

## A STUDY ON CHALLENGES FACED IN PALMYRAH CULTIVATION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PERAMBALUR DISTRICT

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### Abstract:

Palmyrah cultivation is a landmark of Perambalur District. In this paper, an attempt has been made to find respondents level of challenge faced by them towards Palmyrah cultivation. Samples of 100 respondents were purposively selected from Perambalur District. The findings of the study were collected using interview scheduled method, and they were analyzed using simple percentage analysis, chi-square test and friedman ranking test. Findings reveal that major challenge faced by the respondents towards Palmyrah cultivation is unstable price in the market. The research concluded that government should organize Palmyrah cultivation related marketing programme to increase their standard of living and to promote economical development in Perambalur District.

**Key Words:** Respondents, Palmyrah Cultivation, Programmes, Government, Uses, Problems, Varieties

### Introduction:

Agriculture is the traditional and fundamental occupation of the Indian economy. If agriculture output increases overall our country economic indication goes upwards. Before and after freedom agriculture remains the largest economic sector in the country and plays a significant role in the overall primary sectors' socio economic development of India. Palmyrah production in Perambalur District plays an important role in the state economy and culture of Perambalur District in southern part of India. Palmyra tree is an altitudinous and swaying tree well known as "Borassus flabellifer". The word "Borassus" was deduced from a Greek word and it means the tough covering of the fruit and "flabellifer", means addict-deliverer. Palmyra win tree belongs to the 'palme' family. Palakkad quarter of Kerala is popularly known as land of palmyra trees. Palmyra trees are known as the icon of this quarter and have a vast artistic, heritage and erudite association. Numerous novels, stories and runes revolve around these trees. The Palmyra tree is the sanctioned tree of Tamil Nadu. In Tamil culture it's called karpaha, "nungu" "elysian tree", and is largely reputed because all its corridor can be used. The Asian Palmyra win is a symbol of Cambodia where it's a veritably common win, set up each over the country. It also grows near the Angkor Wat tabernacle. Once concrete structures came popular, palmyrah lost its significance. In 1987, the Tamil Nadu government banned toddy, a fermented drink tapped from the inflorescence, adding to the decline of palmyrah products.

### Review of Literature:

H. S Gopal Rao (2000) in his study Experience in Agricultural Marketing in India states that it is only now that the developing countries have decreasingly honored that the agrarian marketing system plays a pivotal part in profitable development, not only by physically distributing increased product through impulses but also distributing the benefits of growth. As a result, numerous governments have now tried numerous approaches to develop the marketing system, with varying degrees of success.

Sunilkumar's (2003) part of futures requests in stabilisation of agro commodity prices expressed concern over the wide price oscillations in the commodity requests and the absence of request grounded threat instruments and the plight of growers towards less parlous civilization which perpetuates the growth of Indian husbandry.

S. Shanmuga Sundaram and Mr. Natarajan (2001) in their composition A study on Uzhavar Sandhai (With Special Reference to Heirs station Towards Suramangalam Uzhavar Sandhai, Salem), have examined the operations of growers request and set up that growers requests help the growers to get a reasonable price for their yield avoiding all unwanted and unreasonable charges. The consumers were eased to get fresh vegetables at a cheaper price without any malpractice in importing. Their disquisition urged them to suggest establishment of telephone installations, extension of business time (working hours) and working of the request both in the morning and evening.

### Statement of the Problem:

Palmyrah had been a prime source of income of many families in Perambalur District for long, but the situation has changed drastically in recent years. Scarcity of skilled labour and pest attacks have dealt a hard blow to the prospects of the crop.

Escalating labour cost has been one of the major factors that uprooted the confidence of the Palmyrah farmer. Many farmers turned away from Palmyrah farming and several among them switched over to rubber, lured by the handsome prices it fetched. The prices of Palmyrah in various markets also indicate a disadvantage to the Perambalur District farmer. Migration of labour to other areas such as construction industry, textile industry, steel industry has weakened the position of the Palmyrah industry. In this context it is very interesting to identify the challenges faced by the respondents in Palmyrah cultivation in Perambalur District.

#### Objectives of the Study:

- To identify the Palmyrah scenario in Perambalur District.
- To examine challenges faced by respondents in Palmyrah cultivation with special reference to, Perambalur District.

#### Research Methodology:

Perambalur District is the study area selected for this research. Primary data is collected through interview schedule method using well-structured questionnaire. A sample of 100 respondents in Perambalur District have been selected by using purposive sampling method. The collected information were reviewed and consolidated into a master table. For the purpose of analysis the data were further processed by using statistical tools. The statistical tools are

- Simple Percentage
- Chi-Square Test
- Friedman Ranking Method

#### Limitations of the Study:

- The study is restricted to the selected sample of Perambalur District and hence the result of the study cannot be generalized.
- The statistical methods used to analyze the data have their own limitation.
- All the limitations of primary data are applicable to this study.

#### Analysis and Interpretation:

##### Demographic Profile of the Respondents:

Table 1 describes the demographic profile of the respondents for the study. Out of 100 respondents who were taken for the study: it has been identified that most (63%) of the respondent are male, (57%) whose age group is under 26 to 50 years, most (68%) of the respondents are graduates, the annual income of (42%) respondents is above Rs.2,50,000, (54%) of the respondents have 2 to 10 acres farm area for their agriculture, (52%) of the respondents have above 10 years farming experience, (64%) of the respondents belong to joint family.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of the Respondents

Factors	Number of Respondents N=100	Percentage
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	63	63
Female	37	37
<b>Age (Years)</b>		
Up to 25	14	14
26 to 50	57	57
Above 50	29	29
<b>Educational Qualification</b>		
Up to School Level	68	68
Graduate	21	21
Post Graduate	11	11
<b>Annual Income</b>		
Up to Rs.1,00,000	24	24
Rs.1,00,001 to Rs.2,50,000	34	34
Above Rs.2,50,000	42	42
<b>Farm Size (Acres)</b>		
Up to 2	27	27
2 to 10	54	54
Above 10	19	19
<b>Farming Experience (Years)</b>		
Up to 2 Years	33	33
2 to 10 Years	25	25
Above 10 Years	52	52
<b>Type of Family</b>		
Nuclear Family	36	36
Joint Family	64	64

Table 2: Relationship between Respondents Demographic Profile and Level of Challenge Faced in Palmyrah Cultivation

Variables	Level of Challenge			Total	x <sup>2</sup> Value	Table Value	Remarks
	Low	Moderate	High				
Gender							
Male	13	22	38	63	7.634	5.991	S
Female	8	13	16	37			
Age (Years)							
Up to 25	4	5	5	14	12.499	9.488	S
26 to 50	17	26	14	57			
Above 50	12	5	12	29			
Educational Qualification							
Up to School Level	26	20	22	68	16.178	9.488	S
Graduate	8	8	5	21			
Post Graduate	4	3	4	11			
Annual Income							
Up to Rs.1,00,000	11	7	6	24	11.823	9.488	S
Rs.1,00,001 to Rs.2,50,000	9	19	6	34			
Above Rs.2,50,000	14	18	10	42			
Farm Size (Acres)							
Up to 2	12	8	7	27	12.613	9.488	S
2 to 10	19	23	12	54			
Above 10	4	9	6	19			
Farming Experience (Years)							
Up to 2 Years	12	9	6	33	12.543	9.488	S
2 to 10 Years	15	21	18	25			
Above 10 Years	8	6	5	52			
Type of Family							
Nuclear Family	7	20	9	36	3.598	5.991	S
Joint Family	18	34	12	64			

\*significant at 5% percent level

#### Relationship between the Demographic Profile and Level of Challenge towards Palmyrah Cultivation:

Table 2 depicts the relationship between selected demographic variables and Level of the Challenges faced by the respondents towards Palmyrah cultivation. It is clear that, the calculated Chi-square value is greater than the table value at five percent level, there exists any significant association between gender, age, annual income, gender, educational qualification, farm size, farming experience, type of family of the respondents and level of challenge faced by the respondents towards Palmyrah cultivation.

Table 3: Challenges Faced by the Respondents - Friedman Rank Test

Problem	Average Rank	Rank
Lack of Motivation	3.7	4
Lack of Access of Credit	2.8	5
Unstable Price	6.8	1
Climatic Factors	5.2	3
Low Productivity	4.6	2
Deforestation	1.7	6
High Cost of Land	1.2	7

The above table shows about the Friedman Rank Test challenges faced by the respondents towards Palmyrah cultivation were the level of significance is at 0.000 which shows that there is a relationship between the ranks given. The challenges faced by the respondents towards Palmyrah cultivation through Friedman rank test, it is found that majority of the respondents problem are unstable price in the market, Low productivity, climatic factors, lack of motivation, Lack of access of credit, Deforestation and preservatives. Thus, it found from the above table that most of the respondents problem towards Palmyrah cultivation is unstable price in the market.

#### Conclusion:

Palm sector is facing a lot of challenges now a days. First of all, repliers don't get the right price for win. But in megacity side it's vended for further than three times that of the price growers get. Therefore the central people take the benefit. Palmyrah, the State tree of Tamil Nadu that has ecological and profitable value, is all set to get its due place in the State again. Within six months, the husbandry department is aiming to plant 76 lakh palmyrah seeds across the State along the banks of water bodies, agrarian land, free land, government poramboke land, and on roadsides. Chief Minister MK Stalin

launched a "Palmyrah Development Mission". The State government has allocated Rs 3 crore towards the procurement of seeds and confederated workshop. The original plan was to plant the seeds in 30 sections; this was latterly altered to encompass the entire State, with the focus being pastoral areas. Conversations are on to plant around 25,000 seeds along Coovum banks and other applicable places in Chennai, in association with the Public Works Department (PWD) and the Chennai Corporation. Numerous entrepreneurs are engaged in exporting palmyrah products. So, in the long run, planting this tree in large figures is an economically important move.

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