease management need was of prime importance for the onion growers with rank I, which is followed by information need for application of manure and fertilizer and selection of variety. Seed treatment was ranked IV based on the responses which was followed by rank V for weed management practices and

rank VI for soil management. Least information was required by growers for irrigation.

Table 2: Information needs of onion growers

S. No.	Information need	Weighted mean	Rank
1.	Selection of variety	1.71	III
2.	Seed treatment	1.63	IV
3.	Soil management	1.26	VI
4.	Application of manure and fertilizer	1.81	II
5.	Irrigation	1.20	VII
6.	Weed management practices	1.45	V
7.	Insect pest and disease management	1.95	I

Conclusion

On the above discussion, it can be concluded that onion growers have different type of information need. Thus, there is an urgent need of information dissemination among the onion growers. Extension strategies are also need on need based areas.

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