

Constraint analysis of Potato farmers in Telangana State

***Perka Shiva Kumar**

Scientist, Cost of Cultivation Scheme, Regional Agriculture Research Station, PJTSAU, Warangal, Telangana, India.

Email: shiva_perka1990@yahoo.com

Abstract: Potato is popularly known as “The king of vegetables” has emerged as fourth most important food crop after rice, wheat and maize in the country. The Telangana state is having an area of 4290 hectares of potato with an average yield of 26 tons per hectare, mainly cultivating in *rabi* season. Medak and Sangareddy districts accounts for more than 50% of total production in the state. To identify the constraints of potato farmers Garrett’s ranking technique was used, in which the percent position was converted into scores by relating to Garrett’s table. The constraint which is having the highest score value was identified as the most important. Price fluctuations was ranked as the most important constraint with mean score value 77.96 followed by lack of storage facilities (71.78). In markets most of the farmers did not get the remunerative price because of prices were changed according to the demand and supply; hence most of the farmers felt that price fluctuations as the major constraint. Next to that potato crop is highly perishable and due to lack of cold storage facilities, farmers were unable to store the produce even for few days and for every season farmers purchasing the seed from Northern states of country which was lead to increase of transportation cost. The other constraints reported by the farmers were high marketing costs, more post harvesting losses, faults in weighing at markets, lack of marketing information and inadequate facilities at the market committee. So the policies formulated from the study are there is a need to provide facilities for promoting the export of the produce in case of glut in the market to stop the distress sale. Provision of cold storage facilities near to villages which mainly controls the cost of seed transportation, organization of farmers into large producer groups benefits in terms of collective post-harvest operations, reduction in transaction costs and higher bargaining power. Farmers are to be educated and trained in post harvest handling of potatoes in cleaning, grading and packing in gunny bags such as they do not weigh more than 40 Kgs, so that good quality will be maintained. The organized retail outlets have to work directly with farmers to improve yields by enabling them to obtain quality input supplies. Promote the potato processing industries in the study area. The facilities of packing, grading and transportation of potatoes to distant markets should be subsidized. Modernize the Market committees by providing better infrastructure like modern weighing machines, canteen, and accommodation for farmers, closed places for trading, better roads, better hygiene, better waste disposal system *etc.*

Keywords: *Constraints, Potato, Garrett’s ranking*