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## Knowledge level of the farm women about improved food grain storage practices

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In order to study the knowledge level of the farm women, 120 farm women were selected randomly from Raigad district of konkan region. The special designed schedule was used for collection of data. The data was collected for the year 2009. The qualitative data were quantified using suitable statistical tools. In an agrarian country like India, women undertakes the major share of farm work and homestead practices. They store food grain by using different storage structures and practices in household. Various technical practices followed by farm women for storage of food grains. The data regarding 'knowledge' about improved food grain storage practices revealed that three fifth (60.00 per cent) of the respondents had 'medium' knowledge. While 17.50 per cent and 22.50 per cent respondents had 'low' and 'high' level of knowledge respectively. Almost all the farm women had knowledge of 'Prevention of food grain from moisture' (100.00 per cent), 'control measures for stored grain pest on pulses' (100.00 per cent) followed by 'preventive control measures for stored grain pest' (99.16 per cent). Only few respondents had knowledge about precautions taken at the time of use of fumigants (11.67 per cent), percentage of the moisture in food grain at the time of storage (6.67 per cent). However, it was observed that only few respondents had knowledge about precautions taken at the time of use of fumigants (11.67 per cent), percentage of the moisture in food grain at the time of storage (6.67 per cent). All the respondents did not knew the name of insecticides. Thus, development worker and extension agencies in the region should undertake suitable strategy to improve knowledge level of stored grain practices those are least known to farm women.

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## Production of Marigold in Kolhapur and Sangli district of Maharashtra

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Marigold is a seasonal flower and can be grown round the year. Marigold flowers gained popularity amongst gardeners and dealers on its easy cultivation and wide adaptability. Both leaves and flowers are equally important from medicinal point of view. The essential oils of marigold find use in the perfume industry. Marigold probably ranks next only to jasmine in India. Marigold is used as the trap crop in the borders to attract the insects attacking the main crop. In India, during the area under floriculture is (60487.6 hectares). The highest area under floriculture was found in Karnataka (20,780 hectares), followed by Tamil Nadu (16,745 hectares), West Bengal (13,720 hectares), Andhra Pradesh (8,420 hectares). These states together accounted for 98.64 per cent of the total area in the country. Karnataka alone accounts for nearly 75 per cent of total floriculture exports from the country at ₹10 million and rose dominating at 90 per cent. The area under floriculture in Maharashtra during 2010-11 was 15000 hectares, out of which marigold contributes 29 per cent share with an area of 4350 hectares. While the production of floriculture is 64,400 million tones out of which marigold contributes 33,488 million tones which is account to about (52 per cent). Analysis of reasons for variation in the yield and fluctuations in income resulting from marigold cultivation in the command would be useful for the farmers of the India. Hence a study has been undertaken with the objective to estimate cost and returns in marigold production. The study revealed that, The per hectare cost of cultivation at Cost A was ₹108634.30, Cost B was ₹192352.27 and Cost C was ₹202046.40. Per hectare net return was ₹227206.60. Major items of cost were rental value of land (35.41 per cent) followed by seedlings (29.98 per cent), human labour (12.69 per cent) and interest on fixed capital (6.03 per cent). Regarding the profitability of marigold cultivation, crop is found to be profitable at all the cost levels. Benefit- Cost ratio at Cost A, Cost B and Cost C were 3.95, 2.23 and 2.12 respectively and per kilogram cost of production was worked out to be ₹16.22, per kilogram return ₹34.47 and per kilogram net profit was ₹18.24 respectively.

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