



Research Article

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE FARMERS OF GRAPES GROWERS ASSOCIATION IN THENI DISTRICT OF TAMIL NADU

K.P. VANETHA*

ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tindivanam, 604002, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, 641003, Tamil Nadu, India

*Corresponding Author: Email - vaniagextn@gmail.com

Received: December 07, 2022; Revised: December 27, 2022; Accepted: December 28, 2022; Published: December 30, 2022

Abstract: The present study was undertaken with the objective to study the constraints faced by members of Grape growers associations. GGA in Cumbum block of Theni district with a sample size of 60 farmers registered in GGA. The respondents were selected based on purposive random sampling method. The data were collected from each respondent through pre-tested interview schedule. The results of the study revealed that as the major constraint 77.66 per cent of respondents reported that non- inclusion of local leaders in GGA's, 70.28 percent of respondent reported that lack of co-ordination for different group activities. Wide publicity should be given to the concept of GGA's for increasing awareness amongst the farmers. The management team of GGA, should share information about GGA's with member farmers. The success stories of GGA's should be given wide media publicity.

Keywords: *Grapes Growers Association, Random Sampling Method*

Citation: K.P. Vanetha (2022) Problems Encountered by the Farmers of Grapes Growers Association in Theni District of Tamil Nadu. International Journal of Agriculture Sciences, ISSN: 0975-3710 & E-ISSN: 0975-9107, Volume 14, Issue 12, pp.- 12066-12067.

Copyright: Copyright©2022 K.P. Vanetha, This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Academic Editor / Reviewer: Siddardha Nallamilli

Introduction

The grape is one of the most valued conventional fruits, worldwide. Although most of the parts of the grapevine are useful, primarily, the grape is considered as a source of unique natural products not only for the development of valuable medicines against a number of diseases, but also for manufacturing various industrial products. FPO is an organization of farmer-producers that provide support to small farmers with end-to-end services covering almost all aspects of cultivation from inputs, technical services to processing and marketing. In general, it is felt that studies on Farmer Producer Organizations their attitude toward the farmers and the help provided by FPO to the farmers.

Small producers do not have the volume individually (both inputs and produce) to get the benefit of economies of scale. Besides, in agricultural marketing, there is a long chain of intermediaries who very often work non-transparently leading to the situation where the producer receives only a small part of the value that the ultimate consumer pays. This will be eliminated.

Material and Methods

The present study is conducted at cumbum block of theni district. Theni district of Tamil Nadu was purposively selected as it was famous for grapes cultivation. Theni district consists of 8 blocks, namely Andipatti, Bodinayakanur, Chinnamanur, Cumbum, Periyakulam, Theni, Utthamapalayam, Kadamalaikundu, Myladumparai. out of which Cumbum block was selected for our study, as this block is famous for its grapes. In Cumbum block, export of grape, to all parts of India and overseas was done. In this block the out of three Grape Growers Association, the association in kamayakoundanpatti is purposively selected for their more number of registered farmers. The grape growers were selected by random sampling method. Thus, sixty grape growers were selected from the list of grape growers given by GGA, Cumbum. An interview schedule based on specific objective was designed after detailed study of the available literature on the topic and the situation reviewed. The interview schedule was pretested prior to its finalization. The sixty grape growers selected randomly from GGA were contacted personally and interviewed in person.

The information collected through interview was transferred from interview schedule to primary tables and then to secondary tables. The information of qualitative data was converted into quantitative form and computation was done.

Findings and Discussion

The major strengths identified in the Grape Growers Association are Provision of inputs and production services and record keeping by the growers, minimising the prices risk, followed by higher yields due to better management, income stability due to assured price. The weakness of an Association restricts it from performing at its optimum level. The weaknesses of the Grape Growers Association were in regard to adoption of new production technology and market failures followed lack of better infrastructure facilities. The opportunities refer to favourable external factors that could give a Grape Growers Association a competitive advantage. The most important opportunity was Sharing of ideas among the growers was an important opportunity followed by support from local scientific agencies and government.

Table-1 Major constraints faced by the Grapes Growers Association

SN	Major constraints Faced by the GGA	%
1	Non-allocation of local leader in GGA's.	77.66
2	Lack of co-ordination for different group activities	70.28
3	Lack of support from the government department	65.00
4	Inadequate profit to individual members.	19.43
5	Political affiliation of members.	45.00
6	Village level workers not providing enough information about all scheme related to GGA's	10.71
7	Market linkage	15.28
8	Adoption of new technology	18.00
9	Lack of skill labour	13.50
10	Exports	20.00

Constraints faced by the farmers in Grapes Growers Association like, 77.66 per cent of respondents reported that non- inclusion of local leaders in GGA's, 70.28percent of respondent reported that lack of co-ordination for different group activities, 65.00 percent of respondent reported that lack of support from the government department after establishment, 45.00 percent of respondent reported

Table-2 Suggestions for Improvement of the Grapes Growers Association

SN	Suggestions for Improvement of the GGA	%
1	Wide publicity should be given to the concept of GGA's for increasing awareness amongst the farmers.	81.00
2	The management team of GGA, should share information about GGA's with member farmers.	76.50
3	The success stories of GGA's should be given wide media publicity.	72.00
4	State government need to extend all the benefits of farmer co-operatives.	68.50
5	The agencies involved in implementing the GGA initiative should provide adequate information about their venture.	65.30
6	Regular training should be given to members of GGA's about agro-based processing units and marketing of agricultural produce.	71.50
7	Focus on financial support	34.70
8	Training for farmers on grading and packaging	32.00
9	Connect to export market facilities	41.60
10	Focus on marketing linkage	48.50

that political affiliation of member, 19.43 percent of respondent reported that inadequate profit to individual members and 10.71 percent of respondent reported that village level worker not providing enough information about all scheme related to GGA's. The other major constraints are, lack of awareness of credit facilities, lack of connection with financial organizations, and lack of proper market information. Then lack of timely, and good quality inputs, lack of skilled labour in harvesting & processing.

According to Alagupandian (2019) [1], the major problems in grapes marketing are the distress sale and the seasonal fluctuation of prices for small farmers. The cost of production is significantly higher than the average cost of production incurred by the large farmers. They borrow money at a high rate of interest; sell their produce at unfavourable prices. Mostly, the small farmers sell grapes in small quantities to the village traders and commission agents. The role of intermediaries in the marketing of grapes is a vital parameter. Chopade, *et al.*, (2019) [2] conducted a study on Constraints faced by the Members of Farmer Producer Company, According to their study which was conducted in Osmanabad district, randomly selected from Marathwada region of Maharashtra state during the year 2018-2019. Selected district eight tahsils were selected purposively. Shiralashetti, *et al.*, (2022) [3] The majority of the farmers are illiterate and experience shortage of water for irrigation, non maintenance of cost records are the problems faced by the farmers. Shivananda, *et al.*, (2022) [4] Among the production problems, heavy investments, no standard package of practices available from agriculture or horticulture Universities and high rate of interest were prominent.

Nikam, *et al.*, (2019) [5] conducted study on Several challenges remain, however. One of the biggest challenges – farmers' inability to access capital – is undermining the foundation of the FPO. One of the motives behind the formation of an FPO is to provide farmers access to capital. But most of the member farmers in our survey reported that their FPO does not help them in getting access to capital in any way.

The respondents were also asked for suggestions for improvement of the Grapes Growers Association. Accordingly the following suggestions were made by the members of Grapes Growers Association. Suggestions for effective functioning of GGA's likewise publicity should be given to the concept of GGA's for increasing awareness amongst the farmers. The management team of GGA, should share information about GGA's with member farmers. The success stories of GGA's should be given wide media publicity. State government need to extend all the benefits of farmer co-operatives. The agencies involved in implementing the GGA initiative should provide adequate information about their venture. Regular training should be given to members of GGA's about agro-based processing units and marketing of agricultural produce.

Conclusion

As the major constraint 77.66 per cent of respondents reported that non- inclusion of local leaders in GGA's, 70.28 percent of respondent reported that lack of co-ordination for different group activities, 65.00 percent of respondent reported that lack of support from the government department. Then lack of timely, and good quality inputs, lack of skilled labour in harvesting & processing, low price for the produce. Wide publicity should be given to the concept of GGA's for increasing awareness amongst the farmers. The management team of GGA, should share information about GGA's with member farmers. The success stories of GGA's should be given wide media publicity.

Application of research: Study of problems encountered by the farmers of grapes growers association

Research Category: Agriculture extension

Acknowledgement / Funding: Author is thankful to ICAR-Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tindivanam, 604002, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, 641003, Tamil Nadu, India

****Principal Investigator or Chairperson of research: Dr K.P. Vanetha**
University: Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, 641003, India
Research project name or number: Research station study

Author Contributions: Sole author

Author statement: Author read, reviewed, agreed and approved the final manuscript. Note-Author agreed that- Written informed consent was obtained from all participants prior to publish / enrolment

Study area / Sample Collection: Cumbum block of Theni district

Cultivar / Variety / Breed name: Grape

Conflict of Interest: None declared

Ethical approval: This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.
Ethical Committee Approval Number: Nil

References

- [1] Alagupandian V. (2019) *Nat. Volatiles&Essent.Oils*, 8(5), 4687-4694.
- [2] Chopade S.L., Kapse P.S. and Dhulgand V.G. (2019) *International journal of Current Microbiology and Applied Science*, 8(8), 2319-7706.
- [3] Shiralashetti A.S et al (2022) *Indian Journal of Applied Research*, 5, 10.
- [4] Shivananda P Yarazari., et al (2022) *The Pharma Innovation Journal*, SP-10(9), 503-506.
- [5] Nikam V., Singh P., Arathy A. and Kumar S. (2019) *Indian Journal of Agriculture Sciences*, 89(9), 1383-92.