

# Constraints Faced by Respondents in Strawberry Cultivation and Obtain Suggestions Experienced by them

Mujawar R.H.<sup>1</sup>, Gaikwad S.S.<sup>2</sup> and Patil R.L.<sup>3</sup>

**Abstract:** In adoption of sustainable cultivation practices by strawberry growers, every strawberry grower have many problem in respect of sustainable cultivation practices and marketing of produce. Majority of respondents had faced constraint of Lack of knowledge about biological control measures of insect pest and disease management, Shortage of irrigation water during summer season, High cost of manures and fertilizer and Lack of technical knowledge about doses of manure fertilizers and pesticides and insecticides. Majority of the respondents that, Adequate provision for obtaining remunerative prices be made available, Information about market prices of different markets should be made available, The subsidies on drip irrigation system may be increased, Availability of bio-insecticide and bio-pesticides at cheaper rate and The practical knowledge regarding plant protection and fertilizer application at proper time be imparted

**Keywords:** Constraints, Strawberry Cultivation and Suggestions

## INTRODUCTION

The strawberry is a widely grown hybrid species of the genus *Fragaria*. It is cultivated worldwide for its fruit. The fruit is widely appreciated for its characteristics aroma, bright red color, juicy texture and sweetness. It is consumed in large quantities, either fresh or in such prepared food as preserved fruit juice, pies, ice creams, milkshakes and chocolates. Strawberry is important fruit crop of India and its commercial production is possible in temperate and subtropical climate. In India it is generally cultivated in the hills. Strawberry is also successfully cultivated in plains also in Maharashtra around Pune, Nashik and Sangali districts of Maharashtra.

In Mahabaleshwar Tahsil area under strawberry cultivation was 850 ha. in which 1800 farmers were engaged which produces 20000 tonnes of strawberry which have an worth goes above 100 crore. The strawberry from Mahabaleshwar region which also awarded the Geographical Indication'

status (GI) as name of Mahabaleshwar strawberry' which has protected the features of strawberry from this area.

## METHODOLOGY

For the present study, Satara district is purposively selected as it has highest area under strawberry cultivation. In Satara district, the highest area in under strawberry cultivation in Mahabaleshwar tahsil, hence it was selected. The list of Strawberry growers from the selected villages was obtained from Agricultural assistant and agricultural supervisors of the respective villages. Total 110 respondents were selected by proportionate random sampling method for the present study.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

### Constraints faced by the strawberry growers

In adoption of sustainable cultivation practices by strawberry growers, every strawberry grower have

<sup>1</sup> Research Scholar, Department of Extension Education, Post Graduate Institute, MPKV Rahuri-413722 (M.S.) India., Email: riteshpatil92@gmail.com

**Table 1**  
**Constraints faced by the respondents in the adoption of sustainable cultivation practices.**

Sr. No.	Constraints	Frequency	Per-cent (N=110)
1	Lack of knowledge about biological control measures of insect pest and disease management	101	91.81
2	Shortage of irrigation water during summer season	96	87.27
3	High cost of manures and fertilizer	92	83.63
4	Lack of technical knowledge about doses of manure fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides	91	82.72
5	Shortage of labour	86	78.18
6	High cost of insecticide and pesticide	83	75.45
7	Lack of awareness about sustainable farming	79	71.80
	Unavailability of cold storage facilities near by the locality of the respondents.	74	67.27
8	Lack of knowledge about improved sustainable practices in strawberry cultivation.	72	65.45
9	Market rates are not known in time	71	64.71
10	Lack of finance	35	31.81
11	Lack of technical knowledge about grading and packing	13	11.81

many problem in respect of sustainable cultivation practices and marketing of produce. This constraints presented in Table. 1

The above table 1 revealed that strawberry growers faced number of problems while adopting sustainable cultivation practices

It was observed that lack of knowledge about biologically control measures of insect pest and diseases and lack of technical knowledge about doses of manures and fertilizers were the major constraints made by 91.81 per cent and 82.72 per cent of strawberry growers, respectively. High cost of insecticides and pesticides was the constraints faced by 75.45 per cent strawberry growers. The respondents further expressed that they face the problem of none availability of cold storage facility (67.27 %) after harvesting of strawberry which causes major losses in strawberry production. The respondents also expressed about high cost of manures and fertilizers (83.63 %) and market rate not known in time (64.71 %).

Shortage of finance (31.81 %) , shortage of labour (78.18 %), lack of knowledge about improved sustainable practices of strawberry cultivation(65.45 %), shortage of irrigation water during summer season (64.71 %) and lack of technical knowledge about grading and packing(11.81 %) were the constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of

sustainable cultivation practices in strawberry cultivation.

Suggestion made by the strawberry growers to overcome the constraints in adoption of sustainable cultivation practices followed in strawberry cultivation.

An attempt was made to ascertain the suggestions from strawberry growers to overcome constraints faced by them in adoption of sustainable cultivation practices. The respondents were requested to offer their valuable suggestion if any against the difficulties faced by them in adoption of sustainable cultivation practices. The information regarding the suggestions made by them collected and analyzed. The finding are presented in the table2.

From the above table 2 it indicates that most of the strawberry growers made suggestions which were mostly related to marketing aspects. According to them there had been never had been a need of proper provisions of obtaining remunerative prices of strawberry (93.63 %). This suggestions crippled in because market prices of strawberry were reported were highly fluctuating and grape growers invested more amount in production of strawberry. So they suggested for assured remunerative prices , also strawberry growers suggested that information about market prices of different market should be available (92.72 %) to them.

**Table 2**  
**Distribution of the respondents by their suggestions made to overcome their problems faced in the adoption of sustainable cultivation practices in strawberry cultivation.**

<i>Sr. no.</i>	<i>Suggestions</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percent (N=110)</i>
1	Adequate provision for obtaining remunerative prices be made available	103	93.63
2	Information about market prices of different markets should be made available.	102	92.72
3	The subsidies on drip irrigation system may be increased.	96	87.27
4	Availability of bio-insecticide and bio-pesticides at cheaper rate.	92	83.63
5	The practical knowledge regarding plant protection and fertilizer application at proper time be imparted.	91	82.72
6	The various input like fertilizer insecticides and fungicides should be made available at proper time and at cheaper rate.	86	78.18
7	Proper field demonstrations about biological control of disease pest and insect by research stations/scientist	82	74.54
8	Govt. should encourage to start the strawberry processing unit in rural area.	61	55.45
9	Govt. should encourage the farmers about the export of strawberry.	52	47.27
10	Cold storage facility made available at reasonable rates and at near by locality.	48	43.63

A majority of strawberry growers suggested that availability of proper field demonstrations about biological control of disease, pest and insects by research stations/scientist (74.54 %) which increases the awareness of sustainable practices. Also strawberry growers suggested the availability of bio-insecticides and bio-pesticides at cheaper rate (83.63 %). Also strawberry growers suggested to increase the subsidy on drip irrigation system by government.

About 82.72 per cent of the respondents suggested that the practical knowledge regarding plant protection and fertilizer application at proper time be imparted because it directly influence the sustainable cultivation practices also suggested the various input like fertilizer insecticides and fungicides should be made available at proper time and at cheaper rate (78.18 %).

The Govt. should encourage to start the strawberry processing units in rural areas near by their locality was the suggestions made by 55.45 per cent of strawberry growers which is followed by suggestion that Govt. should encourage the farmers about the export of strawberry (47.27 %).

## CONCLUSION

It was observed that lack of knowledge about biologically control measures of insect pest and

diseases and lack of technical knowledge about doses of manures and fertilizers were the major constraints made by 91.81 per cent and 82.72 per cent of strawberry growers, respectively. High cost of insecticides and pesticides was the constraints faced by 75.45 per cent strawberry growers. The respondents further expressed that they face the problem of non availability of cold storage facility (67.27 %) after harvesting of strawberry which causes major losses in strawberry production. The respondents also expressed about high cost of manures and fertilizers (83.63 %) and market rate not known in time ( 64.71 %).

Shortage of finance (31.81 %), shortage of labour (78.18 %), lack of knowledge about improved sustainable practices of strawberry cultivation (65.45 %), shortage of irrigation water during summer season (64.71 %) and lack of technical knowledge about grading and packing (11.81 %) were the constraints faced by the respondents in adoption of sustainable cultivation practices in strawberry cultivation.

A majority of strawberry growers suggested that availability of proper field demonstrations about biological control of disease, pest and insects by research stations/scientist (74.54 %) which increases the awareness of sustainable practices.

Also strawberry growers suggested the availability of bio-insecticides and bio-pesticides at cheaper rate (83.63 %). Also strawberry growers suggested that increase the subsidy on drip irrigation system by government.

About 82.72 per cent of the respondents suggested that the practical knowledge regarding plant protection and fertilizer application at proper time be imparted because it directly influence the sustainable cultivation practices also suggested the various input like fertilizer insecticides and fungicides should be made available at proper time and at cheaper rate (78.18 %). The Govt. should encourage to start the strawberry processing units in rural areas near by their locality was the suggestions made by 55.45 per cent of strawberry growers which is followed by suggestion that Govt. should encourage the farmers about the export of strawberry (47.27 per cent).

### *References*

- Bhosale , S. S. (2003), Knowledge and adoption of post harvest technology by the pomegranate growers in Solapur district. M.Sc. (Agri) Thesis. (unpublished) Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri.
- Howal, A. (2008), Study of Technological gap in pomegranate growers. Msc. Agri Thesis. (unpublished) Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri
- Kadam, P.R., S.D. Wangikar, and P.B. Bhosale. (2001), production and marketing constraints faced by sweet orange growers. Maharashtra J. Extn. Extn. 20: 66-68.
- Kalra, R., Singh, B. and Singh G. (2008), Constraints faced by peach growers of Punjab . Indian journal of social research Vol-40 (235-244).
- Katkar, V. J. (2001), A study of adoption of mango production technology in Akola tahsil of Ahmednagar district. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis. (unpublished) Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri
- Kunjir V.D. (1993), A study of fig growers from Purandar block of Pune district. M.Sc. Agri Thesis. (unpublished) Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri.
- Patil (2008), A study on constraints analysis of grape exporting farmers of Maharashtra state. Ph.D. thesis. University of Agricultural sciences, Dharwad.
- Throat, K.S. (2003), A study of technological gap and constraints in the adoption of recommended cultivation , practices of mango growers. M.Sc. (Agri) Thesis. (unpublished) Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri.
- Wadkar, S. S. , P. D. Veerkar and S. R. Bagade (2006), Resource use efficiency in production of Alphanso mango in Sindhudurg district an economic analysis. Agricultural Economic Research review. 19:214.