

A study on Chrysanthemum Cultivation by the Farmers of Dharwad District*

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Abstract: The study conducted in Dharwad district on adoption pattern of chrysanthemum and the problems encountered by the farmers revealed that majority of the respondents adopted the practices like row to row spacing (60 %), basal dose application of fertilizer (73.33 %), top dressing (61.67 %) and time of planting (95 %). Important practices like recommended variety, cutting treatment and pinching had not been followed by majority of the respondents. Marketing was the major problem expressed by the respondents. The study also revealed that 73.33 per cent of the respondents suggested the provision of better marketing facilities for the produce.

Introduction

There is a considerable trade of flowers in India spread over ten states covering an area of 20,500 hectares with annual cut flower trade at Rs. 100 crores (Vishnuswarup, 1988). With the rapid development of urban planning and the hotel industry, there is an increasing demand for flowers and ornamental plants.

The extent of adoption of recommended practices determines the production of flowers by the farmers.

Hence, this study was taken up with the specific objectives

- 1) to know the extent of adoption of recommended practices in chrysanthemum cultivation,
- 2) to know the problems encountered by the chrysanthemum growers, and
- 3) to find out the remedies for the problems encountered as suggested by the chrysanthemum cultivators.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in Gadag taluk of Dharwad district during 1988-89.

Dharwad district was purposively selected for the study as it ranked second in total area under the crop in the state with 338 hectares. Gadag taluk was selected as it constituted 60 per cent (200 hectares) of the total area under chrysanthemum in the district. Eight villages were selected for the study based on the criterion of minimum of 10 hectares of area under chrysanthemum in each village. From each of these selected villages, 15 farmers were selected on systematic random sapling basis.

Results and Discussion

Extent of adoption of recommended practices of chrysanthemum cultivation

Practices like row to row spacing, basal dose application of fertilizers, top dressing and time of planting were adopted by majority of the

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farmers while key recommended practices like variety, recommended number of cuttings per acre, farm yard manure application, plant protection measures and pinching were not adopted by majority of the respondents (Table 1).

Convenience, simplicity of the practice and no extra cost were the reasons for adoption of row to row spacing. Time of planting as per recommendations was followed because chrysanthemum is an irrigated crop. Awareness, response of the crop to fertilizer application and non-availability of FYM were the reasons for adoption of recommended fertilizer doses.

Lack of knowledge, not possible to adopt and financial constraints were the reasons expressed by the respondents for non-adoption or partial adoption of the practices like plant to plant spacing, recommended dose of cuttings per acre, plant protection measures and pinching.

Similar trends of non-adoption were reported by Anonymous (1967), Anonymous (1968), Reddy and Lakshmana (1969), Siddalingappa (1978) and Kumbar (1983).

Problems encountered by the chrysanthemum growers in the cultivation of chrysanthemum

Problems in marketing flowers were faced by about 76 per cent of the respondents. There is no regulated market system for flowers. Markets are far away from production points. Small farmers with less quantities could not bear the cost of transportation.

About 60 per cent of the farmers complained of high price fluctuation. The price varies from Re. 1/kg to Rs. 30/kg based on the demand.

About 26 to 37 per cent of the farmers felt that non-availability of credit, non-availability of labour, insufficient water for irrigation and lack of technical guidance as other major problems faced by them. Chrysanthemum cultivation needs capital intensive inputs such as fertilizer and pesticides. It is a labour intensive crop.

Table. Extent of adoption of recommended practices of chrysanthemum cultivation (N=120)

| Recommended Practices | Extent of adoption | Respondents | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------|
| | | Number | Per cent |
| 1. Variety | A | 29 | 24.17 |
| | NA | 91 | 75.83 |
| 2. Use of cutting per acre | A | 22 | 18.33 |
| | NA | 98 | 81.67 |
| 3. Cuttings treatment | A | 5 | 4.17 |
| | NA | 105 | 95.83 |
| 4. Spacing: | | | |
| a) Row to row | A | 72 | 60.00 |
| | NA | 48 | 40.00 |
| b) Plant to plant | A | 24 | 20.00 |
| | NA | 96 | 80.00 |
| 5. Application of FYM | FA | 39 | 32.50 |
| | PA | 77 | 64.17 |
| | NA | 4 | 3.33 |
| 6. Use of fertilizers: | | | |
| a) Basal dose | FA | 88 | 73.33 |
| | PA | 31 | 25.83 |
| | NA | 1 | 00.84 |
| b) Top dress | FA | 74 | 61.67 |
| | PA | 33 | 27.50 |
| | NA | 13 | 10.83 |
| 7. Time of planting | A | 114 | 95.00 |
| | NA | 06 | 05.00 |
| 8. Attending pinching | A | 30 | 25.00 |
| | NA | 90 | 75.00 |
| 9. Plant protection measures: | | | |
| a) Thrips & aphids | FA | 49 | 40.83 |
| | PA | 65 | 54.17 |
| | NA | 06 | 05.00 |
| b) Leaf eating catter pillar | FA | 33 | 27.50 |
| | PA | 51 | 52.50 |
| | NA | 36 | 30.00 |
| c) Leaf spot disease | FA | 28 | 23.33 |
| | PA | 65 | 54.17 |
| | NA | 27 | 22.50 |

A = Adoption, NA = Non adoption,
FA = Full adoption, PA = Partial adoption

Availability of labour during harvesting is very crucial because of its perishability. Chrysanthemum requires careful irrigation. Wells were the only source of irrigation in the study area.

Due to lack of proper technical guidance, chrysanthemum growers were not in a position to adopt all the improved practices.

Remedies for the problems encountered as suggested by the chrysanthemum growers

Suggestions given by the farmers as remedial measures were in conformity with the problems faced by them in cultivation of chrysanthemum. As many as 73.33 per cent of the respondents asked for better marketing facilities.

Announcing support price for the produce was the requirement as expressed by 65.83 per cent of the respondents because of fluctuation in the prices of chrysanthemum. The chrysanthemum growers were weakly organised and this was taken advantage by the middle men.

Timely supply of credit was the next suggestion given by the respondents, which would help use inputs which in turns helps increase production.

Appropriate technical guidance at proper time will help the farmers increase their level of production.

The variation in the level of adoption of recommended cultivation practices by chrysanthemum growers calls for intensification of educational efforts for chrysanthemum growers on the practices like treatment to cuttings, use of recommended number of cuttings per acre, pinching and plant protection measures by the agency concerned.

Credit institutions must ensure timely supply of credit to the farmers as it helps them buy costly inputs. Establishment of chrysanthemum growers' marketing cooperative societies would be helpful in fetching better prices to farmers.

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