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PERCEPTION OF FARMERS TOWARDS TROPICAL TASAR SEED COCOON PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

Sericulture affords a great and rare space for socio-economic development in the situation of a growing country like India. Farmers who are attached with sericulture activity for many years they knows that how sericulture changes their lives. Perception of farmers is important for effective planning, implementation and evaluation of an intervention. Perception is influenced by peoples' knowledge, belief, values and norms. Hence, an attempt has been made to analyse the perception of farmers towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production as a good source of livelihood opportunities. The study was conducted in Korba District of Chhattisgarh having more number of tropical tasar seed cocoon producers. A total of 100 respondents have been selected for the study and it was found that the majority of the respondents (76.00%) have positive perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production followed by 14.00 percent respondents who had negative perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production and only 10.00 percent respondents had neutral perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production.

Introduction

Sericulture plays a major role for socio-economic development in the situation of a growing country like India. The architectural, technological and economic aspects of sericulture farming have been investigated up to now, while the many natural points of sericulture farming shares with the concept of sustainable rural development has not been largely tested. There are a number of economic, social, cultural or environmental factors and indicators that can be used to assess rural development. For implementation of any developmental schemes, it is important to know the perception of respondents towards intervention. It is important that the more knowledgeable one is about an intervention, the clearer his opinion tends to be and the stronger the feelings or perception. Similarly, being informed about an issue is even more likely to influence behaviour when knowledge is gained from firsthand experience. Hence, an attempt has been made to analyse the perception of farmers towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production.

Research Methodology

The current investigation was specifically carried out in the Pali and Kartala blocks of Korba district in Chhattisgarh to assess the challenges encountered by farmers in the production of tropical Tasar seed cocoons. A total of 100 farmers were chosen for this study through simple random sampling, employing the chit method. Fifty farmers were selected from each block. In this study, perception of farmers towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production was measured by using a scale developed by Singh and Sahoo (2024). The scale comprises of 18 statements and covers all areas for measurement of perception of farmers

towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production. The responses were categorized into three categories; viz: agree, undecided, disagree with corresponding score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The scoring procedure was reversed for negative statements.

Result and Discussion

Perception of farmers/respondents is important for effective planning, implementation and evaluation of an intervention. It is important that the more knowledgeable one is about an intervention, the clearer his opinion tends to be and the stronger the feelings or perception Hence, an attempt has been made to analyse the perception of farmers towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production. In this study, perception of farmers towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production was measured by using a scale developed by Singh and Sahoo (2024). The scale comprises of 18 statements and covers all areas for measurement of perception of farmers towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production. The responses were categorized into three categories; viz: agree, undecided, disagree with corresponding score of 3, 2 and 1 respectively. The scoring procedure was reversed for negative statements.

It can be seen from table 1 that most of the farmers agreed (85.00 %) that tasar seed cocoon production can give additional income to farmers and most of the farmers were agreed (83.00%) that it can be done by any member of the family. It was also found that most of the farmers agreed (74.00%) that it is a more women friendly occupation and most of the farmers also agreed that (90.00%) that as compared to other agricultural crops, seed cocoon production is less duration and low input crops and also agreed (86.00%) that it can give more income to farmers. It was also found that majority of the farmers (92.00%) farmers were agreed that during rearing pest and disease is more and more number of farmers were also agreed (85.00%) that support of government is more in tasar seed cocoon production. It was also found that the majority of the respondents disagree (69.00%) that the selling price of seed cocoon is good and beneficial and most of the respondents agreed (83.00%) that ontime technical guidance is available during seed cocoon production. It is clear that most of the farmers agreed (72.00%) that the host plant management was very poor. That create difficulty in producing quality cocoons and 73.00 % of farmers disagreed that the cost of cocoon is high, It means farmers are not facing any difficulty to paying the present price of dfls which is 2 Rs per dfls. It was also found that most of the farmers agreed (88.00 %) that seed cocoon cost should be more, It means farmers are not satisfied with the present seed cocoon cost, which is 2 and 3 Rs per cocoon for TV and BV cocoon. It was also found that 74.00% farmers agreed that Staff of BSMTC and DOS giving ontime techncial information to farmers and 74.00 % of farmers agreed that the training programme conducted by BSMTC should be more and more number of farmers should be covered, so that more farmers can get good knowledge for production of seed cocoons. It was also found that 92.00 % farmers were agreed that awareness programme conducted by BSMTC and DOS Should be onfield and more in numbers, so that more number of farmers can be added specially young persons should adopt the tasar seed cocoon production. It is clear that 62.00 % of respondents agreed that Input provided by BSMTC and DOS during tasar seed cocoon production is sufficient and 87.00 % of farmers were agreed that Ontime marketing facility is available for selling tasar seed cocoon and farmers face no difficulty in selling of their cocoons. It was also found that 94.00 % of farmers agreed that Tasar seed cocoon production can increase social status in village and sericulture department, it means farmers who are engaged in tasar seed cocoon production getting more exposure to society and they got more recognition as compared to other farmers in their village.

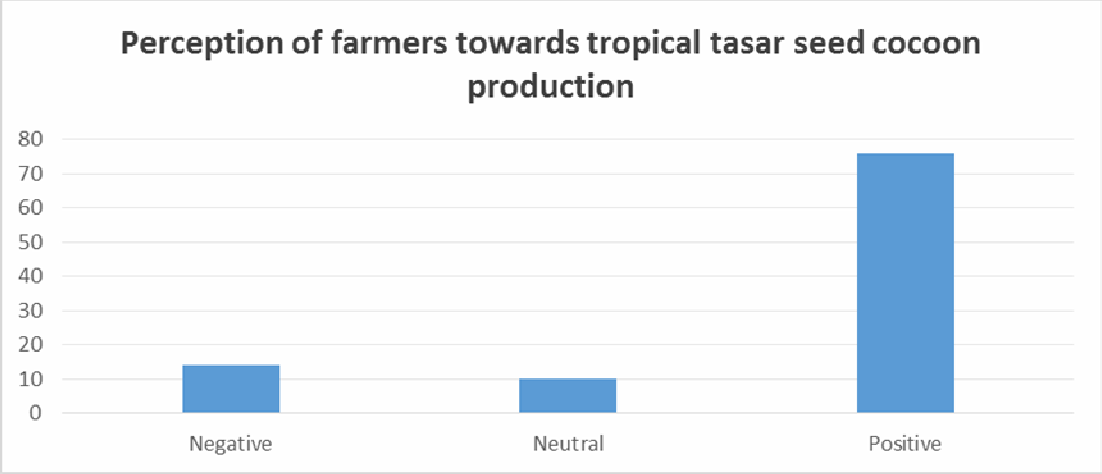
Table 1 : Perception of Farmers towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production (n=100):

S. No.	Statements	USER		
		A	UD	D
1.	Tasar seed cocoon production can give additional income to farmers.	85	8	7
2.	It can be done by any member of the family.	83	9	8
3.	It is more woman friendly occupation.	74	15	11
4.	As compared to other agricultural crops, it is less duration and low input cost crop.	90	6	4
5.	As compared to other agricultural crops, it can give more income to farmers.	86	7	7
6.	Pest and disease incidence is more.	92	5	3
7.	Government support is more in tasar seed cocoon production.	85	8	7
8.	Selling the price of seed cocoon is good and more beneficial.	19	12	69
9.	Ontime technical guidance is available in tasar seed cocoon production.	83	10	7
10.	Host plant management is very poor.	72	20	8

11.	Cost of dfls is high.	15	12	73
12.	Seed cocoon cost should be more.	88	7	5
13.	Staff of BSMTC and DOS giving ontime techncial information to farmers.	74	12	14
14.	Training programme conducted by BSMTC should be more and more number of farmers should be covered.	91	4	5
15.	Awareness programme conducted by BSMTC and DOS Should be onfield and more in numbers.	92	5	3
16.	Input provided by BSMTC and DOS during tasar seed cocoon production is sufficient.	62	22	16
17.	Ontime marketing facility is available for selling tasar seed cocoon.	87	12	1
18.	Tasar seed cocoon production can increase your social status in your village and sericulture department.	94	3	3

Table 2 : Distribution of respondents according to their perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production.

S. No.	Category	Frequency (n=100)	Percentage
1.	Negative	14	14.00
2.	Neutral	10	10.00
3.	Positive	76	76.00
	Total	**100**	**100**



It can be seen from Table 2. that the majority of the respondents (76.00%) have positive perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production followed by 14.00 percent respondents had negative perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production and only 10.00 percent respondents had neutral perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production. From the above table it can be concluded that majority of the respondents having positive perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production because they are seeing the overall benefit in the seed cocoon production activity. The farmers are involved in the seed cocoon production work for many years. They are seeing the benefits in many terms, such as additional income, more beneficial crops than any agricultural crops, best medium for livelihood opportunities, good cost benefit ratio, more women friendly occupation etc. It was also observed that farmers who are engaged in seed cocoon production work, also motives other farmers to engage in this work. It was also observed that 14.00 percent farmers having negative perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production because these farmers found that seed cocoon production was not beneficial to farmers as compared to other agricultural crop because of continuous occurrence of disease and pest and also low price to cocoon and only 10.00 % Farmers having neutral perception towards seed cocoon production found no impact on seed cocoon production in any way.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that most of the respondents having positive perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production because farmers had seen the benefit in tasar seed cocoon production. It means that farmers see it as a good livelihood opportunities. It was also observed that farmers with positive perception towards tropical tasar seed cocoon production were recommending the seed cocoon production to other farmers and also creating awareness among fellow

farmers to adopt this practice more so that more number of farmers can be benefited.

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