Summary & Conclusion
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This deals with the review of problems, objectives, research methodology and summary of major findings and conclusions based upon them. The purpose of the present study was to analyze the impact undertaken for improved cultivation of saffron, so that suitable measures and guidelines may be suggested for greater adoption to reduce technological gap and further improvement of the saffron in our economy on the one hand and its poor production and productivity on the others, the present investigation was entitled “A Study on Technological Gap and Constraints in Cultivation of Saffron in Kashmir Valley” was undertaken.

The present investigation was undertaken in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmir Valley was selected purposively, district Pulwama, Srinagar and Budgam were selected in which block Pampore, Srinagar and Nagam were selected from each district respectively. One hundred eighty (180) respondents were selected in twelve saffron growing villages by random sampling method and finally saffron growers were further divided into three categories i.e. small medium and big growers according to their land strength. The data were collected through personal interview by structured questionnaire, then tabulated and statistically analyzed.
Findings:

(1) **Determination of attitude:** It was observed in the present investigation that 52.78 per cent of the saffron growers had neutral attitude, followed by 28.89 per cent had favourable attitude and 18.33 per cent had unfavourable attitude towards saffron cultivation. The large saffron growers placed at top (45%) favourable attitude followed by (30%) and (11.67%) in case of medium and small growers. In case of neutral attitude it was (55 %) 53.33 per cent and 50.00 per cent in case of small, medium and big growers respectively. While 33.33 per cent, 16.67 per cent and 5.00 per cent from small, medium and big growers respectively fall under the category of unfavourable attitude.

(2) **Determination of technological gap:** The average technological gap of all the saffron growers in the study area was 49.15 per cent. The gaps of large, medium and small saffron growers were 44.00, 47.33 and 55.73 per cent respectively. The highest gap 53.74 per cent was determined in post harvest technology out of all the five main package of practices in saffron cultivation. It was followed by 50.20 per cent in planting of corms, 49.62 per cent in ploughings and manure/ fertilizer application, 47.49 per cent in plant protection and 44.71 per cent in land preparation and intercultural practices. 13.33 per cent of the growers were in low level of technological gap which was made of 21.66 per cent,
11.66 per cent and 6.66 per cent of big, medium and small growers respectively. It was followed by 43.89 per cent in medium level technological gap which was made of 50.00, 45.00 and 36.67 per cent of big, medium and small growers respectively. While 42.78 per cent fall under high level of technological gap, which constitutes 56.67, 43.34 and 28.34 per cent of small, medium and big growers respectively.

(3) Analysis of technological gap with independent variables:

I. Small growers technological gap and independent variables:

The technological gap of small saffron growers had significant and negative correlation with education, extension contact and knowledge. The technological gap also shows a positive and significant relationship with attitude and socio-economic status, while as a positive and non-significant relationship of technological gap with age and caste was observed.

The significant regression co-efficients of education ($V_2$), extension contact ($V_3$) and knowledge ($V_6$) influenced the technological gap of small saffron growers. All the parameters contributed to the extent of 72.20 per cent of variation in the technological gap of small farmers. The computed ‘F’ ratio was 23.52, was significant at 0.05 and 0.01 per cent level of probability.
II. Medium growers technological gap and independent variables:

The technological gap of medium saffron growers shows a significant and negative relationship with education and extension contact variables. Age, socio-economic status, knowledge and attitude were found to be positively significant with technological gap of medium growers. While as caste had a positive and non-significant correlation with technological gap of medium growers.

The significant regression co-efficients of education (V₂) and extension contact (V₅) influenced the technological gap of small saffron growers. All the variables jointly explaining 69.10 per cent of variation in the technological gap of small saffron growers. The computed F-ratio was 16.16, was significant at 0.05 and 0.01 per cent level of probability.

III. Big growers technological gap and independent variables:

The technological gap of big saffron growers had significantly negative relationship with extension contact. Age, education, socio-economic status, knowledge and attitude variables has significantly positive association with technological gap of medium saffron growers. The one variable i.e. caste had significant and positive relationship with technological gap of big growers.

The regression co-efficient was found significant only in case of the variable i.e. extension contact. All the independent traits jointly
contributed to the extent of 63.50 per cent of variation in the technological gap. The calculated ‘F’ ratio was 12.92 and found significant at 0.05 and 0.01 per cent level of probability.

(4) **Constraints faced:** The constraints pertaining to technological gap by saffron growers were non-availability of water for irrigation, lack of knowledge regarding irrigation schedule, lack of irrigation facility (100%), unstable prices (80%), import of saffron (79.44%), difficulty in replacing corms after every four years (78.88%), non-availability of technology for disease/pest control (78.33%), high cost of corms (77.22%) non-availability of sun dryers (73.88%), high cost of sun dryers (72.77%), high cost of graded corms (68.88%), exploitation by middle men/commission agents (67.77%), non-availability of graded corms (61.11), lack of Govt. initiative to popularize Kashmiri saffron in European market (60.55%), lack of knowledge regarding the management of diseases/pests (58.88%), lack of information about planting cycle of four years, non availability of FYM for crop (55 %), dishonesty in weighing (46.11%), no quality control (45%), less saffron production from graded corms during the first year (43.88%), lack of knowledge regarding appropriate dose and method of fertilizer application (40.56%), lack of knowledge regarding corm diseases
(40%), high cost involved in planting (39.44%), low corm yield from graded corms (37.77%) and less demand (34.44%).

Lastly it was concluded that 52.78 per cent of farmers had neutral attitude towards saffron cultivation. In general the overall technological gap was 49.15 per cent, it is the reason for declining the area by 52.37 per cent during last ten years, because there are so many active constraints which hinders the production as well as productivity, especially in marketing and the growers did not get reasonable price of their produce.