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Constraints in Rice Fallow Pulses Production in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh

P. Venkata Rao ^{a*}, S. Neelaveni ^b, G. Chittibabu ^a
and J. Jagannadham ^a

^a DAATT Centre, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh-532185, India.

^b Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Amadalavalasa, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author PVR designed the study prepared the schedule and collection of data. Author GC performed the statistical analysis. Author SN wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Author JJ corrected the final manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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ABSTRACT

Rice fallow cultivation constitutes the major portion of pulse production particularly black gram and green gram in Srikakulam district of A.P. Farmers are reaping lower yields of 3.75-5.00 q/ha against 15.0-20.0 q/ha of its potential. Keep this in view an extension study was conducted on the study of constraints and reasons for low productivity in Pulses in Srikakulam District. Ex-post-facto research design was used for the study with a total sample size of 60. Results revealed that the low soil fertility was the major constraint in pulses production (100%), the incidence of yellow vein mosaic virus (93.33), labour scarcity and incidence of low temperatures and fog during the flowering period i.e., the first fortnight of January (88.33%), weed infestation particularly vicia, cuscuta, xanthium and Echinochloa (86.67%). Lack of YVMV resistant varieties and suitable

*Corresponding author: E-mail: venkyp75@gmail.com;

varieties (83.33%) and lack of a regulated market (96.67%) were the major technical or situational constraints. Non-adoption of irrigation management (93.33%), non-adoption of seed treatment (91.67%), non-adoption of proper sowing (way of broadcast) method and seed rate (90.00), non-adoption of weed management practices (88.33%), non-adoption of foliar nutrient management in rice fallow pulses (86.67%) were the adoption gaps perceived as constraints. There is a need to conduct more Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) in the farmer fields, more training programmes to the farmers and timely supply of inputs or make available to the farmers prior to the season.

Keywords: Knowledge; adoption; partial adoption; constraints; situational constraints.

1. INTRODUCTION

Pulses are major sources of proteins among vegetarians in India and complement the staple cereals in diets with proteins, essential amino acids, vitamins and minerals. They contain 22-24 % protein, which is almost twice the protein in wheat and thrice that of rice. Pulses contribute 11 per cent of the total intake of proteins in India [1]. Rice fallow cultivation constitutes the major portion of pulse production particularly black gram and green gram in Srikakulam district of A.P. Farmers are reaping lower yields of 3.75-5.00 q/ha against 15.0-20.0 q/ha of its potential. Keep this in view an extension study was conducted on the study of constraints and reasons for low productivity in Pulses in Srikakulam District as per the approval of the State Level Technical Programme (SLTP) 2021 [2]. This study was conducted by the Extension Scientist of the District Agricultural Advisory and Technology Transfer Centre(DAATTC) of Srikakulam, an extension unit of Acharya N.G Ranga Agricultural University.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in selected six Mandals purposively based on crop coverage (pulses). They are Santhakaviti (3838ha), Palakonda (3660ha), Veeraghattam (3646ha), Burja(3286ha), Polaki (3840ha) and Narasannapeta (3000ha) Mandals. Two villages from each Mandal were selected. They are Mandavakurthy (200ha) and Manthina (145ha) of Santhakaviti Mandal, Velagada (112ha) and Vadama ((128ha) of Palakonda Mandal, Nadimikella (98ha) and Nadukuru (95ha) of

Veeraghttam Mandal, Neelakantapuram (102ha) and Lakkupuram(95ha) of Burja mandal, Thotada (96ha) and Vurjam (92ha) of Polaki Mandal, Vurlam (112ha) and Lukalam (85ha) of Narasannapata Mandal. Five farmers from each village were selected randomly for the study. Thus the total sample size was 60. Ex-post-facto research design was used for the study as the variables already occurred. The interview schedule was prepared and data collected from the farmers on knowledge, adoption and constraints faced and as perceived by them.

This study was based on a descriptive analysis of the collected data from the selected sample of farmers. Hejase et al. [3] contend that informed objective decisions are based on facts and numbers, real, realistic, and timely information. Furthermore, according to Hejase and Hejase [4], "descriptive statistics deals with describing a collection of data by condensing the amounts of data into simple representative numerical quantities or plots that can provide a better understanding of the collected data" (p. 272). Therefore, this study used frequencies and percentages as primary data to conduct further analysis. The data were quantified and ranked based on frequency and percentage of respondents.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results were tabulated based on the cumulative frequency of variables and their corresponding percentages. Total cumulative frequency of responses 720 (i.e., 12 question items for 60 farmers of the sample, N=60).

Table 1. Knowledge level of respondent farmers

S. No	Knowledge item	Cumulative Frequency of responses	Percentage
1	Not Awareness	302	41.94
2	Awareness	244	33.89
3	Knowledge	174	24.17
	Total	720	100

Table 1 and Fig. 1 show that about 42 % per cent of the farmers not aware of the package of practices of pulses particularly black gram and green gram as per the recommendations of ANGRAU [5] followed by those farmers who are aware (33.89%) and those who have the knowledge by 24.17 %.

The above-mentioned results may be due to the low education (literacy) and less extension contact of farmers [6]. Item analysis revealed that the farmers not aware about the recommended package of practices particularly use of farm machinery, sowing method, foliar nutrient

management and the existence of high- yielding varieties.

It can be observed from Table 2 and Figure that about 48 % of the farmers did not adopt the recommended package of practices of black gram and green gram. About 35% of the farmers partially adopted the recommended package of practices of black gram and green gram. Finally, about 18% of the respondent farmers adopted the package of practices as per the recommendations. A low adoption rate might be due to the lack of knowledge of recommended technologies and situational constraints [6,7].

Table 2. Adoption of package of practices of Rice fallow pulses

S. No	Adoption items	Cumulative Frequency of responses	Percentage
1	Non Adoption	344	47.78
2	Partially adoption	249	34.58
3	Full Adoption	127	17.64
Total		720	100

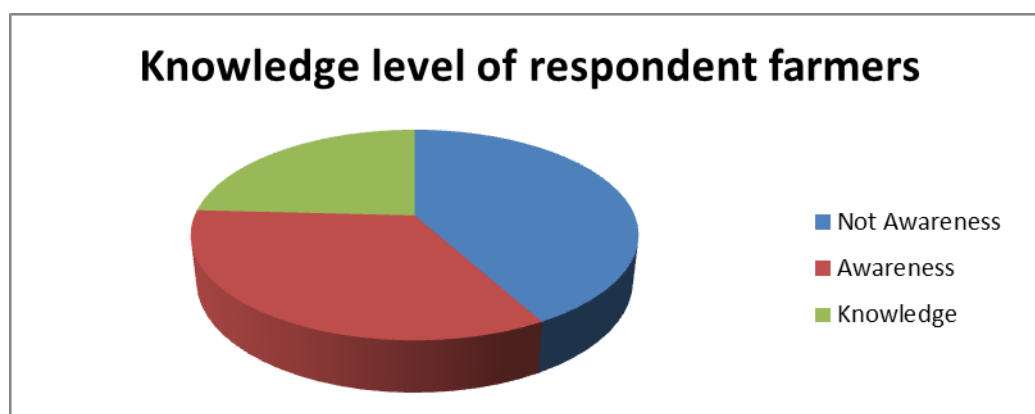


Fig. 1. Respondent farmers' Knowledge level

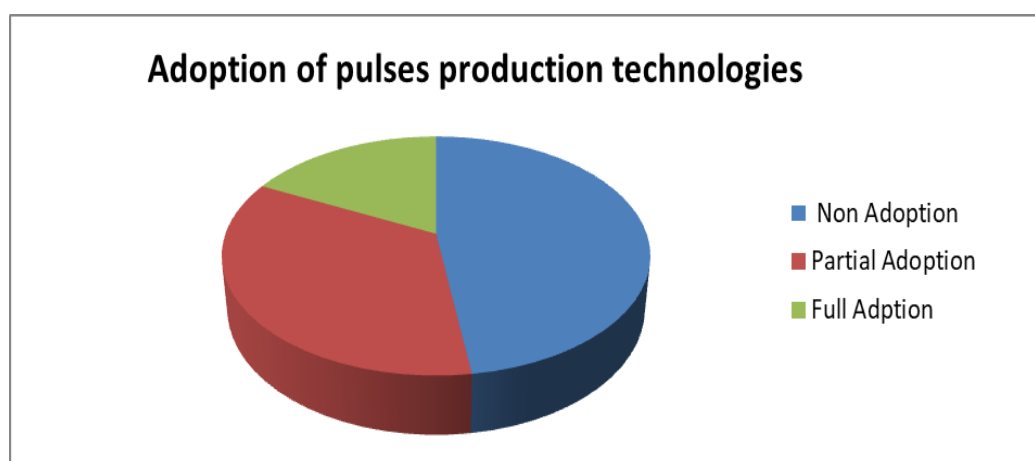


Fig. 2. Adoption of Pulses production technologies

Constraints faced and perceived the respondent farmers: Based on the literature [8-10] and on discussion with experts constraints are categorized into technical or situational and extension gaps perceived as constraints.

It can be revealed from Table 3 that low soil fertility was the major constraint in pulses productivity (100%). It might be due to the fact that the majority of the Srikakulam soils are red sandy loams, non-application of FYM and green manure years together, followed by the incidence of yellow vein mosaic virus (93.33%), labour scarcity, and incidence of low temperatures and fog during the flowering period i.e., first fortnight of January (88.33%), Weed infestation particularly vicia, cuscutea, xanthium and Echinochloa (86.67%) and the lack of YVMV resistant & suitable varieties (83.33%) and the lack of a regulated market (96.67%) were the major constraints. There is a need to create awareness among the farmers about the availability of resistant varieties and the measures to mitigate fog incidence.

Table 4 depicted that Non-adoption of irrigation management (93.33%) was perceived as a constraint, it might be due to two reasons one is due to the apprehension of the withering of plants due to excessive moisture and another

one due to the non-availability of water at that time. Non-adoption of seed treatment (91.67%) is another constraint, it might be due to a lack of awareness of its benefits as it reduces the incidence of sucking pests. Non-adoption of proper sowing (way of broadcast) method and seed rate (90.00%) due to apprehension of poor germination and ignorance. Non-adoption of weed management practices (88.33%) is another major constraint, it might be due to a lack of knowledge on weedicides suitable for different weeds, lack of moisture at that time, and apprehension about the injury to the crop. Non-adoption of foliar nutrient management in rice fallow pulses (86.67%). In rice fallow pulses application of fertilizers is not possible and for better growth and yield it is very required to spray foliar nutrients but most of the farmers did not follow. Non-adoption of existing high-yielding varieties (80.00%). There are certain YMV resistant varieties like LGB787, TBG104, GBG1 of black gram and TM96-2, IPM2-14, and LGG460 varieties of green gram are available but most of the farmers did not adopt. So there is a need to conduct Front Line Demonstrations in the farmer's fields [11]. Non-adoption of pest management (76.67%), it might be due to a lack of knowledge on pests, ignorance and negligence. Non-adoption of sowing window in time (75.00%) were the major constraints.

Table 3. Situational or technical constraints

S. No	Constraints	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Low soil fertility (low organic carbon)	60	100	I
2	Lack of YVMV resistant varieties & suitable varieties	50	83.33	VI
3	Incidence of Yellow Mosaic Virus Disease	56	93.33	II
4	Uncontrolled water flow at the time of sowings	28	46.67	XIII
5	Crop can not withstand even little water stagnation	40	66.67	X
6	Prevalence of moisture stress at the time flowering and pod development	45	75.00	VIII
7	Incidence of Low temperatures and fog during flowering period i.e first fort night of January	53	88.33	IV
8	No possibility of inter cultivation	36	60.00	XI
9	Weed infestation particularly vicia, cuscutea, xanthium and Echinochloa	52	86.67	V
10	Not withstand to soil salinity which is increasing year by year	42	70.00	IX
11	Incidence of maruca & spodoptera infestation	48	80.00	VII
12	Pod dehiscence at the time of harvesting	30	50.00	XII
13	Labour scarcity	55	91.67	III
14	Incidence of powdery mildew	25	41.67	XIV
Market related constraints				
15	Lack of regulated market	55	91.67	I
16	Price fluctuation	42	70.00	II

Table 4. Extension gaps perceived as constraints

S. No	Constraint particulars	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1	Due to lack of knowledge and ignorance	42	70.00	IX
2	Non- adoption of existing high yielding varieties	48	80.00	VI
3	Supply of seed by the Department not in time	35	58.33	X
4	Non- adoption of seed treatment	55	91.67	II
5	Non- adoption of proper sowing (way of broadcast) method and seed rate	54	90.00	III
6	Non- adoption of sowing window in time	45	75.00	VIII
7	Non- adoption of foliar nutrient management in rice fallow pulses	52	86.67	V
8	Non- adoption of weed management practices	53	88.33	IV
9	Non- adoption of pest management	46	76.67	VII
10	Non- adoption of irrigation management	56	93.33	I

4. CONCLUSIONS

Low soil fertility was the major constraint in pulses productivity, Non- application of FYM and green manure years together, followed by the incidence of yellow vein mosaic virus, labour scarcity, and incidence of low temperatures and fog during the flowering period *i.e.*, first fortnight of January, Weed infestation particularly *vicia*, *cuscuta*. *Xanthium* and *Echinochloa*, Non-adoption of irrigation management, Non-adoption of seed treatment, Non- adoption of weed management practices were the major constraints in pulses production. There is a need to conduct more FLDs in the farmer fields and training programmes for the farmers and timely supply of inputs or make them available to the farmers prior to the season.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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