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FARMERS' ASPIRATIONS FOR ADVANCED POST-HARVEST METHODS FOR GROUNDNUT CULTIVATION

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted in the South Saurashtra Agro-climatic zone of Gujarat state. Out of 25 talukas, 10 talukas were selected based on lighter total groundnut area and productivity. Total 120 farmers from 10 villages of each taluka were selected randomly sampling method. The results of the research reveals that majority of the groundnut growers expressed their aspiration to increase their groundnut production, purchase of pod plucking machine, reducing the losses of production during grading of pods, marketing place for better price, storage method, drying method of plant and cleaning and winnowing of pods. Majority of the respondents were medium level of aspiration to the post-harvest techniques. The variable education, yield index, farm mechanization and extension participation were having positive and significant relationship with aspiration to the post-harvest techniques of groundnut.

Key words: Groundnut, Mechanization, Marketing, Yield index

Introduction

Groundnut cultivation plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of farmers across many regions, contributing significantly to agricultural income and food security. However, despite its economic and nutritional importance, post-harvest losses in groundnut production remain a major challenge. Inadequate post-harvest practices lead to reduced yield quality, lower market value, and significant financial losses for farmers.

In recent years, advancements in post-harvest technology have offered solutions to minimize these losses and enhance the efficiency of groundnut processing, storage, and marketing. However, the adoption of such advanced methods largely depends on farmers' awareness, accessibility, and aspiration for improvement. Understanding farmers' aspirations for advanced post-harvest methods is essential to tailor interventions that align with their needs, socio-economic conditions, and local challenges. This study explores the aspirations,

expectations, and perceived benefits among farmers regarding advanced post-harvest techniques for groundnut cultivation. By identifying their priorities and barriers to adoption, this research aims to bridge the gap between available innovations and practical implementation, ultimately contributing to sustainable agricultural development and improved livelihoods. In the sphere of post-harvest operations, considerable progress has been made in threshing, drying, cleaning, storage, transportation and marketing of food grains. There is considerable loss of groundnut in post-harvest operations. There is no information available on aspirations of farmers toward scientific post-harvest techniques of groundnut crop. Therefore, the present study was under taken with the following specific objectives.

Objectives:

 To identify the aspirations of the farmers for scientific post-harvest techniques in groundnut crop.

Aspiration Statement None Less Medium High **Total** 0 % Up to 33 % 34 to 67 % **Above 67 %** Rank Score score 0 1 3 1) What is your aspiration in respect to increasing 41 57 4 0 61 IIyour land in the next three year? 2) What is your aspiration in respect to increasing 2 0 94 8 102 I your production of the groundnut in the next three year? 3) What is your expectation in respect to purchase following post-harvest machines in the next three year? A) Pod plucking machine 43 55 4 0 59 Ι 93 7 0 7 B) Mechanical dryer 0 IV C) Solar dryer 97 3 0 0 3 VĪ D) Thresher 80 20 0 0 20 II4 4 V E) Winnowing fan 96 0 0 23 79 19 4 0 Ш F) Pod grader G) Decorticator 100 0 0 0 VII 0 4) What is your aspiration in respect to reducing following losses of post-harvest practices of groundnut in the next three year? A) Drying methods of plant 15 85 0 0 85 IV B) Separation pods from plants 83 17 0 0 17 VII C) Cleaning and winnowing of pods 31 69 0 0 69 V 7 D) Grading of pods 83 20 0 103 Ι E) Packaging process of pods 95 5 0 0 5 IX F) Repairing or construction of store room 43 54 0 60 VI 6 G) Storage method 24 63 26 0 89 Ш H) Good transportation facilities 90 10 0 0 10 VIII 85

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Table 1: Distribution of groundnut grower according to their aspiration to the post-harvest techniques of groundnut crop.

To ascertain the relationship between selected characteristics of the farmers on their aspiration of scientific post-harvest techniques in groundnut crop.

Research Methodology

I) Marketing place for better price

Out of the 25 talukas in the South Saurashtra agroclimatic zone, 6 talukas from Junagadh district and 1 taluka each from Porbandar, Rajkot, Amreli, and Bhavnagar districts were selected based on their higher total groundnut cultivation area and productivity. This resulted in a total of 10 talukas included in the study. One village from each selected taluka (a total of 10 villages) was chosen, and 12 farmers from each village were randomly selected, making up a sample size of 120 farmers. A

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their level of aspiration N=120.

Sr. No.	Category	Percentage
1	Low (Below 5.63 score)	14
2	Middle (5.63to 10.75 score)	66
3	High(above 10.75 score)	20
	Mean 8.19 S. D. 2.56	

slightly modified version of the aspiration scale developed by Muthayya (1971) was used to assess the farmers' aspirations. Data collection was carried out through personal interviews using a structured interview schedule. The collected data were then systematically tabulated and analyzed in alignment with the study's objectives.

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Result and Discussion

Aspiration of groundnut growers

It was evident from data Table 1 that majority of the Table 3: Relationship between characteristics of the respondents and their aspiration of post-harvest techniques of groundnut crop. N=120.

Sr. No.	Characteristics	r value
1	Age	-0.1377 ^{NS}
2	Education	0.2559**
3	Yield index	0.2003**
4	Farm mechanization	0.2476**
5	Social participation	0.1810*
6	Extension Participation	0.2331**

^{*} Significant at 0.05 percent level of probability, table value ± 0.1655 **Significant at 0.01 percent level of probability, table value ±0.1965 NS- Non significant.

respondents were replied regarding aspiration to the postharvest techniques of groundnut crop, to increasing their production of groundnut in the next three years (102) ranked first and to increasing their land in the next three years (61) ranked second. In case of purchasing post harvesting implement/ machinery in the next three year was pod plucking machine (59) ranked first. Other implement/ machinery was less aspiration to purchase. Majority of the respondents had expected to reducing losses of groundnut production during the post-harvest practices in the next three year was grading of pods (103) ranked first, followed by marketing place for better price (97), storage method (89), drying method of plants (85), cleaning and winnowing of pods (69), repairing or construction of store room (60) ranking second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth respectively.

Level of aspiration

It was observed from the data presented in Table 2 that majority of the respondents (66.00 per cent) were in the category of medium level of aspiration to the post-harvest techniques of the groundnut crop, followed by high level of (20.00 per cent) aspiration. Only 14.00 percent of the respondents were found in low level of aspiration.

Relationship between characteristics of respondents and aspiration

It is evident from the data presented in table 3 that the calculated correlation co-efficient was non-significant at 0.5 level of probability in case of age. While, education, yield index, farm mechanization, extension participation were significant at 0.01 as well as 0.05 level of probability in case of social participation with their aspiration to the post-harvest techniques of groundnut crop.

Conclusion

The majority of the groundnut growers had aspiration to increase their production and to increase their land in next three year. Majority of the groundnut growers were expected to purchase of pod plucking machine and to reducing the losses of groundnut production during the post-harvest practices of grading of pods, marketing place for better price, storage method, drying method of plant, cleaning and winnowing of pod. Majority of the

respondents were medium level of aspiration to the postharvest techniques of ground nut crop. There were significantly positive relationship between groundnut grower's education, yield index, farm mechanization, social participation, extension participation with their aspiration to the post-harvest techniques of groundnut crop. There is needto create awareness organizing training programme through demonstration on reducing groundnut losses during the post-harvest practices by the extension agency.

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