

EVALUATION STUDY REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

ON

SEA CASTOR MODEL FARMS



Presented by
Dr. C. M. BHUVA
Chief Coordinator
SEA Castor Model Farm



Ecociate Consultants (P) Limited

B 160 , Ground Floor
Sector – 51, NOIDA – 201 301
Uttar Pradesh (India)
Ph: 91-120-4296016



INTRODUCTION

- The SEA Castor Model Farms Project aims to
 - Improve castor farming practices
 - Developing a well-balanced approach to resource utilization
 - Reverse declining productivity and improve returns for farmers.

Year	No. of Model Farms	Area Covered (Ha.)
1 st (2016-17)	68	75
2 nd (2017-18)	140	160
3 rd (2018-19)	258	207
4 th (2019-20)	405	328
5 th (2020-21)	362	350
6 th (2021-22)	500	350
7 th (2022-23)	574	400
8 th (2023-24)	600	400



DATA COLLECTION

District	Taluka	Sample Villages	Nos. of Model Farmers	Control Farmers
Rajkot	Dhoraji	Supedi	5	0
	Upleta	Kolki	7	4
Kutch	Bhachau	Adhoi, Lakhpat, Rajansar, Sanadhar	9	5
Banaskantha	Deodar	Golavi, Liladhar	9	1
	Tharad	Sedla	3	0
	Deesa	Lavana	3	0
Mehsana	Visnagar	Kamana, Udalpur, Kharavada	12	6
Total			48	16





FARMER FEEDBACK

Information	Model Farmers (48)
Castor seed sowing process training	All 48 farmers
Awareness of land preparation process	42 out of 48 farmers
Receipt of free castor farming kit	All 48 farmers
Incidence of caterpillar in farm	9 out of 48 farmers
Project team visit frequency	Each Model Farmer visited at least once in 15 days



PICKING : MODEL FARMS VS CONTROL FARMS

District	Av. Picking Model Farms	Av. Picking Control Farms	Additional Picking (%)
Rajkot	7.6	7.1	+7.00
Kutch	7.2	6.8	+6.00
Banaskantha	5.7	5.3	+7.50
Mehsana	5.1	4.4	+15.90
Overall	6.4	5.9	+8.50





EFFECTIVENESS & AVERAGE FARM INCOME

District	Model Farms			Control Farms			Growth (%)
	Av. Productivity (Kg/Ha)	Av. Price /Kg	Total Farm Income (in Rs.)	Av. Productivity (Kg/Ha)	Av. Price /Kg	Total Farm Income (in Rs.)	
Rajkot	5855	56.0	327880	4437	56.0	248472	+32.0
Kutch	4472	56.0	250432	3545	56.0	198520	+26.0
Banaskantha	4052	57.5	232990	2947	57.5	169452	+37.5
Mehsana	3284	55.0	180620	2509	55.0	137995	+31.0
Overall	4416	56.75	250608	3359	56.75	190623	+31.5

- Only 12% Model farmers had sold part of their Castor harvest in 2024.
- Farmers want the prices to increase. Existing prices are not attractive.



IMPACT

Number of Model Farmers (48)	Recall of Model Castor Project Message/Practices
48	Recall technique of spacing castor plants
34	Recall method of applying fertilizer during land preparation and sowing
31	Recall use of castor de-oiled cakes as fertilizer
39	Agree with benefits of spacing after observing plant growth and branching
33	Willing to undertake learning from model farming methods in next cropping season
28	Shared experience with friends and relatives who also grow castor
22	Express need for SEA project to continue providing support, including providing seeds and ASP**

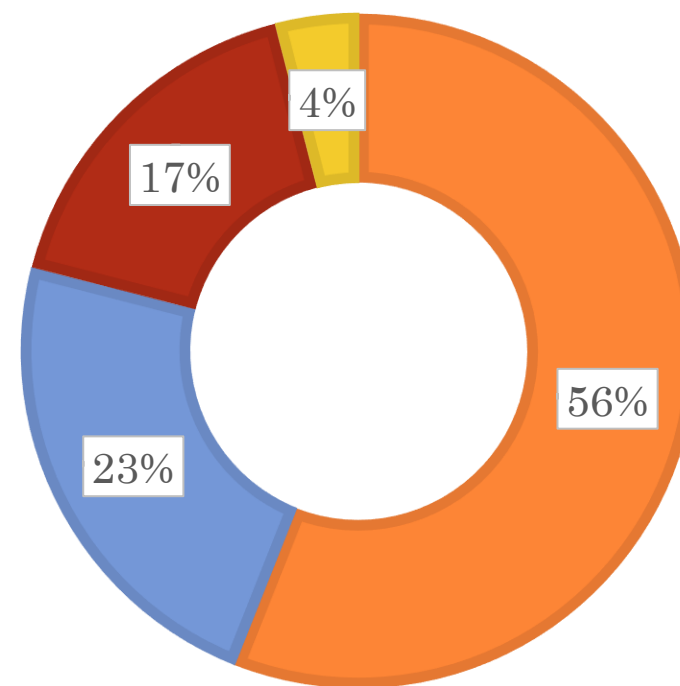
** Model Castor Project does not repeat its operations in any village or its proximity after one year



SATISFACTION WITH MODEL CASTOR FARM

- The Handholding approach is appreciated by the farmer.
- Regular visits has built confidence.
- Technical support during cropping and managing crop protection has built satisfaction.
- Satisfied farmers willing to apply the techniques in all cropping area in 2024.
- Lesser satisfaction is because of losses due to cyclone and pests that damaged crops in two project districts.

Very Satisfied Satisfied
Less Satisfied Dissatisfied





CONCLUSION

- Spacing of plants is most recalled benefit and farmers are willing to extend the practice to their other castor growing fields in future.
- Because of castor cropping distance, some farmers in Rajkot experimented with inter-cropping. However, they faced challenges in managing the inter-cropping practices.
- Use of ASP instead of DAP and Urea has changed their practices. Retained the ASP bags for future reference and purchase. Relate to lower cost.
- Use of Castor Oil cakes was unheard of and majority intend to use it in future. Some still could not relate it to crop protection.
- Less Seed for sowing and use of ASP, directly relate to lower cost of production.
- The project team's efforts have been efficient and resulted in the optimal use of resources.
- Project farmers are willing to continue the new practices. Some of them feel that another year of support would be helpful.



Thank You!

