

PROBLEMS FACED IN THE MANGO CULTIVATION IN RAIGAD DISTRICT

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1. Introduction

The study is based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data was collected mainly from published sources of State Governments and the Government of India. The primary data is collected from 180 mango growers from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Raigad districts, 60 growers from each district.

The Publications from Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Annual Reports of National Bank for Rural Agricultural Development (NABARD), National Horticulture Board (NHB), Department of Marketing and Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DOES), State Governments, and websites of different organizations and institutions were made use of. Information was also obtained from nurseries, Farmers' Clubs, Mandis, Mango Growers Associations, and transport agents.

Statistics were compiled from other input suppliers, units involved in post-harvest handling of mango, district level nodal officers, AEZs, market yards, banks and financial institutions etc. Primary data was collected through the direct interview method using pre-designed survey schedules/structured questionnaires. The actual investment cost for establishment of the orchard was collated item-wise from the sample farmers. Such items include land preparation, pitch digging, blasting cost of plant, propping, compost, fertilizers, chemicals, irrigation, fencing around the orchard, watch and ward, etc. The expenses incurred during the initial five years of plantation were taken into the investment cost.

Annual maintenance cost included all the cultivation expenses (paid out cost + imputed value of inputs, including family labor). Availability of planting materials and other inputs was ascertained from progressive farmers, nurseries, input agents, research centers, and government departments. The package of farming practices was also confirmed from the research centers and Agriculture Departments, as was the infrastructure for post-harvest management of mango. The data on prevailing practices, constraints, and the scope for processing of mango were ascertained from a few food processing units.

The marketing cost data covering plucking, packaging, transport to the market, market fee, etc., were obtained from farmers. These details were also cross-checked with the information gathered from transport operators and commission agents. Some of the wholesalers/commission agents purchased good quality mangoes for exports directly from farmers, while a few of them were engaged in graded mangoes for exports by purchasing the same from the markets. Such exporters were interviewed for ascertaining various costs, formalities, quality norms, and price realized by them.

The data on requirement of bank credit for mango cultivation and its availability was ascertained from bank branches and controllers of some banks. The views of District

Development Managers (DDMs) of NABARD and the Lead District Manager (LDM) of the respective districts on credit-related matters were also considered.

The data is collected from the 180 sample mango growers (in particular, 60 small, 60 medium, and 60 large mango growers) from Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, and Raigad districts—6 each from all 30 tehsils from these districts with the help of the specially designed schedule.

2. Problems Faced in Mango Cultivation (Raigad District)

The analysis and interpretation of the data regarding problems faced by growers in Raigad District are detailed in Table 4.8.3 below:

Problems Faced	Absolute Figures (Number of Growers)				Percentage (%)			
	Small (S)	Medium (M)	Large (L)	Total (T)	Small (S)	Medium (M)	Large (L)	Total (T)
Inadequate irrigation facilities	17	20	15	54	85.00%	100.00%	75.00%	90.00%
Unavailability of soil testing	19	13	18	50	95.00%	65.00%	90.00%	83.33%
Scarcity of quality mango grafts	18	14	16	48	90.00%	70.00%	80.00%	80.00%
High cost of equipments	13	11	12	36	65.00%	55.00%	60.00%	60.00%
Non-availability of modern equipments	15	19	18	52	75.00%	95.00%	90.00%	86.67%
Not getting adequate inputs	16	16	15	47	80.00%	80.00%	75.00%	78.33%
High initial investment	11	11	18	40	55.00%	55.00%	75.00%	61.67%
Long juvenile period of plants	14	14	17	45	70.00%	70.00%	85.00%	75.00%
Lack of technical knowhow	19	18	15	52	95.00%	90.00%	75.00%	86.67%

Scarcity of skilled and experienced labour	17	18	16	51	85.00%	90.00%	80.00%	85.00%
Other problems	12	11	13	36	60.00%	55.00%	65.00%	60.00%
Total Respondents per category	20	20	20	60	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

3. Key Findings & Conclusions

The data shows that many growers faced severe problems in obtaining adequate inputs and managing the high initial investment required for mango cultivation. Overall, the findings indicate that mango growers face several production and management-related constraints, highlighting the critical need for better irrigation facilities, technical guidance, availability of modern equipment, skilled labour, and improved institutional agricultural support services for the sustainable development of mango cultivation.

4. Reference

1. Acharya S. S and Digi R. L. "Farm Inputs in Indian Agriculture ", Agricultural Economic Research Review, 2004
2. Agriculture and Industry Survey, Mango Exports to be Sustainable "1997/98