

# **Constraints faced by fruit nursery growers in District Kulgam.**

## **Abstract**

The main purpose of this study is to analyse the constraints faced by the fruit nursery growers in District Kulgam of Jammu and Kashmir. The study is based on personal interview with 218 fruit nursery growers of the district. The study finds that the constraints faced by the fruit nursery growers include non-availability of seedling/planting material, lack of training facilities, inadequate funds, electricity/power cuts and irrigation under production and potential buyers unaware of existing nurseries, less margin/ low profit, low sales, price fluctuation and instability of policies on seedling production under marketing.

**Keywords:** Constraints, fruit nursery growers, kulgam,

## **Introduction**

India is an agrarian nation, with roughly 65% of the population working in agriculture. The agricultural sector provides food, employment, foreign exchange as well as raw materials for the nation's agro-allied industries among other benefits. Massive amounts of fruits and vegetables must be grown in order to supply the nation's growing population's nutritional needs. Therefore, the government has placed great emphasis on growing various fruit trees and medicinal plants around the nation. Improved fruit and medicinal saplings/seedling varieties are essential in this situation to distribute among farmers and other motivated individuals. Numerous privately owned plant nurseries have been developed around the nation, and they are essential to the effective implementation of the nation's tree planting and forestation programmes.

Planting material, such as seedlings, saplings, cuttings, etc., is nurtured, multiplied, and propagated in a nursery under ideal conditions before being transplanted into beds that have been prepared. Plants are nurtured in nurseries by being given the best conditions for growth to ensure germination. The nursery significantly reduces the time needed to raise the following crop. A nursery can be as basic as a raised bed in a field or as complex as a green house with controlled atmospheric systems and micro-sprinklers. Nurseries are an important source supplying the seedlings for meeting the fruit, pulp and paper, fuel wood, timber and other demands of the industries (Bhandari and Nayama,2020).

## **Material & Methods**

The study was conducted purposely in District Kulgam which is having highest number of fruit nursery growers among all the districts. A list of registered fruit nursery growers was obtained from Nursery Registration Office, Lal Mandi, Rajbagh and a list of unregistered fruit nursery growers was obtained from concerned heads (sarpanchs and panchs) of the village. In District Kulgam, there were 118 registered and 100 unregistered fruit nursery growers.

The dictionary meaning of constraint is the threat or use or force to prevent, restrict or dictate the action or thought of orders. Constraints are the circumstances or the causes which prohibit the dairy farmers from adoption of the improved management practices (Rathod et al., 2011). Constraints were faced by the respondents in 2 aspects viz. production and marketing. Each aspect had 5 constraints

under it viz. non-availability of seedling/planting material, lack of training facilities, inadequate funds, electricity/power cuts and irrigation under production and potential buyers unaware of existing nurseries, less margin/ low profit, low sales, price fluctuation and instability of policies on seedling production under marketing. The constraints were measured by constructing scores for each aspect.

Table 1: Ranking of respondents according to constraints faced by the fruit nursery growers in production and marketing.

I)	<b>Production of fruit saplings;</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
a.	Non-availability of seedlings/planting material	IX
b.	Lack of training facilities	I
c.	Inadequate funds	V
d.	Electricity / Power cuts	VI
e.	Irrigation	X
II)	<b>Marketing of fruit sapling</b>	
a.	Potential buyers unaware of existing nurseries	VII
b.	Less margins/low profit	II
c.	Low sales	IV
d.	Price fluctuation	III
e.	Instability of policies on seedling production	VIII

It is evident from Table 1. that, the lack of training facilities ranked first followed by less margins/low profit as second, price fluctuation as third, low sales as fourth, inadequate funds, power cuts, potential buyers unaware of existing nurseries, instability of policies on seedling production, non-availability of planting material and irrigation ranked fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively.

The respondents were asked to indicate the extent of difficulty caused by each constraint by checking any of the four responses such as very high, high, little and not at all and weigh was assigned to these responses as 3,2,1 and 0 respectively. Thus, the possible score of each respondent could range from 0 to 15 in each aspect, 0 indicating no constraints and 15 indicates high constraints. Percentage and frequency of each constraint was obtained and based upon the maximum mean score the constraints were ranked.

An overall constraint score for each respondent was computed by adding his constraints scores in two aspects. Possible range of overall constraint score of the respondent could range from 0 to 30, while 0 indicating no constraint facing and 30 indicating high constraint facing. The 10 aspects of constraints were arranged in a rank order for clear understanding and a Constraint Facing Index (CFI) was developed by using the formula

$$CFI = P_n \times 0 + P_1 \times 1 + P_h \times 2 + P_{vh} \times 3$$

Where,

CFI = Constraint facing index

$P_n$  = Percentage of farmers having no constraints

$P_l$  = Percentage of farmers having little constraints

$P_h$  = Percentage of farmers having high constraints

$P_{vh}$  = Percentage of farmers having very high constraints

CFI for any aspect of constraint could range from 0 to 300, 0 indicating no constraint and 300 highest constraints.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents according to their responses regarding constraints.

N=218

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
No Constraints	94	43%
Low Constraints	61	28%
High Constraints	35	16%
Very High Constraints	28	13%

From Table 2. it is indicated that majority (43%) of respondents didn't faced any constraint, 28 per cent respondents faced low constraints, 16 per cent respondents faced high constraints and 13 per cent respondents faced very high constraints.

The CFI was calculated as,

$$CFI = 43 \times 0 + 28 \times 1 + 16 \times 2 + 13 \times 3$$

$$CFI = 99$$

Table 3: Distribution of the respondents according to their constraints in production of fruit saplings.

N=218

Variable	Categories (Score)	Frequency	Percentage
Production of fruit saplings	Low (upto 5)	124	57.00
	Medium (6-10)	72	33.00
	High (11-15)	22	10.00

From Table 3. it was reported that majority (57.00%) of the respondents faced low constraints regarding production of fruit saplings followed by 33.00 per cent and 10.00 per cent having medium and high constraints respectively.

Table 4: Distribution of the respondents according to their constraints in production of fruit saplings.

Variable	Categories (Score)	Frequency	Percentage
Marketing of fruit saplings	Low (upto 5)	103	47.00
	Medium (6-10)	85	39.00
	High (11-15)	30	14.00

From, Table 4. it is concluded that majority of the growers (47.00%) had low constraints followed by 39.00 per cent having medium constraints and 14.00 per cent having high constraints regarding marketing of fruit saplings.

### Conclusion

On the basis of the findings and their logical interpretation, it can be concluded that majority of fruit nursery growers faced low constraints followed by medium and high in case of production as well as marketing of fruit saplings. Also, Critical facing index was calculated to be 99%.

### References

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