



Constraints Faced by the Farm Women in Adoption of Organic Farming Practices

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Abstract

The present study was planned to study the constraints faced by the farm women in adoption of organic farming practices. The study was conducted in purposively selected Badgaon and Girwa panchayat samiti of Udaipur district, Rajasthan. Total 4 villages were selected on basis of random sampling technique. A sample of 30 farm women from each village were selected for the study. The total sample of study consisted of 120 farm women. For accomplishing the present investigation, interview technique was used to collect information from the rural women. Findings revealed that nearly half of the respondents perceived marketing constraints in adoption of organic farming as one of the major constraint as revealed by overall MPS 52.05 with first rank. Technological/production constraints in adoption of organic farming was ranked second among other constraints and overall MPS was found to be 52.05.

Key words : Farm women, organic farming, constraints.

Introduction

Organic farming is a new system of farming or agriculture that repairs, maintains, and improves the ecological balance. Organic products are grown under a system of agriculture without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with an environmentally and socially responsible approach. This is a method of farming that works at grass root level preserving the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, good plant nutrition, and sound soil.

A farming community should adopt organic farming as long-term economic viability because of its premium price in the market, organic farming is more profitable. The increase in the cost of production by the use of pesticides and fertilizers in conventional farming and its negative impact on farming community's health affect economic balance in a community and benefits only go to the manufacturer of these pesticides. Continuous degradation of soil fertility by chemical fertilizers leads to production loss and hence increases the cost of production which makes the farming economically unsustainable. Implementation of a strategy encompassing food security, generation of rural employment, poverty alleviation, conservation of the natural resource, adoption of an export-oriented production system, sound infrastructure, active participation of government, and private-public sector will be helpful to make revamp economic sustainability in agriculture.

Highly severe constraints that are faced by the farming community in practicing organic farming are small

land holding, decline in crop productivity, higher incidence of pests and diseases, non-availability of market place, lack of minimum support prices for organic products, wild animals menace, less erratic monsoon, fluctuation in temperature and humidity. These factors highlight the weak links, which need to be strengthened for promoting organic farming widely. Till now no systematic research efforts have been made to know the constraints faced by the farm women in adoption of organic farming practices. Therefore, it becomes essential to find out the constraints faced by the farm women in adoption of organic farming practices.

Research Methodology

The present study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. Two Panchayat samities were selected purposively from the district. For selection of sample, two villages from each panchayat samiti i.e. Sabalpura and Brahmano ki Hundar from Badgaon panchayat samiti and Pai and Peepalawas from Girwa panchayat samiti were selected randomly. A list of farm women was prepared separately for each village with the help of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Badgaon. From the list, 30 farm women from each village were selected for the study. The total sample of the study consisted of 120 farm women. To collect the required information, personal interview technique was used by the researcher. After establishing good rapport with the respondents, data were collected by the researcher with the help of developed interview schedule in an informal manner using local dialect.

Results and Discussion

An individual, face many problems in adoption of new

Table-1 : Personal constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming. n=120

S. No.	Personal constraints	f	%
1.	Lack of timely and appropriate transfer of organic farming growing practices by extension organization/ Agri. Dept./ private agencies.	71	59.17
2.	Lack of Co-ordination between various service, supply and marketing agencies/organic promoting organizations.	55	45.83
3.	Lack of dedicated and competent extension personal for organic farming promotion	59	49.17
4.	Lack of published information regarding various techniques of organic farming.	74	61.67
5.	Lack of proper guidance and training on organic techniques	76	63.33
6.	Irregular visit of agriculture officers	74	61.67
7.	Lack of risk ability	73	60.83
8.	Lack of testing facilities (soil and water)	50	41.67

Table-2 : Technological constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming. n=120

S. No.	Technological constraints	f	%
1.	Low production of organic farming	82	68.33
2.	Lack of knowledge of recommended package of practices	65	54.17
3.	Lack of knowledge about organic plant protection management	84	70
4.	Organic farming is a slow process	80	66.67
5.	Lack of proper trainings by Govt. Personnel/NGOs research institutes	36	30
6.	Unavailability of organic inputs	39	32.50
7.	Lack of knowledge about crop residue management	84	70
8.	Limited amount of information and research available	89	74.17
9.	Lack of capital	41	34.17
10.	Predominance of the inorganic farmers in the locality	92	76.67
11.	Knowledge about seed variety, seed rate, seed treatment and right time of sowing	72	60
12.	Proper irrigation facilities	29	24.17
13.	Lack of technical know how to get organic farming certified from authorized agencies	83	69.17

technologies differs from practice to practice. Hence, in present investigation an effort was made to explore problems faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming practices. In the present study, the constraints were categorized as personal constraints, technological constraint, financial constraint and marketing constraint. The results of the study are presented in table-1 to 4.

The personal constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming practices presented in Table-1 reveals that major personal constraint experienced by the respondents was lack of proper guidance and training on organic techniques (63.33%), lack of published information regarding various techniques of organic farming and irregular visit of agriculture officers (61.67%), lack of risk ability (60.83%) and lack of timely and appropriate transfer of organic farming growing practices by extension organization/ Agriculture Department/ private agencies (59.17%), lack of dedicated and competent extension personal for organic farming promotion (49.17%) and lack of co-ordination between various service, supply and marketing agencies/organic promoting organizations (45.83%). The least personal constraint faced by the respondents was lack of soil and water testing facilities (41.67%). According to (1, 2) majority of the respondents expressed constraints like shortage of labours (85.83%), high cost of inputs (64.17%), financial constraints

(55.83%), non- availability of FYM (52.50%), lack of knowledge about pest management (51.67%), fluctuations in market price (48.33%), lack of knowledge about disease management (47.50%), heavy risk due to failure of monsoon rains (40%) and high wage of labours (35.83%).

The technological constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming practices presented in Table-2 reveals that major technical constraint experienced by the respondents was pre-dominance of the inorganic farmers in the locality (76.67%), limited amount of information and research available (74.17%), lack of knowledge about organic plant protection management and crop residue management (70%), lack of technical know how to get organic farming certified from authorized agencies (69.17%), low production of organic farming (68.33%), organic farming is a slow process (66.67%) and lack of knowledge of recommended package of practices (54.17%). Less than half of the respondents faced problems i.e. lack of capital (34.17%), unavailability of organic inputs (32.50%) and lack of proper trainings by Govt. Personnel/NGOs research institutes (30%). The least technical constraint was proper irrigation facilities at their end faced by 24.17 per cent of the respondents. According to (3) constraints faced by farming community in adopting organic farming were knowledge about bio - pesticides, low production of

Table-3 : Financial constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming. n=120

S. No.	Financial constraints	f	%
1.	Low premium prices for organic farming	40	33.33
2.	Lack of subsidy/incentives by Govt./department of agriculture to motivate organic farming growers	40	33.33
3.	No minimum support price for organic farming	50	41.67
4.	Lack of bulk local demand for organic farming	57	47.50
5.	Lack/poor cooperative societies at local level	74	61.67
6.	Farmers have no access for direct exports of organic farming	72	60

Table-4 : Marketing constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming. n=120

S. No.	Marketing constraints	f	%
1.	Lack of agencies to purchase organic manure	75	62.50
2.	Dependence/interference of middleman for disposal	76	63.33
3.	Lack of marketing news	74	61.67
4.	Poor communication channels	66	55
5.	Purchase agencies at long distance	71	59.17
6.	Lack of storage facilities	63	52.50
7.	More transportation charges	65	54.17

Table-5 : Ranking of constraints faced in adoption of organic farming practices. n=120

S. No.	Aspects	MPS	Rank
1.	Personal constraints	48.75	IV
2.	Technological/production constraints in organic farming	52.05	II
3.	Financial constraints	51.81	III
4.	Marketing constraints	52.78	I

organic produce, inadequate marketing networks, lack of coordination among different organic production agencies and non-availability of recommended package of practices.

The financial constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming practices presented in Table-3 reveals that major financial constraint experienced by the respondents was lack/poor cooperative societies at local level (61.67%) followed by no access for direct exports of organic farming (60%), lack of bulk local demand for organic farming (47.50%) and no minimum support price for organic farming (41.67%). The least financial constraint faced by the respondents was low premium prices for organic farming and lack of subsidy/incentives by Govt./department of agriculture to motivate organic farming growers (33.33%). (4) in his study reported that major constraints faced by farming community for organic farming practices were; high cost of input, lack of input and raw materials, difficult methods of preparation, poor financial condition, non-availability of loans in time and lack of proper training at grass root level.

The marketing constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of organic farming practices presented in Table-4 reveals that respondents were having problem of dependence/interference of middleman for disposal (63.33%) followed by lack of agencies to purchase organic manure (62.50%), lack of marketing news

(61.67%), purchase agencies at long distance (59.17%), poor communication channels (55%) and more transportation charges (54.17%) followed by 52.50 per cent of the respondents faced lack of storage facilities. (5) revealed that constraints faced by farming community in organic farming were; lack of knowledge of bio-pesticides, lack of knowledge about resistant varieties, lack of knowledge about compost making on scientific lines, lack of awareness about bio - fertilizers, lack of technical aspects of vermicompost.

The data presented in the Table-5 depicts that nearly half of respondents perceived the marketing constraints in adoption of organic farming as one of the major constraints as revealed by overall MPS 52.78 with first rank. Technological/production constraints in adoption of organic farming was ranked second among other constraints and overall MPS was found to be 52.05. Economic constraints presented in the Table-5 shows that respondents experience problems related to financial aspects as respondents have less finance facility and this constraints were regards as one of most important lacuna they faced while adopting organic farming practices and overall MPS was found to be 51.81. Marketing constraints was found to be less severe constraints among all other constraints and overall MPS was found 48.75. Similar work conducted by (6) revealed that majority of the certified organic farmers faced constraints were

non-availability of traditional seeds (75.55%), inadequate availability of organic inputs on time (72.22%), lack of standard package of practices (68.33%), lack of innovativeness (65.55%), lack of technical guidance on organic farming (58.89%).

Conclusions

The most important constraints faced by the respondents were personal, technical, financial and marketing. Therefore, it can be concluded that the respondents were pre-dominance of the inorganic farmers in the locality along with lack off or poor cooperative societies at local level. Another issue faced by the respondents were lack of subsidy/ incentives by the Govt. or department of agriculture to motivate organic farming growers. Further, respondents faced dependence/interference of middleman for disposal and lack of storage facilities, lack of proper guidance and training on organic techniques and lack of testing facilities for soil and water.

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