

Constraints faced by Pomegranate Growers using in Private Extension Services

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ABSTRACT

Private Extension involves personnel in the private sector that delivers advisory service in the area of agriculture and is seen as an alternative to public extension. "Need of Private Extension Services for Pomegranate Growers because of evolve technology according to the need and interest of pomegranate growers." The primary objective of this research was to identify the challenges encountered by pomegranate growers while utilizing advisory services from private extension service providers. The investigation was carried out in Sangola, Pandharpur, and Mangalvedhatehsils within the Solapur district, involving a total sample size of 120 participants, with 10 Pomegranate growers selected from each of the 12 villages across these three tehsils. Employing an 'Ex-post facto' research design, the study revealed various issues faced by pomegranate growers utilizing private extension services. The most significant challenge, identified by 91.67% of the respondents and ranking first among all issues, pertained to the absence of government regulations on advisory practices by private extension service providers. These findings were derived from statistical analyses conducted during the study in the Solapur district."

Key words: Pomegranate; Constraints; Private extension service;

INTRODUCTION

Pomegranate is a high value crop. Entire shrub of pomegranate is of great economic importance. Over the past, there has been a steady increase in area and production of pomegranate in the country. In 2020-21, it is cultivated over 2.78 lakh ha with a production of 31.87 Lakh MT. In Maharashtra, pomegranate is cultivated around 1.62 lakh ha with a production of 17.48 lakh MT. It is an ideal crop for the sustainability of small holdings, as pomegranate is well suited to the topography and agro-climate of arid and semi-arid regions. In addition, it provides ample opportunity for livelihood security, as it has high potential to utilize wastelands widely available in the region and an ideal crop for diversification. Moreover, it can make sizeable contribution to GDP with a small area, (NHB). The predominant pomegranate growing tehsils are Pandharpur, Sangola and Mangalvedha tehsils of Solapur. The pomegranate needs a critical care at the production level and it

enhances the need of consultancy service for the production (Shanabhoga *et al.*, 2021). Hence, there are number of private people working as consultants and some of the input dealers are also providing consultancy service for pomegranate production. The success of any programme or services needs enough understanding of the situation. Hence, keeping this as opportunity the present study aim to document the constraints faced by pomegranate growers who are availing services from private extension service providers.

METHODOLOGY

The research design employed in this study was of an "Ex post facto" nature, coupled with a cross-sectional survey for primary data collection. The investigation took place in the Solapur district of Maharashtra state, focusing on three purposively selected tehsils where pomegranate cultivation is prevalent. Specifically, the study encompassed Sangola, Padharpur, and Mangalvedha talukas in Solapur district, with a total sample size of 120

participants. Each tehsil contributed 40 pomegranate growers, drawn from 4 villages, and comprised 10 growers from each village. To ensure the reliability of the questionnaire, a pretest was conducted, leading to the incorporation of necessary adjustments in terms of format, questions, and their sequences. The data collected were subjected to statistical analysis using tools such as frequency, percentages, averages, and standard deviation. For the assessment of constraints, multiple responses

were categorized as Yes (1) or No (0), and percentage scores were derived for individual components, followed by ranking. All analyses were conducted using Microsoft Windows Excel.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

The results in Table 1 indicated that, the constraints faced by pomegranate growers while using private extension services in Solapur district were as follows:

*Table 1
Constraints faced by Pomegranate Growers while using Private Extension*

Sr. No.	Constraints	Respondents N =120		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1	There is no Governmental regulation on advisory by Private extension service provider	110	91.67	I
2	High visiting fees charged by PESP	107	89.16	II
3	PESP agents campaign for their own products.	105	87.50	III
4	Resentment of PESP workers to provide services in remote areas.	101	84.16	VI
5	Fear of being cheated by PESP agents	98	81.67	V
6	Doubt about reliability of the information provided by PESP.	76	67.50	VI
7	Disagreement by the family members to avail services of the PESP.	80	66.66	VII
8	Insufficient knowledge to the agents of private extension service providers	69	64.16	VIII
9	There is lack of time with PESP agents to attend the Pomegranate growers.	40	33.33	IX
10	Inadequate supply of inputs like agrochemicals by private extension services providers.	34	28.33	X

The first and foremost problem there is no Governmental regulation on advisory by Private extension service provider (91.67%), according to the statistics reported. About 89.16 per cent Pomegranate growers felt that highvisiting fees charged by PESP. 87.50 per cent PESP agents complaining for their own products and it stand third rank. About 84.16 per cent pomegranate growers experienced that resentment of PESP workers to provide services in remote areas. Fear of

being cheated by PESP agents is experienced by about 81.67 per cent pomegranate growers, 67.50 per cent pomegranate growersst ated that they experienced doubt about reliability of the information provided by PESP. Disagreement by the family members to avail services of the PESP by 66.66 per cent pomegranate growers. Insufficient knowledge to the agents of private extension service providers this kind of constraints experienced by about 64.16 per cent pomegranate growers. There is

lack of time with PESP agents to attend the Pomegranate growers is ranked ninth with 33.33 per cent pomegranate growers experienced such kind of problem, also while facing private extension services nearly about 28.33 per cent pomegranate

growers faced problem of inadequate supply of inputs like agrochemicals by private extension services provider and its ranked tenth. These findings are in conformity with the findings of Howal *et al.* (2009) and Jadhav (2019)

Table 2
Suggestions given by the farmers to overcome the problems faced by pomegranate growers

Sr. No.	Suggestions	Respondents N =120		Rank
		Frequency	Per centage	
1	Government should monitor the advisory by PESP	112	93.33	I
2	There should be regulation on visiting fees charged by PESP.	108	90.00	II
3	Government should facilitate input supplies through PESP	106	88.33	III
4	Special efforts must be created by the PESP agents to target remote areas and poor producers	102	85.00	IV
5	There should be provision for supervision of government agencies on PESP	100	83.33	V
6	Involving government functionaries in extension activities by the PESP.	97	80.83	VI
7	There should be provision of sufficient reference material by PESP.	87	72.50	VII
8	Efforts should be made to encourage and facilitate community regarding PESP.	79	65.83	VIII
9	Timely refreshment training should be organized for PESP agents.	74	61.66	IX
10	Policies of PESP should be service oriented instead of target oriented.	72	60.00	X

pomegranate growers stated that they experienced doubt about reliability of the information provided by PESP. Disagreement by the family members to avail services of the PESP by 66.66 per cent pomegranate growers. Insufficient knowledge to the agents of private extension service providers this kind of constraints experienced by about 64.16 per cent pomegranate growers. There is lack of time with PESP agents to attend the Pomegranate growers is ranked ninth with 33.33 per cent pomegranate growers experienced such kind of problem, also while facing private extension services nearly about 28.33 per cent pomegranate growers faced problem of inadequate supply of inputs like agrochemicals by private extension

services provider and its ranked tenth. These findings are in conformity with the findings of Howal *et al.* (2009) and Jadhav R. M. (2019).

In Table 2 we are discussed the suggestions which were given by 120 pomegranate growers who were previously approached for constrains study and from this interaction we concluded that majority of the pomegranate growers were suggested that Government should monitor the advisory by PESP which was ranked (I) with 93.33 per cent of growers suggested this. There should be regulation on visiting fees charged by PESP. (Rank II) with 90.00 per cent pomegranate growers suggested this one. Government should facilitate input supplies through PESP (Rank III) With percentage about

88.33 per cent, pomegranate growers were agreed with this about 85.00 per cent pomegranate growers suggested that ; Special efforts must be created by the PESP agents to target remote areas and poor producers (Rank IV) this one, about 83.33 per cent pomegranate growers suggested that there should be provision for supervision of government agencies on PESP (Rank V). Involving government functionaries in extension activities by the PESP, (Rank VI) means 80.83 per cent pomegranate growers were agreed for such kind of suggestion and about 72.50 per cent pomegranate growers suggested that there should be provision of sufficient reference material by PESP (Rank VII). Efforts should be made to encourage and facilitate community regarding PESP. (VIII) i.e 65.83 per cent pomegranate growers suggested this. Timely refreshment training should be organized for PESP agents. (IX), which showing about 61.66 per cent pomegranate growers agreed for this. Policies of PESP should be service oriented instead of target oriented. (Ranked X) showed 60.00 per cent

pomegranate growers given such kind of suggestion to overcome the barriers while facing private extension services. These findings are in conformity with the findings of Naveen (2015) and Raghuwanshi K *et.al.* (2022)

CONCLUSION

The study finds that because of government regulations, exorbitant costs, and PESP's dissatisfaction about providing services in remote areas, pomegranate growers in Solapur have considerable difficulties while utilising Private extension services. Pomegranate growers worry about being conned, have doubts about the accuracy of the information PESP provides, and have conflicting opinions regarding PESP with their families. According to the study, governmental regulation on PESP's overall operations and fees is necessary to increase growers' trust in the programme. This is because growers already rely heavily on PESP, and their trust is essential to the pomegranate growers and the farmer community's well-being.

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