

Varietal Pattern Followed by the Vegetable Growers of Sub-Tropical Jammu Region

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted to assess the varietal pattern followed by the vegetable growers of Sub-tropical Jammu region. Three districts namely Jammu, Samba and Kathua were selected for present study. The results revealed that none of the vegetable farmer in selected villages of Jammu district adopted university recommended varieties namely, Pusa Katki, Pusa Deepali, Gaint Snow Ball, Pusa Synthetic, Snow Ball-16 and Pusa Snow Ball K-1. Whereas, 14.3 per cent the farmers of Samba and Kathua districts were using Snowball-16 variety. Thus, it is suggested that the extension agencies have to play their role in guiding the farmers about the recommended package of practice. Thus, it is strongly recommended that more number of awareness camps should be organized in those areas where farmers are growing vegetables to acquaint them with latest know how.

Keywords: Vegetables, variety

Seed is the basic and most critical input for agriculture. The response of all other inputs depends on quality of seeds to a large extent. It is estimated that the direct contribution of quality seed alone to the total production is about 15–20% depending upon the crop and it can be further raised up to 45% with efficient management of other inputs. India is the second largest vegetables producing country next to China. In India, vegetable crops are grown on an area of 8.99 million hectares (m ha) with an annual production of 156.33 million tonnes (NHB, 2011). To grow this much of area, quality seed is the basic requirement which the public sector seed industry alone does not fulfill. The private sector has started to play a significant role in the seed industry over the last few years. The developments in the seed industry in India, particularly in the last 30 years, are very significant. At present, the number of companies engaged in seed production or seed trade is of the

order of 400 or 500. However, the main focus of private seed companies has been on the high value low volume seeds and market for low value high volume seeds of cereals, pulses and oilseeds is still dominated by the public sector seed corporations. However, in the case of vegetable seeds, the private sector is the dominant player. In Jammu and Kashmir, 63057 ha area was under vegetable crops (Indian Horticulture Database 2011). In Jammu region of J&K, majority of area under vegetable crops during rabi season. To find out the varietal pattern and area under different company seeds, the present study was under taken.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted to assess varietal pattern followed by the vegetable growers in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts. From each district one block namely Marh, Vijaypur and Hiranagar was selected purposively as cauliflower and cabbage was being

cultivated mostly in these blocks. Durgochak and Patnaya from Marh block, Kesso and Govindgarh from Vijaypur block and Chanjal from Hiranagar block was selected purposively. Ten vegetable farmers were selected from each village who were cultivating either cauliflower or cabbage. Thus, the total sample size was 50 farmers. Data were collected by structured interview schedule method.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The extent of adoption of university recommended varieties was zero except cauliflower crop in which Snow Ball-16 variety was adopted. In all other crops, the respondent farmers were unable to recall/recollect or were unaware about the names of the varieties cultivated by them. But the farmers were aware about the name of the companies whose seed was cultivated by them. Therefore, an attempt was made to find out the extent of the adoption of seeds of different companies. In cauliflower, university recommended varieties namely, Pusa Katki, Pusa Deepali, Gaint Snow Ball, Pusa Synthetic, Snow Ball-16 and Pusa Snow Ball K-1. None of the farmer in Jammu district adopted these varieties. Of all these varieties, the farmers of Samba and Kathua districts were using Snowball-16 variety of Royal Solius Company which is recommended by SKUAST-Jammu (Anonymous, 2006). The Snow Ball-16 variety was adopted by 14.3 per cent of the farmers of Samba and Kathua districts. The higher percentage of farmers in the selected villages was applying seed of the UPL Company (Choice variety). The Geerja variety of Seminis Company was cultivated on 19.6 per cent of the farmers. Twenty two per cent of the farmers adopted seed which they produced themselves in the field (Table 1). The farmers who cultivated their own seed reported that a vegetable produced from desi seed is tasty and less prone to diseases and insect pest attack.

In cabbage, university recommended open pollinated and hybrid varieties namely Golden Acre, Pride of India, Pusa Mukta, Sumit, Manisha, Nav Kranti and Sri Ganesh Gola were adopted by none of the farmer. The varieties of different companies were cultivated by the farmers and the varietal pattern followed in the study area revealed that the area under varieties of different Companies namely Seminis, Emerld,

Krishidhan, UPL, Bejo Sheetal and Pahuja Takki was 35, 26.8, 12.7, 12, 7 and 2.5 per cent, respectively.

Table 1: Extent of the adoption of cauliflower seeds of different seed companies

Name of the company	(n=40)
Seminis	19.6
Royal Solius	14.3
UPL	38.0
Pahuja Takki	6.5
Own Seed	21.6

Seed of varieties of other companies (name of other companies not reported by the farmers) was adopted by 3.8 per cent of the farmers. Higher percentages of farmers were using seeds of Green Flash variety of Seminis Company (Table 2). The farmers reported that this variety gives higher yield as compared to other varieties of different companies.

Table 2: Extent of the adoption of cabbage seeds of different seed companies

Variety	(n = 25)
Bejo Sheetal	7.0
Krishi Dhan	12.7
Seminis	35.0
Emerld	26.8
UPL	12.0
Pahuja Takki	2.5
Other companies	3.8

The results revealed that none of the vegetable grower of Jammu district cultivated university recommended varieties. The primary reason as told by the respondent farmers was that they are unaware about the university recommended varieties and moreover these varieties are not available in the seed store. This really indicates that the extension agencies are not playing their role in guiding the farmers about the recommended package of practice. More number of cauliflower farmers in district Samba and Kathua adopted open pollinated varieties as compared to district Jammu where more number of farmers were growing hybrid varieties. The probable reason for this may be due to location of vegetable mandi at Jammu and farmers are getting remunerative price for their marketable surplus produce. Whereas the

farmers of Samba and Kathua districts don't have established mandies in their areas and have to cover long distances to sell their marketable surplus produce. Thus it is strongly recommended that more number of awareness camps should be organized in those areas where farmers are growing vegetables to acquaint them with latest know how. More number of vegetable mandies should be established for selling marketable surplus of vegetables.

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