

Pomegranate farming in Atpadi Tahasil of Sangli District, Maharashtra. A geographical Analysis

Mr. Dattatray D. Jadhav

Ass. Prof. Dept. of Geography
Shrimant Babasaheb Deshmukh
Mahavidyalaya Atpadi
Dist- Sangli, Maharashtra.

Abstract:-

Pomegranate farming is a boon given by nature to the people in Atpadi taluka. Atpadi taluka is located in rainshadow region. Due to annual rainfall of 25 to 50 mm and dry climate pomegranate are cultivated well. It plays a important role in economy of people. Out of total area under cultivation 42 % of area is under pomegranate cultivation. Pomegranate require less water and can be cultivated on various types of lands. Due to pomegranate cultivation employment is provided in Atpadi taluka. It is a source of development for farmers but due to frequent drought, diseases like Telya, Bibya, Kujva farmers face a huge loss frequently. As compared to Jowar, Bajra and pulses pomegranate cultivation is profitable. Shrimant Babasaheb Deshmukh Market Yard in Atpadi has a large level of Business of pomegranate. Export of pomegranate takes place to other states of India.

Study Area :-

Atpadi taluka in the northern part of Sangli district in Maharashtra is located on the northern side of Mahadev Mountain range in Sahyadri hills. Atpadi taluka has axial extension from 17° 36' north axis and linear radius from 74° 44' east to 75° 10' east. Total area of Atpadi taluka is about 87,171 hector and about 46,465 hector is under cultivation. There are 56 villages. Daling cotton is an important crop in the economy of the Taluka and so is sheep and goat business.

Atpadi taluka extends from pimprikhurdh in the east to Pimpri Budruk in the west. Rajewadi in the north Hivtad in the south. In the field study Nimbavde, Jambulni, Kamath, Kargani, Gomewadi, Shetphale, Madgule, Kalthuli, Dighanchi has been selected as the study area for pomegranate farming in the village. Also the current status of all other nearby villages have been taken into conslderation.



Weather :-

The general climate of Atpadi taluka is hot and dry. Annual average rainfall is 25 to 50cm. The average annual temperature is 32°C. Low rainfall and hot climate are nutritious for pomegranate. Therefore the climate in this taluka is nutritious for pomegranate cultivation.

Goals and objectives :-

- 1) To study the importance of pomegranate farming in the agricultural economy.
- 2) To study the damage done to cultivation due to drought.
- 3) To study effect of different diseases on pomegranate.
- 4) To study the facility of water storage.
- 5) To study the effect of pomegranate farming on human life.
- 6) Use of barren land for pomegranate cultivation.
- 7) To draw conclusions about the problems of Pomegranate Cultivation and to suggest solutions to solve these problems.

Assumptions :-

Due to the favorable climate of Atpadi Taluka Pomegranate has been Successfully Cultivated Since 1990, but today it is lagging behind in entire taluka. So the following assumptions are taken into Consideration.

- 1) The experiment of pomegranate has been sorted successfully in 1990.

- 2) Pomegranate has been cultivated on a large scale every year since 1995.
- 3) The importance of pomegranate increased in the economy of taluka.
- 4) During the drought of 2003 the condition of pomegranate cultivation deteriorated.
- 5) Spread of disease like Telya and Bibya.
- 6) Due to drought of 2010 to 2012 their was decline agriculture.
- 7) People were deported due to drought.

Year	Area Under pulses (Acres)
1990	127
1995	1971
2000	6375
2005	9045
2010	12450
2015	49510

Importance of Pomegranate farming study.

The study of pomegranate farming helps and guides thinkers and planners and further is useful as follows.

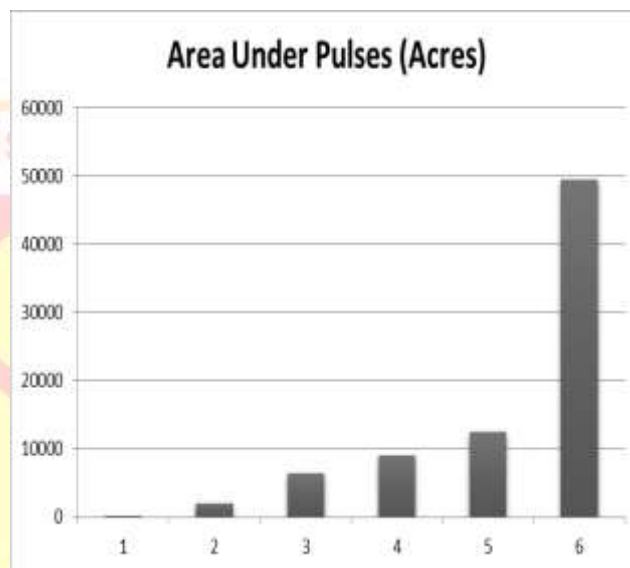
- 1) Useful for agricultural reform geographers who want agricultural development.
- 2) Useful for account introducing new irrigation improvements.
- 3) Suitable for suggesting drought remedies.
- 4) Useful for water management planners.

Direction of pomegranate farming:-

From 1950, experimental cultivation of pomegranate was started in Atpadi taluka. Initially cultivation started in the Eastern part of Pimpri Khurd, Madgule and Atpadi areas. Since 1995 the Pomegranate farming expanded in full Atpadi taluka. And by 2002, it was reversed as an important crop in the taluka. Initially Pomegranate was being sold in the big markets of Maharashtra it gradually entered the markets of Mumbai, Delhi and Calcutta in India. After 1995, Atpadi Pomegranate entered market of Europe and also the other part of the world. As a result, the economic output of the farmers increased. The following varieties have been researched from the Agricultural University Since 1990. Among the varieties cultivated in Atpadi are as follows.

- 1) Ganesh
- 2) Mrudula
- 3) Bhagva
- 4) Arakhtha
- 5) Ganesh 137

Initially farmers planted a large number of Ganesh saplings. But later in the period Bhagva, Mrudula, Arakhtha etc were cultivated extensively. Pomegranate of Bhagva variety started getting higher rates.



Due to favourable climate in Atpadi taluka Pomegranate are grown three times a year.

- 1) Mrugh bahar -June - July
- 2) Hasth bahar -September- October
- 3) Ambe bahar -January- February

Pomegranate is a low water (drip irrigation) crop grown in the rain shadow region of Atpadi taluka, therefore, till the year 2009-10 this crop was developing on a large scale.

Pomegranate farming Conditions:-

Due to the drought in 2003 production of Pomegranate declined. But then production improved and the economic condition of the farmers improved. Since 2005 Pomegranate has been affected by two disease Teliya and Bibya. Because of Teliya disease sticky oil like substance gets accumulates in the stem and on the leaves. Bibya disease Caused stains on the fruits and the fruits start cracking after sometime. Researchers were not able to find out remedies to stop spreading of this disease. Still Pomegranate farming was satisfactory. But since 2010 there was no heavy rain. As a result

groundwater level continued to decline. As a result, the crops started getting less water.

In the present situation when 7500 acres of Pomegranate trees in Atpadi taluka were thrown away due to wilting. When small amount of water is available only then Pomegranate trees are in good condition. Only 2500 to 3000 acre of orchards are in good condition.

After 1995 the economic condition of the people in taluka changed. The rate of sugarcane harvesting was low and people got employment. Due to crop guarantee people took out loans and started Pomegranate farming this raised living standards of the people. The biggest change was the Pomegranate orchard. Nature gave many wounds, but still the farmer stood stubbornly. Since there is not even a simple drizzle of rain in 24 months, now the whole game is over. As a result it is the true to relocate for employment.

The farmer went into debt. Even if it rains this year, farmers will not be able to cultivate it newly.

Here are some suggestions to look into the problems faced.

- 1) The Tembu Yojana work should be completed as soon as possible.
- 2) Central and state government should provide early grants.
- 3) River joining projects should be started.
- 4) Block water seep water scheme should be started.
- 5) Various small, medium and large scale projects are required to store water in large scale.
- 6) Prioritize water shed development programs.
- 7) Government should not collect interest from farmers.
- 8) After the availability of irrigation facility or after the rains, farmers should be encouraged by giving concessions in interest rates.
- 9) Drought and drought management rates are the top agenda of the states.
- 10) There is a need to enable rain fore-casting system

Reference :-

- 1) Panchyat Samiti Annual report
- 2) News paper Articles on drought.
- 3) Field visit.
- 4) Farmers interview.