

“AN OVERVIEW OF POMEGRANATE CULTIVATION IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT”

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Abstract - India has always been known in the world for its Rural Based Economy, as nearly 65% of its population is dependent on Agriculture & other rural businesses. According to the census of India, 2011, the population of India is more than 1.21 billion and out of it 72.2% population belongs to the rural area. So, the Analysis of the rural development is very much required in India. One of the oldest known fruits, found in writings and artifacts of many cultures and religions, the pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) is an original native of Persia.

Maharashtra is the leading producer of pomegranate followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh. Ganesh, Bhagwa, Ruby, Arakta and Mridula are the different varieties of pomegranates produced in Maharashtra. In India, pomegranate is commercially cultivated in Sholapur, Sangli, Nasik, Ahmednagar, and Pune. Cultivation of pomegranate in rural area is one of the fastest growing segments within agricultural sector in India today.

Now days pomegranate cultivation in rural areas has increases tremendously as many farmers view pomegranate as money machine as lot of income is generated by pomegranate. Pomegranate cultivation in rural area gave helping hands to the educated & uneducated people who are unemployed. Due to cultivation of pomegranate farmers earns good profit because of which farmers are satisfied within their social & economic life.

Key Words: *Pomegranate cultivation, Economic Upliftment.*

1. Need for study:-

From Literature review it is found that till now major study on pomegranate was related with pomegranate cultivation & its medicinal values. The research also covered the diseases of pomegranate & its control mechanism, Pomegranate cultivation & different varieties of pomegranate, production of pomegranate & marketing channel involved in marketing of pomegranate.

The impact of pomegranate cultivation on economic upliftment of farmers is ignored in the research field. So, by doing the research on this topic it is possible to make the farmers aware about various opportunities because of pomegranate cultivation. Various government schemes supported and encouraged farmers to go for pomegranate cultivation & farmers economic life substantially improved because of pomegranate cultivation. There is need to do intensive study in this area.

2. Significance of the Study:-

- This research will help to find out the effectiveness of initiatives taken by government agencies for the pomegranate cultivation.
- This research is going to reveal certain facts about pomegranate cultivation & farmers economic upliftment.
- This research will explore the reasons why farmers cultivate pomegranate.
- This research will help to find out how much profit a farmer can earn from an uncultivated land.
- Helpful for the future researches.

3. Literature Review:-

• Mr. H. Pala, A. Tatli, C. Yilmaz, A.I. Özgüven in 2006 presented & publishes a paper on 'Important disease of pomegranate fruits & control possibilities in Turkey'. The researchers suggested measures so that farmers can control the various diseases of pomegranate plant and they get yield healthy & high quality of pomegranate.

• Mr. H.P. Singh in 2011 published a paper on 'horticulture research & development in India-with special reference to pomegranate & other minor fruits'. The major findings of the paper were In Maharashtra state pomegranate cultivation is increasing as a result of 70% of the total area contributing pomegranate cultivation. As a result of this in large amount pomegranate is export from Maharashtra state to other states & in other countries.

• Mr. Dr. J. R. Bhor & Dr. D. D. Pawar in 2012 presented paper on "A study of Pomegranate growers in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra state" The major findings of the paper were there is considerable increase

in area under pomegranate in Maharashtra state. Within Maharashtra state Sholapur, Nasik, Ahmednagar, Sangali and Pune districts are leading in pomegranate cultivation. It is due to the subsidies sanctioned by government of Maharashtra the pomegranate cultivation is increased. During the year 2001 to 2010 area and production of pomegranate increased near about two times. India is the world's leading pomegranate producer and produces nearly 50 % of words pomegranates.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

- To study the impact of pomegranate cultivation on farmers economic upliftment.
- To understand the role of government agencies & government schemes in development of pomegranate cultivation.

5. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:-

- Pomegranate cultivation has contributed substantially to farmers' economic upliftment.
- Various government agencies & schemes have substantially increased the pomegranate cultivation.

6. SCOPE OF STUDY:-

- The proposed study will confine to examine the impact of pomegranate cultivation on economic upliftment of farmers.
- The study will help to explore motivating factors & effectiveness of pomegranate cultivation.
- For doing any research the researcher has to finalize his boundaries with respect to period and area. The geographical scope of this research will be Sangamner & Akole talukas of
- Ahmednagar district and period taken for this research will be from the year 2010 to year 2014.

7. LIMITATIONS OF STUDY:-

- The study is restricted to Sangamner & Akole talukas of Ahmednagar district in which farmers cultivate pomegranate.
- Time is always a limiting factor for research.
- The information collected for research will be totally dependent on the judgments and capability of the respondent.

8. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:-

For the proposed study researcher used Descriptive as well as analytical research. The study will cover Sangamner & Akole talukas of Ahmednagar district in which farmers cultivate pomegranate.

To select a right respondent from available population is the important task in front of researcher.

In this research researcher will do a study of those farmers...

- Who only cultivate pomegranate & previously they were not cultivating pomegranate.
- Also this study is related with those farmers whose annual income before pomegranate cultivation was less than one lakh.

Considering the objectives and nature of the study the researcher will select a sample which is a true representative of the population and which will fulfill the requirement of the study. For the purpose of the study researcher selected farmers from above mentioned tehsils. The simple random sampling method is used for the selection of samples.

8.1 SOURCES OF DATA COLLECTION:-

Primary Data:

- Primary data is collected through Structured Questionnaire for Farmers who cultivate pomegranate. The questions will be so designed to fulfill the objectives of the study.
- Interviews of the agricultural officer & other officers in government agencies
- Observation made by the researcher while collecting the data from farmers.

Secondary data:

Secondary data required for analysis & collected from various sources like annual reports of agricultural department, journals related to the topic, magazines, periodicals, various internet websites related to the topic.

Interviews

I have used the interview method for the study. I have taken the interview of farmers & agricultural officers. I have taken interview of 100 farmers and 2 agricultural officers. Farmers interviewed were selected by the sampling method.

8.2 SAMPLING:

For satisfactory results it is very necessary that researcher have to select right size. To find right sample size selection of right sampling method should be correct.

1) Selection of district:

In the Maharashtra state, Ahmednagar is one of the leading district in the cultivation pomegranate. Secondly Ahmednagar district comes under the arid region of the scarcity zone. For the same the land of Ahmednagar district is suitable for pomegranate cultivation.

Hence, Ahmednagar district was purposively selected.

2) Selection for tehsils:

The primary unit of the sample was tehsils of Ahmednagar districts. The leading tehsils of pomegranate cultivation in Ahmednagar district are Sangamner, Akole, Rahuri, Kopargaon Rahata and shrigonda out of which Sangamner & Akole were selected purposively.

3) Selection of villages:

The secondary unit of the sample was villages. Ten villages from each tehsils having maximum area under pomegranate cultivation were selected for the study.

4) Selection of sample/ Farmers.

From each village 5 farmers who cultivate pomegranate were selected randomly. Thus, total sample size for the research were 100.

Sample size: - 100

9. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:-

Que. No. 1) Do you cultivate pomegranate in your farm.

Sr. No.	Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	100	100
2	No	0	0

(Reference: Questionnaire)

The above table shows that all farmers to whom question was ask cultivate pomegranate.

Que. No. 2) why do you cultivate pomegranate in your farm?

Sr. No.	Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Suitable for un irrigated land	80	80

2	Earned maximum profit vis a vis cost requirement	65	65
3	Less water required	85	85
4	Availability of government subsidy	90	90
5	Possible to export	50	50

(Reference: Questionnaire)

Above table shows that 80% of farmers cultivate pomegranate as it is suitable for an irrigated land, 65% cultivate as it earned maximum profit vis a vis cost requirement, 85% cultivate as it required less water, 90% cultivate because of availability of government scheme.

Que. No. 3) Do you think pomegranate cultivation has positive impact on farmer's economic upliftment.

Sr. No.	Particulars	No of respondents	Percentage
1	Yes	100	100
2	No	0	0

(Reference: Questionnaire)

Above table shows that all farmers were agree that pomegranate cultivation has positive impact on farmers economic upliftment.

Que. No. 4) if yes, then what is the impact of pomegranate cultivation on farmer's economic upliftment?

Sr. No.	Particulars	Before pomegranate cultivation	After pomegranate cultivation	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Condition of House	Not Good	Well constructed	80	80%
2	2 wheeler /4 wheeler	No	Yes	90	90%
3	Own Agricultural equipment	No	Yes	70	70%
4	Children Education	Primary School	CBSE school	75	75%
5	Bank	No	Yes	70	70%

	Balance				
6	Festival expenses	Less	More	85	85%
7	Expenses on Ornaments	Less	More	80	80%

(Reference: Questionnaire)

Above table shows that, 80% of farmers agree that they have well constructed house after pomegranate cultivation; 90 % agree that they purchase 2 wheeler /4 wheeler after pomegranate cultivation;70% agree that they purchase their own agricultural equipment after pomegranate cultivation. So from above graph we can say that pomegranate cultivation has a positive impact on economic upliftment of farmers.

10. MAJOR FINDINGS:-

- Ahmednagar district as Sangamner & Akole talukas comes under rain scarcity region. Majority of farmers agree that pomegranate cultivation has a positive impact on farmer’s economic upliftment.
- Most of farmers happy to cultivate pomegranate as its gives more profit with respect to cost involvement.
- Pomegranate Cultivation is increasing as farmers can cultivate pomegranate in un irrigated land, also water requirement is less for pomegranate cultivation.
- Pomegranate Cultivation is increasing due to the subsidy provided by government.
- Pomegranate Cultivation is increasing in Sangamner & Akole talukas of So the availability of water is less in this area & farmers can cultivate pomegranate in less water.

11. SUGGESTIONS:-

- The quick and efficient means of transport facility should be established in these areas, so farmers can use it to transport their pomegranate in market.
- Cold storage facilities should be provided by government which will help farmers to store their pomegranate.
- Expenditure on plant protection, diseases, and cracking of fruits are the burning issues in front of farmers. Governments’ agencies have to do something to solve these problems.
- Majority of the farmers in this area do not have knowledge about cultivation of pomegranate, but they want to cultivate pomegranate within their

farm for them training programme should be implemented by governments agencies.

12. REFERENCES

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