



Problems and Suggestions of Maize farmers in Mahmud I Raqi district of Kapisa a province of Afghanistan

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ABSTRACT

Problems and suggestions of maize farmers in adoption of recommended package of practices of maize were achieved by applying frequency and percentage. An ex-post facto research design was used in present investigation. The study was confined to Mahmud I Raqi district of Kapisa one of the province of Afghanistan. From this district four villages were randomly selected. From each village 30 samples were randomly drawn. In this way, the sample size for the study comprised of 120 respondent. The data were collected by personal interview method through structured interview schedule. The emerging evil of majority of farmers in the area of study was inadequate extension services, difficulty in getting loan and lack of improved seed and hybrids. Suggestions were provision of micro credit, provision of agricultural loan and provision of high yielding varieties and hybrids.

Keywords: problems, maize farmers, suggestions

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INTRODUCTION

Maize is one of the most efficient crops with high biological as well as grain yield in a relatively short period of time due to its unique photosynthetic mechanism as C₄ plant. The climatic conditions of the most countries of world are favorable for its cultivation round the year. In the world it is cultivated on 1777.46 million hectares with a production of 974.87 million tons and the productivity of 5490 kg per hectare. China occupies the first place regard to acreage with 37.85 million hectares followed by USA (32.64 million hectares), Brazil (15.8 million hectares), and European Union (9.27 million hectares). USA is the leading country in the world with 346.82 million tons with regard to production followed by China (225 million tons) and India 22.50 million tons [1]. In Afghanistan 70 per cent of population lives in rural areas and over 65 per cent of the total economically active population is being dependent on agriculture and related activities for livelihood [2]. Overall performance of agriculture in Afghanistan is very much dependent on cereal production, which accounted for over three-fourth (77.00%) of the agricultural GDP at 2010-11 market prices. Corresponding shares of horticulture and livestock sub-sectors in agriculture GDP was 9 per cent and 14 per cent, respectively [3-6]. Mahmud I Raqi district of Kapisa province is one of the major maize growing areas of Afghanistan. Farmers are still using traditional low yielding varieties and not adopting the latest production recommendations leading to low yields of maize.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The maize cultivation is one of the major important segments in Afghanistan. However, the producers of maize are economically and socially weaker people facing various problems. Due to illiteracy, ignorance, financial weakness, inadequate extension services and poor access to information sources the farmers are not able to adopt recommended package of practices of maize. The majority of farmers are marginal, small, scattered, illiterate and unorganized. They do not have sufficient time, knowledge and skills for the adopting production recommendations of maize. In the absence of well-extension services, agricultural information sources and marketing efficiency, farmers are had medium extent of adoption of package of practice of maize. Keeping this in mind, the present investigation was undertaken to study the problems

faced by maize farmers and suggestion to overcome these problems in adoption of package practice of maize.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the problems faced by the farmers in the adoption of package of practices of maize.
2. To suggest measures to get rid of the problems in adopting package of practices of maize.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

For the present investigation, an *ex-post-facto* research design was used. Mahmud I Raqi district of Kapisa was purposively selected as maize was being extensively cultivated in the district. Four villages from the district were randomly selected. From each of the selected villages, 30 respondents were selected by following simple random sampling procedure thus, making a total of 120 respondents who were cultivating maize crop. The data were collected by personal interview method through structured interview schedule and analyzed by frequency and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Problems faced by maize farmers in the adoption of recommended practices

Most of the growers in the study area face many problems relating to the cultivation of maize in their farms. They include inadequate extension services, difficulty in getting loan and lack of improved seed and hybrids. Frequency value is used to show the number of times the data value occurs. Percentage ranks the problem in the ascending order.

Table 1: Problems faced by maize farmers in the adoption of recommended practices

S. No	Problems faced	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
I	Socio personal problems			
1.	Illiteracy	86	71.67	I
2.	Non availability of fertilizers in correct time and quantities	80	66.67	II
3.	Lack of awareness about latest technologies	76	63.33	III
4.	Lack of self reliance	30	25.00	IV
5.	Inability to take decision	28	23.30	V
6.	Adulteration of fertilizers and chemicals	26	21.67	VI
7.	Scarcity of labour	22	18.33	VIII
8.	Low self confidence	20	16.67	IX
9.	Difficult to spend time on farm due to other works	19	15.83	IX
10.	Health problems	15	12.50	XI
II	Economic Problems			
1.	Difficulty in getting loans	114	95.00	I
2.	High cost of inputs	96	80.00	II
3.	Lack of credit facilities	68	56.67	III
4.	Unavailability of subsidy on inputs	44	36.67	IV
5.	Improper agricultural price policy	43	35.83	V
6.	Poor economic conditions	39	32.50	VI
7.	High cost of unit rate of electricity	27	22.50	VIII
III	Technological Problems			
1.	Lack of improved seed or hybrids	103	85.83	I
2.	Non availability of technologies for small farms	74	61.67	II
3.	Lack of suitable farm implements and machinery	57	47.50	III
4.	Lack of drudgery reduction technologies	52	43.33	IV
IV	Extension Problems			
1.	Inadequate extension services	116	96.67	I
2.	Shortage of extension personnel	103	85.83	II
3.	Lack of training programmes	96	80.00	III
4.	Poor access to information sources	71	59.17	IV
5.	Lack of ICTs	62	51.67	V

The above Table 1 proves that among all categories of problems 'Inadequate extension services' is ranked in the first place. The second rank goes to 'Difficulty in getting loans'. The third rank goes to 'Lack of improved seed or hybrids'. The fourth rank goes to 'Shortage of extension personnel'. The fifth rank goes

to 'High cost of inputs'. The sixth rank goes to 'Lack of training programmes'. The seventh rank goes to 'Illiteracy'. The eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, , thirteenth, fourteenth and fiftieth positions are 'Non availability of fertilizers in correct time and quantities', 'Lack of awareness about latest technologies', 'Non availability of technologies for small farms', 'Poor access to information sources', 'Lack of credit facilities', 'Lack of ICTs' and 'Lack of suitable farm implements and machinery'.

Suggestions perceived by the maize farmers to overcome the problems in adoption of recommended practices

Table 2 indicate suggestions given by most of maize farmers to overcome their problems in adoption of recommended package of practices of maize. They include Provision of micro credit, Provision of agricultural loans, Provision of high yielding varieties and hybrids and Availability of suitable farm implements. Frequency value is used to show the number of times the data value occurs. Percentage ranks the problem in the ascending order.

Table 2: Suggestions given by the maize farmers overcome their problems

S.No.	Suggestions	Frequency	Percentage	Rank
1.	Provision of micro credit	110	91.67	I
2.	Provision of agricultural loans	102	85.00	II
3.	Provision of high yielding varieties and hybrids	98	81.67	III
4.	Availability of suitable farm implements	95	79.17	IV
5.	Supply of fertilizers in correct time and quality	91	75.83	V
6.	Provision of extension service	89	74.17	VI
7.	Provision of agricultural subsidies	84	70.00	VII
8.	Provision of training to farmers in latest technologies	81	67.50	VIII
9.	Increase farm mechanization by custom hiring of farm machinery	79	65.83	IX
10.	Improved access to agricultural information sources	75	62.50	X
11.	Increased efficiency of extension staff	72	60.00	XI
12.	Formulation of new agricultural policy	68	56.67	XII
13.	Formation of farmer cooperatives	67	55.83	XIII
14.	Development of technologies for small farms	61	50.83	XIV
15.	Availability of ICTs	55	45.83	XV

The above Table 2 proves that 'Provision of micro credit' ranked in first place. The second rank goes to 'Provision of agricultural loans'. The third rank goes to 'Provision of high yielding varieties and hybrids'. The fourth rank goes to 'Availability of suitable farm implements'. The fifth rank goes to 'Supply of fertilizers in correct time and quality'. The sixth rank goes to 'Provision of extension service'. The seventh rank goes to 'Provision of agricultural subsidies'. The eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth positions are goes to 'Provision of training to farmers in latest technologies', 'Increase farm mechanization by custom hiring of farm machinery', 'Improved access to agricultural information sources', 'Increased efficiency of extension staff', 'Formulation of new agricultural policy', 'Formation of farmer cooperatives', 'Development of technologies for small farm' and Availability of ICTs.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the problems which were perceived most by the farmers in adoption of recommended package of practices of maize i.e. 'Inadequate extension services' (96.67%) as the major problem followed by 'Difficulty in getting loans' (95.00%), 'Lack of improved seed or hybrids' (85.83%), 'Shortage of extension personnel, (85.83%), 'High cost of inputs' (80.00%), 'Lack of training programmes' (80.00%), 'Illiteracy' (71.67%), 'Non availability of fertilizers in correct time and quantities' (66.67%), 'Lack of awareness about latest technologies' (63.33%), 'Non availability of technologies for small farms' (61.67%), 'Poor access to information sources' (59.17%), 'Lack of credit facilities' (56.67%), 'Lack of ICTs, (51.67%), 'Lack of suitable farm implements and machinery' (47.50%), and 'Lack of drudgery reduction technologies' (43.33%). were main reason responsible for low extent of adoption. The suggestions which were perceived by the most of farmers to overcome their adoption problems i.e. 'Provision of micro credit'(91.67%) followed by 'Provision of agricultural loans' (85.00%), 'Provision of high yielding varieties and hybrids' (81.67%), 'Availability of suitable farm implements' (79.17%), 'Supply of fertilizers

in correct time and quality' (75.83%), 'Provision of extension service ' (74.17%), 'Provision of agricultural subsidies' (70.00%), 'Provision of training to farmers in latest technologies' (67.50%), 'Increase farm mechanization by custom hiring of farm machinery' (65.83%), 'Improved access to agricultural information sources, (62.50%), 'Increased efficiency of extension staff' (60.00%), 'Formulation of new agricultural policy' (56.67%), 'Formation of farmer cooperatives' (55.83%), 'Development of technologies for small farm' (50.83%) and Availability of ICTs (45.83%). With consideration of these suggestions all these problems should be solved by authority to motivate the farmers towards recommended package of practices of maize, produce good quality of maize and export to fetch higher net profit and change the socio-economic condition of the maize farmers of the Mahmud I Raqi district.

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