



Training on Jasmine Cultivation- An Impact Study

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Abstract

Jasmine (Jasminum sp.) is one of the leading traditional flowers of India. Its flowers are used for making garlands, adorning hairs of women, in religious and ceremonial functions and for producing jasmine oil for perfume manufacture. Realising the economic significance of jasmine, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasaragod considered it appropriate to popularise Jasmine cultivation among women self groups, house wives and rural youth through training programmes. Ex-trainees who attended the training programme on jasmine cultivation at KVK, Kasaragod during 2006-09 were interviewed by using a well structured interview schedule. The present study revealed that the training programmes conducted at KVK, Kasaragod on jasmine cultivation have significantly influenced womenfolk of Kasaragod, thereby emphasising the empowerment of farm women through technological literacy on jasmine cultivation.

Keywords: Jasmine cultivation, KVK Kasaragod.

Introduction

Jasmine (*Jasminum sp.*) is one of the leading traditional flowers of India. Its flowers are used for making garlands, adorning hairs of women, in religious and ceremonial functions and for producing jasmine oil for perfume manufacture¹. Jasmine oil has great export potential in addition to its medicinal value. It is commercially cultivated in some regions of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam etc. The largest area under jasmine cultivation is in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka from where it is distributed to metropolitan cities².

Jasmine is grown in various climatic regions and soils across India. The soil type most suitable for their growth is sandy loam or clayey loam and it grows well in regions having warm climate with mild winter, moderate rainfall and sunny days. They are generally hardy plants and require well drained open area for best growth and flowering. Jasmine cannot withstand water logging. With liberal application of manure and assured water supply, jasmine can grown in sandy soils. Among the large number of species available for cultivation, only some are of economic importance. Three important species and their varieties are as follows: i. *Jasminum sambac*: Gundumalli, Motia, Virupakshi, Sujimalli, Madanabanam, Ramabanam. ii. *Jasminum grandiflorum*: Co-1 Pitchi, Co-2 Pitchi, Thimmapuram, Luknow. iii. *Jasminum auriculatum*: Co-1 Mulla, Co-2 Mulla, Long point, Long round, Short point, Short round

Besides these three species, another species of jasmine called as *Jasminum multiflorum*- commonly known as Kakada is also grown, which is a pest and disease resistant variety and remain fresh for a long time but not scented

Table-1 shows the yield of different species of jasmine. Yield of jasmine and oil vary according to the species and management practices

Table-1
Yield of different jasmine species

Species	Flower yield(t/ha)	Oil yield(kg/ha)
<i>Jasminum sambac</i>	5	15.44
<i>Jasminum grandiflorum</i>	5	28.00
<i>Jasminum auriculatum</i>	6	29.00

There exist tremendous scope for cultivation and trade of jasmine in Kerala not only as a homestead crop but also on a commercial scale. If cultivated commercially, this crop has the potential for yielding very high returns to the grower. Realizing this potential, jasmine cultivation is blooming in Kerala too.

Keeping these considerations in view, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kasaragod considered it appropriate to popularise Jasmine cultivation among women self groups, house wives and rural youth to get acquainted with the cultivation aspects of jasmine. KVK assisted the target group to add jasmine as one of the component crops in their homesteads to augment the income of farm families. KVK imparted training on climate and soil suitable for jasmine cultivation, varieties, propagation, planting, fertilizer application, pruning, irrigation, weeding, pest and disease management, harvesting and marketing aspects¹. The present study deals with the evaluation of the course and its impact in back home situation with the following objectives: i.

To analyse the socio-personal characteristics of respondent farmers. ii. To assess the rate of adoption and economic benefits to the respondent farmers. iii. To study the constraints in adoption of jasmine cultivation techniques

Methodology

The respondent farmers of this study were the ex-trainees who attended the training programme on jasmine cultivation at KVK, Kasaragod during 2006-09. A total of 206 trainees attended this training course through five on campus and seven off campus training programmes. Among them 80 trainees were selected randomly as a sample population. The desired information were collected through a well structured interview schedule which contained questions pertaining to their socio-personal characteristics, rate of adoption and constraints experienced in adoption of the cultivation techniques.

Results and Discussion

Socio-personal characteristics of respondent farmers like age, education, gender, source of information and social participation were the independent variables studied as shown in table-2

Table-2
Distribution of participants on the basis of their socio-personal characteristics

Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	Up to 30	7	8.75
	30-55	71	88.75
	Above 55	2	2.5
Education	School level	69	86.25
	College level	11	13.75
Gender	Male	16	20
	Female	64	80
Social participation	Less	25	51.25
	Medium	68	40
	high	7	8.75

Source: survey data: As per the data in table-1, it can be interpreted that majority of respondent farmers belonged to middle age group (88.75%) followed by young (8.75) and old (2.5%) which reflects the active participation of middle aged group in KVK training programmes.

The educational status of the respondent farmers indicated that majority of them (86.25%) had high school education followed by graduates (13.75%). The target group of KVK training programmes are the less educated and hence the data substantiates the importance given to this group with around 86.25% of participants possessing only high school education

Gender participation indicates that 80% of the respondents were female and 20% were male which shows the active participation of women in striving for the economic upliftment of the family.

Moreover, the revolutionary approach towards women empowerment through the formation of self-help groups facilitated the spread of jasmine cultivation in Kasaragod homesteads.

From table-2, it could be inferred that the respondent farmers had medium to less social participation. Majority of the respondent farmers (68%) had medium social participation followed by less (25%) and high (7%). Since majority of the respondents were women and members of various SHG's, their confidence and competence is at par making them socially active.

88.8% of the respondents rated that the training programme conducted by KVK as very good and consequent to this training 53.8% trainees started jasmine cultivation with 12-160 plants thereby statistically validating the significance of training programme. Among them 8.8% grow jasmine for their household uses and 45% cultivate 25-160 plants and sell jasmine buds in the form of garland.

All the trainees opined that jasmine cultivation is profitable as flower merchants from local markets make arrangements for the daily procurement by sending agents to each household at nominal rates. The price fluctuation is heavy and it ranges from Rs.100/- to Rs.1500 per atta (garland of 7' length) depending upon the production and market demand. This gives daily income for about nine months a year and effective utilization of time and resources. In contrast, there exist some constraints such as shortage of water during summer months for irrigation, harvesting and garland making contributing to 50% of the expenditure towards labour charges and availability of labour is limited. Decline in prices during peak production season, labour shortage, tedious process of harvesting and garland making resulted in 5% of the adopted trainees to discontinue jasmine cultivation³.

The problem of water scarcity during summer months could be overcome by adopting suitable water conservation techniques and ground water recharge through rainwater harvesting structures

Conclusion

One of the main objectives envisaged while conducting training programmes on jasmine cultivation was to popularise this as a component crop in homesteads so as to augment the income of resource poor farm families. In this context, the present study revealed that the training programmes conducted at KVK, Kasaragod on jasmine cultivation have significantly influenced womenfolk of Kasaragod, thereby emphasising the empowerment of farm women through technological literacy. Besides creation of rural employment opportunities and income generation, social acceptance, capacity building and encouragement to fellow farmers were the merits of homestead jasmine cultivation as perceived by the beneficiaries.

Table-3
Questionnaire used for the study

Sr. No.	Questions	Answer
1	Name	
2	Age	
3	Gender	
4	Village	
5	Education	
6	Which are the most commonly grown crops in your region?	
7	What is your average land holding?	
8	List out the common varieties of jasmine	
9	Which are the common pests and diseases in jasmine?	
10	What is the recommended spacing for jasmine cultivation?	
11	What is the average yield of jasmine?	
12	Do you know about the water requirement of jasmine?	
13	Have you participated in krishi mela farmer's meeting	
14	How often do you attend krishi mela farmers meeting? a) Every Month b) Once in six months c) Once in a year d) Not at all	
15	Which of the following is the major source	

of farm information? a) Newspaper b) TV/radio c) KVK d) Fellow farmers	
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