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Knowledge of Rural Women in Processing and Preservation of Fruits in Udaipur District

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Abstract

The objective of the present study was to identify theknowledge of rural women in processing and preservation of fruits in Udaipur District. The study was conducted in Badgaon andGirwa panchayatsamities of Udaipur district of Rajasthan state. From each panchayatsamiti, two villages were included in the study. The sample consisted of randomly selected 100 rural women, 25 from each village. Interview method was used for data collection. Frequency and percentage were used for analysis of data. Finding of the study reveals that respondents had poor knowledge in fruit processing and preservation practices with overall mean percent score of 17.29. The outcome of the study divulges that the respondents possessed poor knowledge about different components of fruit processing and preservation namely-grading (36.75 MPS), processing and preservation (29.35 MPS), packaging (26.29 MPS), marketing (22 MPS) and storage (16.30 MPS).

***Key words**: Knowledge, rural women, processing and preservation*

Introduction

Women play a significant and crucial role in agricultural development and allied fields including crop production, livestock production, horticulture, post-harvest operations, agro/social forestry, fisheries etc[1]. The nature and extent of women's involvement in agriculture no doubt varies greatly from region to region. Even within a region, their involvement varies widely among different ecological sub-zones, farming systems, castes, classes and stages in the family cycle. But regardless of these variations, there is hardly any activity in agricultural production, except ploughing in which women are not actively involved. They play major role in animal husbandry, horticulture and poultry which are their main source of income and it is noticed that they always involved in labor and tolerance intensive works like transplantations and weeding operations. The result of the research studies indicated that despite the dominance of the labor force, women in India are still facing extreme disadvantages; they have less knowledge, limited access to technology, low capital, low credit facilities etc. Thus, it is imperative and allied areas.

Material and Methods

The study was conducted in Udaipur district of Rajasthan state. There are number of fruits grown in Udaipur district like- Mango, Lime, Banana, Papaya, Guava and Aonla. Out of which three fruits having highest production were selected purposively for the present study. Udaipur district consists of seventeen panchayat samities out of which two panchayat samities-*Badgaon* and *Girwa* were selected purposively on the basis of highest production of the selected fruits. A list of villages was prepared and two villages each from both the panchayatsamities namely Badi and Madar from Badgaon panchayat samiti and Sesarma and Bujda from Girwa panchayat samiti were selected for the present study. A village wise list of rural women, who were growing one of the selected fruit in their orchards, was prepared. A sample of 25 rural women was randomly selected from each village making a total sample of 100 rural

women from four villages. Data were collected with the help of interview schedule. Frequency, percentage and Mean Weighted Score were used for analysis of the data.

Results and Discussion

Knowledge level of the respondents

To know the knowledge level of the respondents about fruits processing and preservation practices, they were grouped in three categories namely poor, average and good on the basis of their mean percent scores. Perusal of the Table 1indicates that the respondents had average knowledge about processing and preservation practices of fruits as overall mean per cent score of knowledge was found to be 17.29. Distribution of the respondents in different categories of knowledge depicts that majority of them 63 per cent were in the category of poor knowledge whereas, 35 per cent belonged to the average knowledge category and only 2 per cent of the respondent had good knowledge regarding fruit processing and preservation practices.

Table 1 Distribution of the respondents by their overall knowledge about fruits processing and preservation practices

N=100

S. No.	Knowledge Category	Score range	f/%
1.	Poor	Up to 33.33	63
2.	Average	33.33-66.66	35
3.	Good	Above 66.66	2

MPS of Knowledge:17.29

Knowledge of the Respondents Regarding Practices of Fruits Processing and Preservation

To find out knowledge of the respondents about practices of processing and preservation of fruits seven practices were identified and knowledge of the respondents was judged in light of these practices. The results pertaining for the study were presented as under:-

Table 2 Component wise Knowledge of the respondents in fruits processing and preservation practices

N=100

S. No.	Components	MPS
1.	Fruit selection	70.66
2.	Washing	56.75
3.	Grading	36.55
4.	Processing and preservation	29.35
5.	Packaging	26.28
6.	Storage	16.30
7.	Marketing	22
Overall		17.29

Data given in Table 2, reveal component wise knowledge of the respondents in fruits processing and preservation practices. Critical examination of the knowledge score highlights that the respondents possessed average knowledge in two components namely – fruit selection (70.66MPS) and washing (56.75 MPS). This might be due to the reason that all these practices were performing by respondents independently or with male members, so they had knowledge about these aspects. Data further shows that respondents possessed poor knowledge about grading (36.75 MPS), processing and preservation

(29.35 MPS), packaging (26.29 MPS), marketing (22 MPS) and storage (16.30 MPS). This might be due to lack of knowledge among the respondents regarding these components.

Study revealed that majority of the farmers had knowledge about method of harvesting, grading and standardization while only a few farmers had knowledge regarding storage practices[2].

Conclusion

On the basis of findings, it could be concluded thatthe respondents had average knowledge about processing and preservation practices of fruits as overall mean per cent score of knowledge was found to be 17.29.Based on the findings it can be concluded that respondents having average knowledge about fruit selection and washing. Data further revealed that respondents possessed poor knowledge in other components namely-grading, processing and preservation, packaging, marketing and storage. This might be due to lack of knowledge of the respondents regarding these components.

References

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