

## Constraints and Suggestions of Maize Production and Marketing in Telangana State

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### ABSTRACT

*This study covers the constraints and suggestions of maize growers in Telangana state regarding production and marketing. It envisages suggesting possible corrective measures to bring about the desired improvement in production and marketing of maize. Multi stage sampling design was adopted for selection of study area with 120 sample size. The data was collected from cultivators with the help of pretested schedule through personal interview method and data were analyzed by employing techniques like frequency and percentage analysis. The data was pertained for the year 2016-17. The results inferred that about 80 percent farmers opined that short of capital and low access to credit facilities is the major problem faced by them followed by Lack of technical guidance about mechanized farming, Low knowledge regarding quality seed and market price fluctuations, High cost of plant protection chemicals, lack of warehouses and storage facilities are the major problems faced by the maize growers. It was suggested that providing credit facilities by the financial institutions or encouraging schemes like Rythu Bandu in Telangana state and PMKSY (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) and forming the cooperative groups to decrease transportation charges as well as to store their produce.*

**Keywords:** Multistage sampling, Price Fluctuations, Production, Marketing

### INTRODUCTION

With the globalization, the agricultural sector is opened up with new avenues, especially for agricultural enterprises. The cereals are of significant importance not only in providing nutritional support but also in earning additional income. Among the cereals, maize is a multifarious crop used as food and industrial crop globally grown extensively

throughout the world and has the highest production role among all the cereal crops throughout the world. Maize (*Zea mays* L.) known as Queen of Cereals, belongs to the grains family *Graminae*. It is one of the most versatile emerging crops having wider adaptability under varied agro-climatic conditions.

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The importance of maize lies in its wide industrial applications besides serving as human food and animal feed. As the demand for maize is growing globally due to its multiple uses for food, feed, and industrial sectors; It is an important staple food in many parts of the world and used as an important raw material for many products

India has been a predominantly agrestic economy and agriculture continues to be the main base of our economy even today. The production and consumption of maize have been rising frequently in India and maize crop standup as the third cash crop after wheat and rice. It is an important crop to India as 15 million Indian farmers are engaged in Maize cultivation. The potential of Maize in generating better income to farmers while providing gainful employment, Maize qualifies as a potential crop for doubling farmer's income.

Telangana is one of the large maize producing states in India, it occupies fifth place in terms of area i.e. around 802 thousand hectares. In Telangana, maize is cultivated in all the districts (except Hyderabad) in both the *Kharif* and *Rabi* seasons. The total maize production doubled in the state within the past ten years (Anonymous, 2014). The maize production in the state has been largely influenced by increasing demand from the feed industries and various industrial uses (Ranjit Kumar et al. 2014). Telangana during 2017-18 total area under maize cultivation was 630.457 thousand hectares with an annual production of 275.2147 thousand tonnes having 4960 Kg/ha of productivity. Mahabubnagar district is holding highest area (132.358 thousand hectares) which is about 21 % in total Maize area, with a production of 298.531 thousand tonnes, followed by Medak district which is having 118.581 thousand hectares is about 19 %, both of these districts contributes near about 40 percent of the total area in the state. Warangal (674.371 thousand tonnes) and Medak (411.963 thousand tonnes) districts occupy first and second place in terms of production followed by Nizamabad i.e.383.452 thousand tonnes. The highest

productivity observed in Telangana state was in Warangal district i.e.688 Kg/ha. The production (60.690 thousand tonnes) of Maize is lowest in Nalgonda district due to the area (1.725 thousand hectares) of cultivation is less and the lowest productivity seen in Mahabubnagar and Rangareddy districts due to the improper package of practices. (Source: aps.dac.gov.in).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Multi stage sampling design was adopted for selection of districts, mandals, villages and maize growers. In the first stage, two districts namely Mahabubnagar and Medak were purposely selected from Telangana state. In the second stage, from Mahabubnagar district Balanagar and Nawabpet in Medak district Dubbak and Jagdevpur Mandals were selected on the basis of highest area under maize. In third stage from each of the Mandal, three villages were selected purposely. In the fourth stage, ten maize growers were randomly selected from each village. In this way, from two districts, one hundred twenty maize growers were selected for the present study. The data was collected from cultivators with the help of pretested schedule through personal interview method and the sample farmers were asked to mention constraints and challenges they face in the production and marketing of maize and also made suggestions to improve production and marketing by taking farmers opinion, the data pertained for the year 2016-17. Data were analyzed by employing techniques like frequency and percentage analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Constraints and suggestions of maize growers in production and marketing of maize

Productivity and marketing problems were being faced by maize growers. One has to consider the opinion of maize growers in order to solve the problems in productivity and marketing. Thus suggestions of maize growers were important in order to solve their problems.

### Constraints faced by farmers in production and marketing of maize

Constraints faced by maize growers in productivity and marketing of maize were explained in terms of their frequency and percentage and are presented in Table no: 1. The results inferred that about 80 percent farmers opined that short of capital and low access to credit facilities is the major problem in terms of production constraints it ranks one in the list. To overcome the problems of over dosage of fertilizers is about 39.17 percent and high cost of plant protection problems is about 61.67 percent, 34.17 percent farmers opined for crop damaged by stray and wild animals. About 68.33 per cent farmers were facing that low knowledge regarding quality seed and market price fluctuations that encourage the farmers to store their produce and try to sale in slack season or when there is scarcity of

produce in market. About 30.83 percent farmers opined for the problem of lack of confidence in materials being marketed in produce it occupied least ranking in the list. About 56 per cent farmers were opined that unavailability of warehouses and storing facilities. To overcome the problems of non availability of credit facility in time about 53 per cent farmers opined for easily availability of credit facility by the financial institutions. To overcome the problems of delay in procurement and payments due to intermediaries during marketing produce in time about 25 percent farmers opined for Eradication of middle man during marketing of produce. 72 percent famers facing problem regarding lack of technical guidance about mechanized farming during production it ranks second in the list.

**Table 1: Constraints faced by Maize growers**

Sr. No	Constraints	Frequency (n=120)	Rank
1	Use of over dosage of fertilizers	47 (39.17%)	VIII
2	Delay in procurement and payment due to intermediaries	30 (25.00%)	VII
3	Lack of technical guidance about mechanized farming	87 (72.00%)	II
4	Crop damaged by stray animals, wild animals	41 (34.17%)	IX
5	Low knowledge regarding quality seed and market price fluctuations	82 (68.33%)	III
6	High cost of transportation charges	57 (47.50%)	VI
7	Lack of confidence in materials being marketed	37 (30.83%)	X
8	lack of warehouses and storage facilities	68 (56.67%)	V
9	Short of capital and low of credit access during productivity	96 (80.00%)	I
10	High cost of plant protection chemicals	74 (61.67%)	IV

(Note: Numbers in parentheses indicate per cent to the total)

### Suggestions given by maize growers to improve the production & marketing of maize

Suggestions opined by maize growers to overcome the constraints were calculated in the form of frequency and percentage and are presented in Table 2. The results inferred that about 81 percent farmers opined that provision of provide enough and timely supply quality seed materials. To overcome the problems of high rate of chemical fertilizers and plant protection about 60 percent farmers opined for minimize the rates of chemical fertilizers, plant protection and other essential inputs; they opined that government should concentrate to control the prices on fertilizers and plant protection. To avoid the problems of high rate of transportation about 50 percent farmers opined for co-operative or group formation to decrease the cost of transportation. As regards instability in prices about 68 percent farmers opined that

encourage the farmers to store their produce and try to sale in slack season or when there is scarcity of produce in market by providing market information about arrivals and prices. To overcome the problems of unauthorized deduction in produce 33 percent farmers opined for restriction on the process of unauthorized deduction when produce bring for sale at local level. Provision of training programme or demonstration camp to adopt mechanized farming for doing all agricultural operations along with subsidy was opined by 65 per cent farmers. To overcome the problems of non availability of credit facility in time about 44 per cent farmers opined for easily availability of credit facility by the financial institutions. To overcome the problems of middle man during marketing produce in time about 56 percent farmers opined for Minimizing middle man involvement during marketing of produce.

**Table 2: Suggestions given by maize growers to improve the production and marketing of maize**

Sr. No	Suggestions	Frequency (n=120)	Rank
1	Easy availability of credit facilities by the financial institutions	53 (44.16)	VII
2	Cooperative or group formation to minimize the cost of transportation	59 (49.16)	VII
3	Restriction on the process of unauthorized deduction at local level	39 (32.50)	X
4	Encourage farmers to store their produce and sold at slack season by providing market information	89 (74.16)	II
5	Minimize the rates of fertilizers, plant protections and other essential inputs by the government	72 (60.00)	V
6	Sufficient and timely seed availability of HYV's.	97 (80.83)	I
7	Minimizing middle man involvement during marketing of produce	68 (56.66)	VI
8	Govt. should establish processing units to increase income of farmers	47 (39.16)	IX
9	Initiatives of govt. procurement	82 (68.38)	III
10	Use of mechanized farming for doing all agricultural operations along with subsidy by the government	77 (64.33)	IV

(Note: Numbers in parentheses indicate per cent to the total)

### CONCLUSION

It was concluded that most of the farmers opined short of capital and low access to credit facilities and high cost of plant protection chemical are the major problems facing during production, lack of storage and warehouse facilities during price fluctuations of markets and poor transportation with high cost are the major problems facing while marketing. To overcome the problems the government should provide easy availability of credit facilities by the financial institutions or encouraging schemes like Rythu bandu in Telangana state and PMKSY (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) and forming the cooperative groups to decrease transportation charges as well as to store their produce and sold at slack season & eradicating of middleman during marketing to get remunerative prices.

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