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## Constraints Faced by the Turmeric Growers of Erode District of Tamil Nadu

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### ABSTRACT

Indian turmeric cultivation and production trend has increased gradually over the past decades and also area of cultivation shows an increasing trend. India accounts for 80 per cent of world turmeric production. Production and export of turmeric has a significant impact on the economic development of the country. The study was taken-up in erode district of Tamil Nadu. Out of the ten taluks, Kodumudi taluk were selected based on the respondents list obtained from the State department of Agriculture were more number of turmeric growers present. There are 14 blocks in the Erode district, Kodumudi block were selected purposively. A sample size of 120 respondents was selected by using proportionate random sampling technique. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed using appropriate statistical tools. The results of the study revealed that more constraints were expressed by the respondents.

**Key words:** Constraints, Communication, Turmeric growers, Technology

Turmeric is known as the golden spice and is one of the most essential spices used as an important ingredient in culinary all over the world. As the global scenario is now changing towards the use of non-toxic plant products, development of modern drugs from turmeric should be emphasized or the control of various diseases [1]. India is the global leader in value added products of turmeric and exports. Turmeric is primary pigment and is used in diversified forms starting from antiquity as dye, condiment, as a principal ingredient in Indian culinary as cury powder, as flavouring agent and to colouring agent. Turmeric is also used as a dye in textile industry, in cosmetics, preparation of medicinal oils, ointments and poultice. Extensive researchers have proven that most of the turmeric activities of the turmeric are due to curcumin [2]. It is a part of Indian culture which is used in many religious occasions and it enters in the composition of many traditional remedies. It has various useful properties with antioxidant activities and is useful in conditions such as inflammation, ulcer and

cancer.

India is a major supplier of turmeric to the world with more than 60 per cent share in turmeric trade. India has the highest curcumin content in the turmeric it produces which makes it highly wanted by all major countries in the world. It is the largest foreign exchange earner among Indian spices [3]. It gives a competitive edge to India over others. It is extensively used as a spice, food preservative and colouring material in India. Tamil Nadu state occupies the second position in both production and area under turmeric among all the states in India. Among the districts of Tamil Nadu state, Erode district stands first in both area and production of turmeric. Erode district contributes 24.14 per cent of the total area and 33.37 per cent of the total production (Statistical Hand Book of Tamil Nadu, 2016, Government of Tamil Nadu). Turmeric cultivation not only contributes to the welfare of humanity but also provides significant socio-economic benefits to the society through the creation of employment opportunities (job supply chains), commodity development and increased exports.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study were conducted in Erode district of Tamil Nadu. Erode district consists of ten taluks viz., Erode, Modakkurichi, Kodumudi, Perundurai, Bhavani, Anthiyur, Gobichettipalayam, Sathyamangalam, Nambiyur and Talavadi. Among the ten taluks, Kodumudi taluk was selected for the research as it has large area under turmeric

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cultivation. Kodumudi block consists of twenty-four revenue villages. Among the twenty-four revenue villages, five villages were selected based on population of turmeric growers. The selected villages are Vengampur, Punjai kollanali, Unjalur, Kollathupalayam and Kodumudi. Turmeric practices were purposely selected as the study focused on Agriculture. Ex-post facto research design was used in the study. Proportionate random sampling method was adopted to select the 120 turmeric growers from the five selected villages. Percentage analysis was computed to study the constraints faced by the respondents.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Constraints faced by the turmeric growers*

An attempt was made to assess the constraints faced by the turmeric growers in recommended turmeric cultivation practices and the results are given in the (Table 1). It is evident from the above (Table 1), that lack of technical guidance was the major constraint in turmeric cultivation (87.50 per cent), followed by fluctuation in market prices (85.00 per cent), non-availability of labour at the time of farm operation (77.50 per cent), high wages of labour (72.50 per cent), high cost of seed materials (71.67

per cent), lack of knowledge on methods of storage of information (67.50 per cent), lack of time in viewing farm telecast (65.00 per cent), non-availability of storage facilities (64.17 per cent), lack of time in listening farm broadcast (61.67 per cent), inadequate number of training (55.83 per cent), delay in settlement of payment (55.00 per cent), lack of market facilities (50.83 per cent), unable to understand and memorizing the technologies (47.50 per cent) and inadequate supply of irrigation facilities (43.33 per cent).

Lack of technical guidance (87.50 per cent) was considered to be the first major constraint are reported by the respondents. They felt that the extension personnel were not taking adequate efforts to provide the latest technological information to the respondents. Due to the above facts, the respondents would have considered it as important constraint [4]. Fluctuation in market prices (85.00 per cent) was the second major constraint mentioned by the respondents. The price of turmeric is subject to high fluctuations in the market due to the varying demand from the commission agents. The demand is mostly seasonal in nature. At the same time, they could not get even a nominal price when the demand is less in the market. Because of this reason the respondents might have reported it as the major constraint [5].

Table 1 Constraints faced by the turmeric growers (n=120)

Constraints	Number	Per cent	Rank
Lack of technical guidance	105	87.50	I
Fluctuation in market prices	102	85.00	II
Non-availability of labour at the time of farm operation	93	77.50	III
High wages of labour	87	72.50	IV
High cost of seed materials	86	71.67	V
Lack of knowledge on methods of storage of information	81	67.50	VI
Lack of time in viewing farm telecast	78	65.00	VII
Non-availability of storage facilities	77	64.17	VIII
Lack of time in listening farm broadcast	74	61.67	IX
Inadequate number of trainings	67	55.83	X
Delay in settlement of payment	66	55.00	XI
Lack of market facilities	61	50.83	XII
Unable to understand and memorizing the technologies	57	47.50	XIII
Inadequate supply of irrigation facilities	52	43.33	XIV

Non-availability of labour at the time of farm operation (77.50 per cent) was the third major constraint faced by the respondents. The people in the villages are finding jobs in the textile industries which are located around Erode. The availability of the agricultural labourer is drastically declining in the study area as most of the labourers were absorbed by the '100 days employment programme' implemented by the Government under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The labourers are enjoying lot of leisure time and they are paid with more wages for less work. Hence, they prefer to work under this scheme. The labourers also demand higher wages irrespective of the nature of work [6]. This might be the reason for the non-availability of labour at the time of farm operation. High wages of labour (72.50 per cent) was the fourth major constraint reported by the respondents. The demand for the labour results in increases in the wages of the labour [7]. High cost of seed materials (71.67 per cent) was the fifth major constraint reported by the respondents. The demand for good, healthy and vigorous seed material

results increase in the cost of the disease resistant seed materials [8].

Lack of knowledge on methods of storage of information (67.50 per cent) was the sixth major constraint faced by the respondents. As the farmers are not attending more training and hence, they cannot get more information regarding turmeric technologies which leads poor storage of information. Further, they awareness about the recent gadgets will also be another for the above constraints. Lack of time in viewing farm telecast (65.00 per cent) was the seventh major constraint reported by the respondents. Most of the turmeric growers have medium mass media exposure and they were aware about the telecasting time of agriculture programme in the Doordarshan and private channels. Further, the respondents were busy in the agricultural operation and they may not have the time to views the television progammme. Non-availability of storage facilities (64.17 per cent) was the eighth major constraint reported by the respondents [9]. To overcome this, the Government should take necessary steps in constructing the

infrastructure to store the harvested turmeric which is produced by the farmers.

Lack of time in listening farm broadcast (61.67 per cent) was the ninth major constraint reported by the respondents. The most of the farmers may not have interested in listening agricultural programmes which is broadcasted in the radio. The extension officials may provide advice and create awareness about the importance of agricultural programme which will be giving a need-based information. Inadequate number of training (55.83 per cent) was the tenth major constraint reported by the respondents. This may be due to lack of interest of the farmers, lack of publicity and lack of awareness on training programmes of the state agriculture department and also other organizations. This might be the reason for the inadequate number of trainings to the respondents. Delay in settlement of payment (55.00 per cent) was the eleventh major constraint faced by the respondents. Some financial issues faced by the commission agents will leads to results in delay in settlement of payment to the respondents. Lack of market facilities (50.83 per cent) was the twelfth major constraint reported by the respondents. The harvested produce is procured from the fields directly by the commission agents. The farmers could not get remunerative prices for their produce by selling it to commission agents. They felt that they can get a better price if they could market their produce at Government market centres like Regulated Market and Procurement Centres. Due to the ineffective functioning of Regulated Markets in that villages and excess transport costs

to the Manjal Vaniga Valagam (Commercial Market for Turmeric) at Erode, the farmers could not sell their commodities in those markets. This may be the probable reason for the above said constraint.

Unable to understand and memorizing the technologies (47.50 per cent) was the thirteenth major constraint reported by the respondents. Most of the turmeric growers are high experience in farming, so due to the age factors, they forget to store the information for further use. These may be the reasons for the above-mentioned constraint. Inadequate supply of irrigation facilities (43.33 per cent) was the fourteenth major constraint faced by the respondents [10]. The recent climatic changes had resulted in the low rainfall in the region and it will lead to the inadequate supply of irrigation facility. During the season the farmers used to face uncertainty like severe drought which would cause lack of rain and heavy shortage of water in the fields. Moreover, it may be due to the climate and location of the study area. These may be the reasons for the above-mentioned constraint.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the above research, we conclude that more number of the constraints have been discussed. The analysis of the above categories of constrains will be of use for the extension officials and the policy makers to design a new strategy in eliminating these constraints in the future programmes.

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