

Garden pea harnessing high remuneration leads to livelihood security in eastern Uttar Pradesh

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Abstract

This study was conducted in Mirzapur and Chandauli districts of Uttar Pradesh. These areas are facing severe problem of water scarcity and soil depletion. Garden pea was recommended to incorporate in cropping sequence as it requires less water than cereals and also binds nitrogen in soil. Preliminary assessment showed a medium level of knowledge (70%) and adoption (68.75%) of scientific cultivation practice of garden pea by the growers. But marginal and small farmers could reap high remuneration in garden pea cultivation, even more than medium and large farmers. Instead of selling the produce locally, the farmers were suggested to explore distant markets and value addition of the produce.

Keywords: Garden pea, adoption, profitability, livelihood security

Introduction

On the basis of social and economic status in India, the Planning Commission has identified 150 districts as disadvantageous of which 17 districts are from Uttar Pradesh. The districts of Vindhyan region are among them (Singh *et al.* 2012). Most of the parts of Vindhyan region are rainfed and said to be disadvantaged mainly because of the scarcity of water, lack of knowledge about recently evolved technologies in agriculture, lack of expertise in vegetable based cropping system, inappropriate use of farm inputs like fertilizers and pesticides and poor utilization of natural resources (Singh *et al.* 2012). The productivity is very low in these areas due to inadequacy of irrigation water. Farming round the year is not possible, especially in summer season. Majority of growers used to follow the traditional rice-wheat cropping system which is not only giving low returns but also results in depletion of soil fertility. To combat these problems a study was planned with the

objectives, (i) To study the level of knowledge and extent of adoption of scientific garden pea production of the farmers, (ii) To determine the profitability of garden pea production among different farm categories and to identify the new marketing possibilities for garden pea growers.

Materials and Methods

The study area : The survey was conducted in Mirzapur and Chandauli districts of Uttar Pradesh. These districts are situated in far south eastern part of the state among Vindhyan mountain range and lies between the parallels of 23.52 and 25.32 North latitude and 82.7 and 83.33 East longitude. Mirzapur had an area of 4521 Sq. Km. having population of 1657140 (males 1093849 and females 980860) of which 1788203 were living in rural and 286506 in the urban areas whereas in Chandauli population density is 647 per square Km, with a total population of 1643251 (Population Census 2001). Agricultural activities in the area include crops and livestock such as cereals, pulses, oil seed crops, vegetable along with cattle, goats and poultry production.

Data collection and sampling technique: Two blocks namely, Madihan from Mirzapur and Chakia from Chandauli district were selected randomly. Two villages from each block and 20 farmers (Total sample = 80) from each village were randomly selected for data collection. The study was based on primary data which were collected through a well prepared and pre-tested schedule of enquiry by interview method from different farm categories i.e. marginal (0-1 ha), small (1-2 ha), medium (2-3 ha) and large (3ha and above). Secondary data were collected from different sources like National Horticulture Board, official website of district Mirzapur and Chandauli etc. An index had been developed to measure the level of knowledge and extent of adoption of recommended garden pea production practices. The index consisted of 12 packages of practices (Roy *et al.* 2007) of recommended garden pea production.