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A study on perception of farmers towards millet cultivation in Parvathipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh

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Abstract

Millet is an important global food crop with a significant economic impact in developing countries. In hilly and tribal area, millets are major source of livelihood and are intensively cultivated by mostly resource-poor farmers for their food and income in the country. In India, millets have been consumed from time age- old, with symbolic importance, as they are sacred to the farmers. Millet cultivation plays a crucial role in enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agriculture through its climate-resilient nature and nutrient-rich composition, contributing to both environmental and human well-being. However, the cultivation of millet has witnessed a decline in recent decades due to a lack of awareness among farmers about its benefits and importance, resulting in a knowledge and information gap. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered with sample size of 120 to study the perception of farmers towards millet cultivation in Parvathipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh. The results revealed that majority of the farmers had Majority (56.66%) of the farmers had medium perception towards millet cultivation. Lack of availability of good quality seed, Lack of processing units and less awareness were the major constraints faced by farmers.

Keywords: Perception, millets, information

Introduction

India is the largest producer of many types of millet, which are often called coarse grains. Millet is considered a food security crop due to its stability under adverse agricultural conditions. Millets are also beneficial in terms of nutritional sufficiency since they contain various vitamins and minerals and are rich in proteins and fibres. The production of millets has been gaining increased importance in nations that are populous, malnourished, and facing significant climatic uncertainties (Source: knowledge paper on millets, the future super food of India 2022). Millets are nutritious and occupy an important place in the diet of people in many parts of the world. Although millets are nutritionally superior to cereals, their consumption as food is still largely limited to traditional consumers and the population of lower economic groups. Millet cultivation plays a crucial role in enhancing food security and promoting sustainable agriculture through its climate-resilient nature and nutrient-rich composition, contributing to both environmental and human well-being. However, the cultivation of millet has witnessed a decline in recent decades due to a lack of awareness among farmers about its benefits and importance, resulting in a knowledge and information gap. For millet

cultivation to thrive, farmers need to be equipped with the latest techniques, best practices, and relevant information. Unfortunately, many farmers remain unaware of the nutritional benefits of millet, their resilience to climate change, and the potential market opportunities they offer. This lack of awareness restricts the widespread adoption of millet cultivation, limiting its impact on food security and sustainable agriculture. Millet cultivation holds substantial promise in the study area of Parvathipuram Manyam district which offers a valuable opportunity to enhance agricultural diversity and improve food security. Enhancing awareness among farmers about the benefits and best practices of millet cultivation is crucial to promoting its adoption and leveraging its numerous advantages. The objectives is to study about perception of farmers and constraints faced by farmers towards millet cultivation.

Methodology

The present investigation was undertaken in Parvathipuram Manyam district of Andhra Pradesh. The study was conducted in veeraghattam, palakonda, kurupam, gummalexmi puram areas of the district with a sample size of 120 members. Primary data for the study were collected

through a field survey using a structured questionnaire that included farmers' socio-economic factors, perception and constraints faced by farmers towards millet cultivation. The simple statistical tools like frequency, percentage, mean were adopted to interpret the data in a meaningful way.

Results and Discussion

It is evident from table 1 that majority (56.66%) of the farmers had medium perception followed by low (26.66%)

and high (16.18%) level of perception towards millet cultivation.

Table 1: Perception of farmers towards millet cultivation

S. No.	Level of perception	Number (n=120)	%
1	Low perception	32	26.66
2	Medium perception	68	56.66
3	High perception	20	16.18
Total		120	100.00

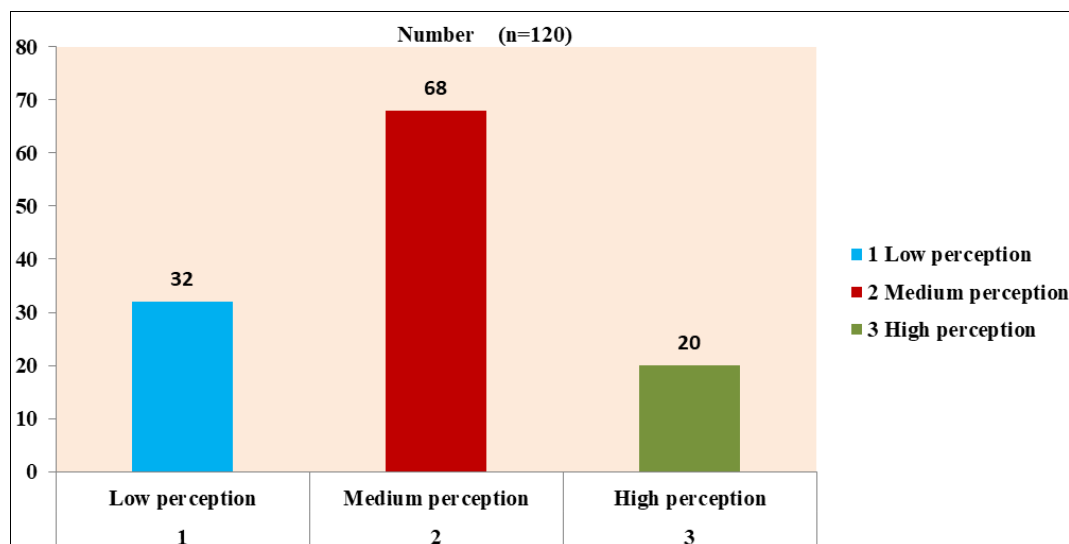


Table 2: Constraints faced by farmers

S. No	Constraints	Frequency	%	Rank
Constraints faced by farmers in millets cultivation (n=120)				
1	Lack of availability of good quality seed	71	59.16	I
2	Non remunerative price	26	21.66	VIII
3	Yield loss	14	11.66	IX
4	Water scarcity	10	8.33	X
5	Low awareness on nutritional benefits of millets	29	24.16	VII
6	Non availability of labour	31	25.83	VI
7	Less training programmes	52	43.33	III
8	Lack of processing units	62	51.66	II
9	Lack of proper marketing channel	43	35.83	IV
10	Lack of export facility	39	32.50	V

Conclusion

Millets are important cereal crops which have to play a significant role in national food and nutritional security. Majority (56.66%) of the farmers had medium perception towards millet cultivation. Lack of availability of good quality seed, Lack of processing units and less awareness were the major constraints faced by farmers. To promote millet cultivation among farmers conducting educational workshops and expert talks to highlight its benefits, providing hands-on training for a better understanding, distributing informative materials, offering support for newcomers, introducing financial incentives, organizing community events to share success stories, and encouraging collaboration with local agricultural organizations and authorities. These efforts aim to enhance awareness, knowledge, and positive attitudes towards millet cultivation among farmers, ultimately promoting its adoption and contributing to sustainable agricultural practices.

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