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SUCCESS STORIES OF CHRYSANTHEMUM FARMERS IN AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT

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Abstract:

Chrysanthemums are important and popular flowers next lonely to roses. Chrysanthemums are very important flourish plants useful for garlands, garden display, cut flowers and perfume industries. Ahmednagar district is specialized in cultivation of chrysanthemum and is the major chrysanthemum growing district in Maharashtra. Mumbai, pune, Nagpur and Nashik are the major markets. If properly managed and nature gives good co-operation chrysanthemum gives hish yield and good returns. Success stories of two farmers, are from Nagar tahasil and another from parner tahasil of Ahmednagar district have been presented in this paper.

KEY WORDS:

Success, Chrysanthemum, Cultivation, Economics, Profitable, Commercial.

INTRODUCTION

Chrysanthemum is one of the most important commercial crops grown in India. In india there are more than 500 varieties of Chrysanthemum, which widely grown in different parts of the country. Indian Chrysanthemum is very important flowering plants useful for garlands, garden display, cut flowers and perfume industries perfumes are used in manufacturing soaps, cosmetics, hair oils, and food and tobacco industries. Another important feature of flower is that the contact with them makes the mind clean fresh and active. Without flowers social, cultural religious, function / gathering appears incomplete grandeur. It is also used for medicinal purposes.

According to APEDA of the end of coming three years, India flower export may exceed \$1billion. India stands 23rd flower exporting countries. In india 2 lakh tonnes of loose flowers and 500 million tones of cut flowers are produced per year. Its market value is US \$800million

India has a tremendous potential for flower production the Chrysanthemum gives more economic returns to however marketing is the biggest the formers and foreign exchange to the country. It also provided more employment opportunity deterrent. The Royal commission on agriculture had rightly marked that "the Indian farmer is a good producer but a bad marketer". In cities due to urbanization and industrial development, the people working throughout day have developed love for flowers. As a result its demand is relatively increasing, specially in social and religious functions and festivals. Therefore it is necessary to increase the production of flowers. There is also need to increase the productivity and improve varieties flowers very little information is available on the geography, economics of Chrysanthemum cultivation and its marketing aspects.

There is a great scope for floriculture in India in the era of globalization. India has one lakh ha. land under flower cultivation. About 800ha. Flower cultivated land is under green houses. India has production of more than 5 lakh tons of stemless flowers and more than 250crore tons of production of stemmed flowers.

STUDY AREA:-

Ahmednagar district is situated in the center part of Maharashtra between 18° 2' to 19° 9' North latitude and 73° 32' to 75° 5' East longitude. The geographical area of 1704977ha. is under taken for the present study of success stories of two Chrysanthemum farmers. It is surrounded by Nashik and Aurangabad districts on the north, Osmanabad and Beed on the east, Pune and Thane on the south west borders, while Solapur lies to its south.

OBJECTIVES:-

1. To study the geographical conditions which influence the Chrysanthemum cultivation in this area.
2. To study the area, production and exports of Chrysanthemum in Ahmednagar district.
3. To study the growth of area and production of Chrysanthemum in Ahmednagar district.
4. To study the success stories of Chrysanthemum farmers in Ahmednagar district.

DATABASE AND METHODOLOGY:-

Various methods were used for the collection of primary and secondary data. For the primary data a specially designed questionnaire was used for getting the information. The information about secondary data was also collected with the help of socio-economic review, district census handbook, district statistical abstract, gazetteer, Agriculture epitomes, Periodicals etc.

SOIL AND CLIMATE:-

Temperature is one of the important factors affecting the yields of Chrysanthemum. April heat is useful for germination of plants, while October heat is useful for blooming of flowers. But October heat associated with high rainfall is harmful to the crop. The rainfall in October happens to be the crucial factor for Chrysanthemum plantation. If in this month rainfall is more, then production is less and vice versa. One of the peculiar characteristics of these flowers is that if planted in January or before that, the flowers can only be available in September. Mrg and Rohini rainfall is essential to flourish the buds. Even though the plants are watered well but the buds do not flourish. In the Chrysanthemum growing area soils are shallow, light and murrumbidgee. They are well drained and suitable for Chrysanthemum cultivation. These soils heat up very quickly during summer such hot soils are suitable for germination of the plants and flourishing buds.

IMPORTANT CHRYSANTHEMUM VARIETIES:-

There are 500 varieties of Chrysanthemum found in India. Traditionally in Maharashtra, especially Ahmednagar district zipri, Raja, Yellow (Piwali), Rewadi, white Rewadi, Yellow gold, Baggi, Sonali tara etc. are some of the important varieties.

FLORICULTURE IN MAHARASHTRA:-

Maharashtra is the leading state in floriculture. Tamil Nadu states first in terms of area and production of commercial flowers in the country. In Maharashtra Nashik, Nagpur, Thane, Pune, Sangli, Satara, Kolhapur and Ahmednagar districts are the leading producers of floriculture. (Table-1)

Table-1 Area and Flower Production in Maharashtra (2009)

Sr.No	Flower Crops	Area in Hectare	Production in Metric ton
1	Auster	860	8600
2	Rose	5230	10346
3	Chrysanthemum	1380	14950
4	Gladiolus	650	6500
5	Mogara	1824	3656
6	Marigold	3150	31500
7	Lily	192	384
8	Nishigandh	1648	13184
9	Others	62	-
Total		15000	

Source: 'Phoolsheti', Dr. Gurav S., Dr. Katawates and Dr. Bhalerao D.

Maharashtra is the leading state in floriculture. Instead of above flowers Maharashtra farmer also growing anthurium, orchids, gerbera, carnation, daizy, because they give more profit to them.

Chrysanthemum is a cash crop, which gives maximum profit to the farmers than any other cash crop in the region. That is why gradually many innovative farmers are attracted towards the Chrysanthemum cultivation in different part of the Maharashtra state. Favorable environment, water, fertile soil and available market have played important role in the prosperity and blooming of floriculture in different pockets of the region.

Greenhouse floriculture is being widely accepted and practiced by farmers (table-3) shows the area and production flowers 150 hectares of land is under greenhouse in Maharashtra. Floriculture more than 2600 projects are functional on the said area. Mostly roses are grown in more than half of the projects 1170 million flowers are produced every year.

Table No-2 Area and flower Production in Greenhouse in Maharashtra (2009)

Sr.No	Flower	Area in hectare	Production (Flowers in lakh)
1	Roses	78.00	1170.00
2	Gerbera	39.00	484.00
3	Carnation	26.00	260.00
4	Anthurium	02.80	007.00
5	Orchid	4.20	010.00
Total		150.00	1931.00

Source: 'Phoolsheti', Dr. Gurav S and Dr. Katawates.

Area under cultivation of flower Holland is about same as India. But share of export of flower in market is 60 percent., Columbia 10 %, Italy 06 %, Israel 04 %, Spain 03%, and India 02%. (Table-3). Shows although there has been an increasing trend in export of flower in Maharashtra.

In India area under flower cultivation is approximately 68 thousand hectares. Maharashtra stands second in India for the flower cultivation. Maharashtra exports flower to the gulf counties also European countries.

Table.3. Shares of the main countries of export in the world market.

Sr.No.	Name of the Country	Shares in World export in %
1	Netherland	59
2	Columbia	10
3	Italy	06
4	Israel	04
5	Spain	03
6	India	02
7	Others	19

Source: - 'Agrowon', Dr. Bhalerao Vikrant P.6.

The success story of progressive Chrysanthemum farmers finds a place here in (table-4) Ramadas Shantaram Thokal is the name of farmer who belongs to village kamargaon, Tal-Nagar, Dist. Ahmednagar. Ahmednagar District is mostly rain shadow of Western Ghats. The average rainfall of the district ranges from 432 to 450mm. Bajara, Tur, Pluses, Soyabin etc. are main crops in kharif while Jawar and Wheat is main crops in Rabi. Under the guidance of agriculture officer of Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth (MPKV) and some relatives. Under their guidance and use of new methods of Chrysanthemum cultivation he obtained a yield of 7810kg per hectare and a return of RS.195250 hectare. (Tabel-4).

Table-4 per hectare cost and returns of Chrysanthemum in Kamargaon village (Nagar Tahasil)

Sr.No	Items of Cost	Cost / hectare RS.
1	Hired human labour	4000
2	Bullock labour	10500
3	Manures	13000
4	Plantation	4000
5	Irrigation	3500
6	Fertilizers and Groundnut cake	2500
7	Insecticides and Pesticides	2000
8	Family labour	21000
9	Interest on Working Capital	4000
10	Rental value of land	23800
11	Interest on fixed capital	8500
12	Total cost	96800
13	Total income (Average price per kg 25RS)	195250
14	Net profit (1 hectare)	98450
15	Net profit per kg.	12.60

Source: - Data Collected During the Field Work (2010-11).

Success story of Parner tahasil – Ramdas Dasadu Pathare Village Supa Taluka-Parner, Dist. – Ahmednagar. He is a famous cultivator of Chrysanthemum flower. Parner tahasil is a drought prone area, average rainfall is below 500mm. But the farmer uses tube well water for this crops. N this year rainfall also

comes timely and so the harvest or season of flower also comes right time of the festival at Dasara. So he obtained a yield of 8520kg per hectare and a return in 272640. (Table-5)

Table-5 per hectare cost and returns of Chrysanthemum in supa village (Parner tahasil)

Sr.No	Items of Cost	Cost / hectare RS.
1	Hired human labour	5000
2	Bullock labour	12500
3	Manures	14000
4	Plantation	5000
5	Irrigation	4000
6	Fertilizers and Groundnut cake	3000
7	Insecticides and Pesticides	2500
8	Family labour	23000
9	Interest on Working Capital	4500
10	Rental value of land	25800
11	Interest on fixed capital	9800
12	Total cost	109100
13	Total income (Average price per kg 32RS)	272640
14	Net profit (1 hectare)	163540
15	Net profit (per kg).	19.20

Source: - Data Collected During the Field Work (2010-11).

To get more profit the techniques of Chrysanthemum cultivation adopting the farmer are mentioned below-

- 1.Preparatory tillage 4-5 times.
- 2.Manures 7 loaded trolly.
- 3.Preparation of beds.
- 4.Planting of Chrysanthemum in month of may (2010).
- 5.He applied drip irrigation method.
- 6.Interculturing operation 4-5 times.
- 7.More application of potash, phosphorus and Nitrogen.
- 8.Various types of pesticides were used to controlling insect, pests and diseases.
- 9.Pinching is done for removal of growing tips of the plants to reduce the lateral growth.
- 10.Plucking of flowers is done early in the morning.
- 11.A yield of about 7810 to 8520 kg per hectare.

CONCLUSION:-

Chrysanthemum is a cash crop, which gives good returns to the farmers every year. It is clear from the figures presented in the research paper that the area and production of Chrysanthemum increases every year. Some time crop is very sensitive and large amount grown in Ahmednagar district. Chrysanthemum gives more economic returns to the farmers other than any other crops and foreign exchange to the country through export. Through the different activities of this crop, particularly in flower plucking season create more rural employment opportunities. Since the flowers are highly delicate they are sensitive to high amount of rainfall, humidity and temperature. The rainfall in October happens to be the crucial factor for Chrysanthemum. Chrysanthemum growing area soils are shallow, light and murrum. They are well drained

and suitable for Chrysanthemum cultivation.

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