

Review Article

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## Grafting as an Alternate Tool for Biotic and Abiotic Tolerance with Improved Growth and Production of Solanaceous Vegetables: Challenges and Scopes in India

Aradhana Sen\*, Ranjit Chatterjee, Pranali Bhaissare and Sushmita Subba

Department of Vegetable and Spice crops, Uttar Banga Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Pundibari, Coochbehar, West Bengal, India

\*Corresponding author

### ABSTRACT

Vegetables shares major part of the daily dishes prepared in Indian kitchen and are rich in carbohydrate, vitamins, minerals and other phyto-nutraceuticals. But less do we know that these vegetables are heavily-laden with synthetic chemicals and pesticides. In order to gain higher yield most of the Indian farmers uses synthetic chemicals and pesticides which ultimately induced in the food chain and affects human and environment health. Though various other environment friendly methods are practiced such as genetically modified crops, but they are mostly time consuming and costly and many a times do not gets well accepted among the consumers due to misconceived ideas. In this situation it is needed that other farmers friendly techniques are to be explored and grafting can be one of them as it is quick, practical in its application and eco-friendly. It has been practiced from many years in Eastern Asia to overcome various vegetable production issues. Mostly related to disease incidences, and abiotic stress tolerance including the soil and water pollution stress. Recently growing awareness of ill effects of chemicals on human and environment health among the consumers, the market of organic products is increasing steeply around the globe. Considering various research works on grafting it can be assumed that it is one of the best method to be included in organic farming practices. The present review work highlights various research works conducted on grafting of solanaceous crops throughout the globe on aspects like biotic and abiotic stress tolerance, growth, yield and quality of crops and how these could be used to improve the present scenario of grafted vegetable cultivation in India.

### Keywords

Grafting, Organic farming, Biotic and abiotic stress tolerance

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### Introduction

A healthy and surplus yield from the land with minimum input is a dream that every farmer aspires for. Since time unknown humans have tried and is still trying to discover diverse techniques and process to improve crop production and to increase the profit from the

land. Sometimes in order to gain more profit the farmer often become negligent and knowingly or unknowingly he use the chemicals which may have detrimental effects not only on the consumer health but also on the farmer himself and may also cost his life while dealing with it, current example is the death of around 11 and hospitalization of 472

farmers in Yavatmal of Maharashtra while spraying pesticides in cotton field (Anon, 2017). The area under suitable cultivation of vegetables is 9541000 ha it is mostly restricted and remains more or less constant year after year, in which the vegetables of solanaceous family holds a large share (Anon, 2015b). Vegetables shares major part of the daily dishes prepared in Indian kitchen and are rich in carbohydrate, vitamins, minerals and other phyto-nutritional. But less do we know that these vegetables are heavily-laden with pesticides. According to a survey report status of pesticide residues in India (April, 2014 - March, 2015) samples of capsicum, green chilli and cauliflower were found having high number of above MRL residues followed by samples of cabbage, eggplant, tomato, okra, bitter gourd, cucumber, green pea and coriander leaves (Anon, 2015a).

Farmers often use perilous chemicals to overcome the loss due to disease and pests. Though Various other environment friendly methods like using resistant varieties or cultivars produced by conventional method of breeding or by using biotechnological tools are also available but they are too much time consuming and require a huge input on research and trials on and off field. In many cases it has been found that even after showing successful stress resistance the genetically engineered crop plants are struggling to create their acceptability in many countries because to fear of various misconceived ideas. Crop rotation can restrict the spread of soil borne pathogens but the area under vegetable cultivation is restricted and remains in use throughout the year moreover overwintering of the infected land causes increase in number too due to growth of other hosts and it do not guarantee the total pathogen free soil as these pathogens may survive in the soil in dormant condition for years (Garber, 1973). Steaming of soil is highly effective but extremely costly and

requires high cost equipments. In this situation it is needed that other techniques are to be explored and grafting can be one of them as it is quick, practical in its application and eco-friendly.

Grafting though sounds unique and new to many but it is claimed that hints of its practice have been found in ancient Biblical text. The term grafting means transplanting of living tissue. In terms of plant science it means the techniques of uniting two different plants or plant parts in such a way that their vascular system will joined and they will grow together as a single plant exhibiting the characters of both separately. The upper part of the union which bears flower or fruit called the scion and the lower part which holds on the ground is called rootstock. The part used as a scion can be the entire twig or a single bud. It has been practiced from many years in Eastern Asia to overcome various vegetable production issues associated with intensive cultivation using limited arable land.

Its mention has also been found in ancient book written in China in the 5th century and in Korea in the 17th century (Lee and Oda 2003). Initially only the woody perennials were mainly subjected to grafting and by the starting of 20th century grafting began to be used extensively for propagation of annual vegetable crops too (Louws *et al.*, 2010). It is highly popular in Greece, especially in southern areas (Traka-Mavrona *et al.*, 2000). The first interspecific, herbaceous grafting was recorded in 1920 for watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*), in Japan (Tateishi, 1927; Sato and Takamatsu 1930) but for Solanaceous vegetables it took 30 more years (1960's) to commercialise grafting in their production (Lee and Oda, 2003) and the first record of eggplant (*Solanum melongena* L.) grafted on scarlet eggplant (*Solanum integrifolium* Poir.) was reported in the 1950s (Oda, 1999).

Awareness of the chemical residues and their effects on health and legitimate phase out of various pesticides have reawakened the consumers and had made them realise the importance of naturally grown products because of this in recent years, the organically grown vegetables has shown a steep increase in their market demand. Observing the present scenario is quite obvious to predict that future of organic market is going to get more promising. The growers need to be prepared to grab this opportunity and find alternatives which will be not only cost effective, made available in short time in a large number to the growers but also will not need any inorganic inputs on field after planting and the grafted seedlings can be a very reliable approach fulfilling all these criteria, the grafted plants are not only resistant to production problems like vigour, soil pests and diseases under various stressed environmental condition but also to low or high temperature, salinity, water logging, drought, heavy metals and organic pollutants again it can enhance the uptake of nutrients and water use efficiency, increase superior quality of yield by restricting various anti nutritional factors and give more return by expanding the yielding time. Grafting is also reported to increase the of endogenous hormones synthesis in plants (Proebsting *et al.*, 1992); improves water use efficiency which can help to grow plants where regular irrigation is difficult to practice on time; to increase flower and seed production even in stressed environmental conditions (Cohen and Naor, 2002; Lardizabal and Thompson, 1990)

### **Influence of grafting on biotic stress tolerance**

#### **Disease tolerance**

Soil borne diseases like *Fusarium* (*Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici*, race 1 and race 2) and verticillium wilts (*Verticillium dahliae*, races 1 and races 2), bacterial speck

(*Pseudomonas syringae p.v. tomato*), root knot nematodes (*Melodogyne* spp.) and corky root (*Pyrenochaeta lycopersici*) have been reported to be among the most destructive for protected tomato crops (Besri, 2002; Poffley, 2003). These used to be controlled by fumigants from which methyl bromide but after the Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in 1992, most of the countries around the globe phases out methyl bromide by 1 January 2005 as it was added to the list of substances that deplete the ozone layer (Anon, 2014).

With rapid development in intensive protected cultivation grafting has become a crucial tool. Root stocks of certain species have excellent tolerance to various soil-borne diseases like *Fusarium*, *Verticillium*, *Phytophthora*, nematodes, and other pests, this kind of resistance developed in the grafted plants may be resulted from limited colonization of bacteria or pathogen in the lower stem and preventing them from invading xylem tissues (Grimault and Prior, 1994). One more reason could be the inherent resistance of the rootstocks and improved plant nutrient uptake which improves disease control in grafted vegetable plants (Table 1).

Few experiments have also reported to provide some protection from viruses when the susceptible scions were grafted on specific root socks. Mahmoud, (2014) found that grafting increased TYLCV tolerance in susceptible plants, delayed the appearance of TYLCV symptoms and increase of yield components compared to non-grafted plants in tomato. Iouannou (2001) observed grafted eggplants showed lower disease incidences with higher yield and fruit size. Similar type of observations were obtained when tomato was grafted onto Beaufort' rootstocks (*S. lycopersicum* and *S. habrochaites* (Hasna *et al.*, 2009). Tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) when grafted onto commercial rootstock

and subjected to infection with *Verticillium dahliae*, the grafted plant exhibited resistance to the verticillium wilt disease (Paplomatas *et al.*, 2002). Grafting of chilli peppers (*Capsicum annuum* L.) is a recent practice where *C. annuum* scions are grafted onto *C. annuum* rootstocks that have soilborne disease and nematode resistance (Morra and Biloto 2006).

Rivard and Louws (2008) found that 'German Johnson' heirloom tomatoes had 0% fusarium wilt incidence in infested soils when grafted onto resistant CRA 66 or Hawaii 7996 tomato rootstock, compared to a 79% incidence on non-grafted controls.

### **Nematode tolerance**

Grafting can be a promising alternative to soil fumigants and a great tool in integrated pest management practice in various crop production systems (Kubota *et al.*, 2008). Grafting of tomato on Beaufort significantly reduced root galling due to root-knot nematodes (Kaskavalci *et al.*, 2009).

Charles *et al.*, (2012) in Florida conducted an experiment and opined that when hybrid rootstocks used for grafting of tomato it significantly reduced root galling due to root knot nematode compared with the non-grafted and self-grafted scions by '80.8% in organic field and by 97.1% in transitional field' when grafted on Survivor rootstock. Similar results were obtained by Burelle *et al.*, (2016). Where he observed non grafted Florida 47 showed more root galling than the grafted plants when 'TX301', 'Multifort', and 'Aloha' used as root stock. Using jimson weed (*Datura stramonium* L.) as a rootstock for grafting tomato, eggplant and sweet pepper showed resistance to root knot nematode infection which results in poor absorption of water and nutrients (Lowman and Kelly 1946).

### **Insect tolerance**

Cortez-Madrigal (2012) reported that grafted tomatoes were less prone to tomato psyllid than the non-grafted, the preference of adult psyllids was 22.8 times higher in tomato than tinguaraque, and three times higher than for grafts. He also studied incidence of other pests and found presence of miners and aphids graft showed an intermediate (2.18±2.16).

### **Influence of grafting on abiotic stress tolerance**

Environmental stress is the most important limiting factor in the current climatic situation for plant growth and horticultural productivity worldwide. Extreme temperature, draught and salinity are the major ones which have influenced crop productivity the most (Schwarz *et al.*, 2010). Increasing global warming, expansion of the saline affected area and lack of availability quality water storage in arid lands are becoming a limiting factor for crop production and climatologists believe that the combined environmental stress in the tropics will only get worse over time. Though several stress tolerant cultivars have been produced through breeding but the complex nature of the genetic tolerance of environmental factors makes it difficult and time consuming (Ashraf and Foolad, 2007) and grafting can be a rapid alternative to develop environmental stress tolerant planting material (Table 2).

### **Temperature tolerance**

Low temperature tolerance: Various research studies have shown that, grafting can remarkably enhance extreme temperature tolerance in plants. low temperature stress were remarkably enhanced in tomatoes when it was grafted unto high altitude rootstock 'LA 1777' of *S. habrochaites*, 'KNVF' (the interspecific hybrid between *S. lycopersicum* x

*S. habrochaites*) and a back cross hybrid rootstocks between *S. habrochaites* 'LA 1778, x *S. lycopersicum* cv. T5 (Okimura *et al.*, 1986; Bloom *et al.*, 2004; Venema *et al.*, 2008). As these rootstocks are related to the eggplants it is possible that they can be used to improve vegetative growth and yield of eggplants at very low temperature (Gao and Liao, 2006). Torvum vigour' an accession of *Solanum torvum* can also be used as rootstock for both tomato and eggplant to impart low temperature tolerance (Okimura *et al.*, 1986).

**High temperature tolerance:** Several researches have demonstrated that different tomato rootstocks have high temperature tolerance and have the ability to transfer tolerance to scions when appropriately grafted (Bloom *et al.*, 2004; Venema *et al.*, 2008; Zijlstra and Nijs, 1987). Wild species of tomato have wider temperature thresholds than the domesticated lines and can be used as root stocks (Venema *et al.*, 2005). The grafted plants exhibited greater quantity of flowers, trusses and fruit production in when compared to non-grafted controls at temperatures considered non-optimal for the scion. However, using eggplant rootstock may be more promising for higher temperature.

Wang *et al.*, (2007) observed yield increases of 10% on eggplant when grafted onto heat-tolerant eggplant rootstock, as they are better adapted to high temperature and arid climate (Abdelmageed and Gruda, 2009). Apart from this various other heat-tolerant rootstocks offers a certain degree of resistance against thermal stress in tomato (Rivero *et al.*, 2003b). Chilli pepper rootstocks (*C. chacoense*, *C. baccatum*, *C. frutescence*, and *C. annum*) also improved performance of the scions and confirmed high yields under high-temperature environments (Palada and Wu, 2008). Similarly when eggplants scion (*S. melongena* cv. Yuanqie) grafted onto heat-tolerant rootstock (*S. melongena* cv. Nianmaoquie)

performed very well, giving a significant increase in growth and yield by 10% (Wang *et al.*, 2007).

### **Drought tolerance**

Day by day moisture stress is becoming an increasingly important issue in agriculture throughout the world especially in arid and semiarid regions (Schwarz, 2010). One of the most common problem with the arid climate is unprotected water resource and grafting can be a rapid and proactive way to cope up with such kind of situation and increase water use efficiency (Garcia-Sanchez *et al.*, 2007; Satisha *et al.*, 2007). Most of the eggplants are drought tolerant hence grafting unto wild eggplants and interspecific hybrids can improve yield and fruit quality under drought conditions Petran, (2013). In an experiment it was observed that grafting cherry tomatoes unto drought resistant rootstocks significantly enhanced fruit quality and yield (Sanchez-Rodriguez *et al.*, 2012).

### **Flood tolerance**

Though water is important for the plants but excess of water results in oxygen deficiency in the root zone and may cause hindrance in root respiration which lead to rotting and disease attack. These obstacles caused by excess of water availability or flooding can be fixed by grafting onto tolerant plant. Petran, (2013) found that, grafting tomato on *S. torvum* rootstocks improved the flood tolerance and yield significantly. Symptoms associated with flood stress like depression in photosynthetic rate, stomatal conductance, transpiration and soluble proteins has been proved to be lessened when crops are grafted onto flood-tolerant rootstock which improves water use efficiency in drought conditions and flood resistance of crops by grafting onto tolerant rootstocks is an appealing low-input option (Kato *et al.*, 2001).

## Salinity tolerance

Due to application of excess and injudicious application of chemical fertilizers about one third of the land of the globe has now become saline (Rivero *et al.*, 2003a) excess salinity, either of the soil or of the applied irrigation water is one of significant environment factors that enormously impacts the crop growth and productivity (Santa-Cruz *et al.*, 2002) as it impacts the physiology, biochemistry and yield of plants, grafting can be a great rescue in significantly decreasing the yield loss due to salinity and salt-tolerant rootstock may possibly become a key management tool for vegetable production under saline conditions in anticipation of better land-use systems that can significantly reduce the extent of crop loss in areas where salinity is intolerable (Rivero *et al.*, 2004). According to the study of Fernandez-Garcia *et al.*, (2004b) when the salinity resistant rootstocks 'Radja', 'Pera' and hybrid 'Volgogradskij' x 'Pera' were used as rootstocks at high levels of sodium chloride, the yield was significantly increased by 80% more than the non-grafted plants, again the amount of sodium and chlorine in the leaves of the grafted plants were also less as the rootstock must have barred the delivery of these harmful ions into the scion.

## Harmful pollutants

The increasing levels of heavy metals in agricultural land are gradually becoming an serious threat not only for crop plants, but also for the environment and human health (An *et al.*, 2004; Gratão *et al.*, 2005; Clemens, 2006; Hong-Bo *et al.*, 2010; Raskin *et al.*, 1997). Non judicial use of large amounts of chemicals, irrigation with the reclaimed wastewater, the application of contaminated soil amendments, sewage sludge and other anthropogenic activities have dramatically increased the concentrations of several nutrient ions as well as heavy metals in the

soils (Guo *et al.*, 2004; He *et al.*, 2005; Yu *et al.*, 2005). Several promising research reported that grafting vegetables can be a way to overcome this problem. Grafting alter ability of plant to filter uptake of potentially harmful organic pollutants (Otani and Seike, 2007). Arao *et al.*, (2008) reported reduction in cadmium (Cd) concentrations in eggplant fruit by grafting *Solanum melongena* onto *Solanum torvum*, they observed that the grafting resulted in reduced leaf and stem Cd concentrations by 67–73% in comparison to non-grafting.

## Enhancement in plant growth with better yield and quality

In an experiment conducted by Khah (2005) it was reported that grafted plants have higher plant height, leaf area index, as well as the fresh and dry weights of stems and leaves and yield was comparatively higher than the non-grafted plants. Harvesting of fruits was also 7 days earlier for the grafted tomato plants. Similar observation was also recorded by Gisbert *et al.*, 2011 and Rahman *et al.*, 2002 when they grafted eggplant cultivars onto perennial and wild *Solanaceous* species. Augmented water and nutrient uptake improved stomatal conductance in tomato when grafted onto vigorous rootstock (Fernandez- Garcia *et al.*, 2004a). Improved photosynthesis rates of grafted plants increase the crop productivity (Matsuzoe *et al.*, 1993). According to Besri, (2003) 15-20% of yield increase was reported for the grafted tomatoes even when only half of the plants were planted. Grafting resulted in bigger fruit size in tomatoes, and thus increased the yield (Pogonyi *et al.*, 2005).

Khah (2005) reported that the grafted eggplants plants had lesser number of seeds than the non-grafted plants fruit. Grafting also affects shape, skin colour, skin or smoothness of rind, texture of fruit flesh, soluble solids

concentration, firmness and improves post-harvest life of the fruits in pepper, tomato and eggplants as affirmed by Nkansah *et al.*, (2013) and Cheng *et al.*, (2012).

According to Gisbert *et al.*, (2011) experiment the fruit protein content, total fruit phenolics content of grafted eggplant plants was higher in comparison to that from non-grafted. Studies revealed that vitamin C,  $\beta$ -carotene content and the antioxidant capacity of tomatoes and bell pepper showed significant increase when grafted (Chávez-Mendoza *et al.*, 2013 and Fernandez-Garcia *et al.*, 2004b). Tsouvaltzis *et al.*, (2004) found that when the tomato cultivar, 'Sacos' was grafted onto 'Primavera' rootstock concentration of calcium in tomato was comparatively higher than the fruits from non-grafted tomato plants. Similar results were confirmed by Khah *et al.*, (2006) when they grafted tomato onto 'He-Man' rootstock.

### **Grafting as alternate source of livelihood for rural vegetable growers**

The demand of grafted seedling is increasing within the country and in global market. The proportion of the area covering under grafted plants of watermelon, cucumber, melon, tomato and eggplant rose to 57% in 1980, and to 59% in 1990 in Japan (Oda, 1993) and it is increasing day by day. Soil fumigants become increasingly expensive and regulated, which resulted in growing interest in grafting, and researchers are now striving to increase grafting efficiency and minimize labor costs (Rivard *et al.*, 2010). It can be said with recent development soon it will get popularized in India too, to meet this growing demand the vegetable grower in general and rural youth in particular can be trained for large scale production of grafted seedlings.

Considering the negative impact of climate change grafted seedlings can be promoted for

mass cultivation in drought and salinity affected areas where most of the land remains unused as waste lands and under the changing climate, this technique could play significant role to improve vegetable productivity in these areas.

Through adaptation of grafted seedling cultivation farmer can save the cultivation cost spent on different pesticides which will also minimize effect of pesticide on human, livestock and environment health.

As a result of the improved growth and vigour from grafting with interspecific and hybrid rootstocks in tomato, many growers have gotten rid of decreased planting densities (Besri, 2003). Thus planting less plants will give more yield from the land.

Continuous cropping is inevitable in vegetable production in indoor areas, which gradually decreasing the yield and quality of produce. Soil sterilization can never be an immune as some amount of pathogens are always be found and causes multiplication during crop growth.

In such situation grafting can become an essential technique for the continuous cropping of fruit-bearing vegetables grown in greenhouses.

### **Challenges in grafting**

Small amounts of alkaloids to the fruits from the rootstock may occur as observed when tomatoes were grafted onto jimson weed (Lowman and Kelly, 1946). The improved resistance and better yield with grafted plants was inconsistent in some cases.

Proper knowledge rootstock-scion compatibility is required which may not be available and understood properly by the rural farmers.

**Table.1** Potential rootstocks of solanaceous vegetable for biotic stress tolerance

Crop	Biotic stress	Potential root stocks
Tomato	Fusarium wilts	Efialto
	Bacterial wilt	Dai Honmei, RST-04-105-T, VI046103 (EG195), VI045276 (EG203), Shin cheong gang F1, and Nordox
	Fusarium crown and root rot	Natalia, Cuore di Bue F1 and He-Man F1
	Southern blight	Beaufort, and Maxifort
	Verticillium wilt	Beaufort
	Root knot nematode	Big Power, VI046103 (EG195) and VI045276 (EG203)
Pepper	Phytophthora blight	PR 920', 'PR 921', and 'PR 922
	Corky root	Eldorado, Beaufort, Snooker
Brinjal	Bacterial Wilt	<i>Solanum toxicarium</i> , <i>S. torvum</i> and <i>S. integrifolium</i>
	Nematode	Beaufort

Source: Bolandnazar *et al.*, 2014; Rivard *et al.*, 2012; Keatinge *et al.*, 2014; Onduso, 2014; Vitale *et al.*, 2014; Hibar *et al.*, 2006; Kaskavalci *et al.*, 2009; Mochizuki and Yamakawa, 1979; Jang *et al.*, 2012; Al- Chaabi *et al.*, 2009; Rivard *et al.*, 2010.

**Table.2** Potential rootstocks of solanaceous vegetable for abiotic stress tolerance

Crop	Abiotic stress	Potential root stocks
Egg plant	High temperature tolerance	<i>Solanum integrifolium</i> × <i>Solanum melongena</i>
	Tolerant to drought	<i>Solanum macrocarpum</i> , <i>Solanum gilo</i> , PKM-1
	Higher yield even at low temperature	<i>S. integrifolium</i> x <i>S. melongena</i>
Tomato	Resistant to water-logging	<i>Solanum laciniatum</i>
	Low and high temperature tolerance	<i>Solanum melongena</i>
	Resistant to drought	<i>Solanum chilense</i>
	Tolerant to drought	<i>Solanum pennelli</i>
	Tolerance to cold and chilling	<i>Solanum habrochaites</i>
	Tolerant to humidity	<i>Solanum cerasiforme</i>
	Resistant to salt	<i>Solanum cheesmanii</i>
	Tolerance to salt	<i>Solanum galapagense</i>
Flood- and drought-tolerances	<i>Solanum torvum</i> , 'EG195' or 'EG203', 'PP0237-7502, PP0242-62	
Chilli	High temperature tolerant	<i>C. annum</i> cv. Toom-1 and 9852-54(AVRDC)
Pepper	Flooding tolerance	Chili accessions 'PP0237-7502', 'PP0242-62' and 'Lee B'
	Water stress tolerant	Atlante, C-40, Serrano, PI-152225, ECU-973, BOL-58 and NuMex Conquistador

Source: Lee *et al.*, (2010); Pandey and Rai (2003); Penella *et al.*, 2014; AVRDC 2003 & 2009.



The majority of users of grafted seedlings is currently greenhouse hydroponic tomato growers, whereas it is still a relatively unknown technique for open-field vegetable growers.

Successful production of grafted plants requirements including synchronization and good germination rates of the rootstock and scion, and high rates of graft success and stand establishment after transplant, which may not be possible for all cases.

Maintaining optimum temperature, humidity, light intensity during the post grafting stage is essential for successful establishment of the grafts which is very difficult in open field condition.

Handling of newly grafted seedlings is tedious as they are too delicate and are very prone to disease and pest attack.

Trained personnel are required to carry out the entire process of grafting. Especially in rural areas availability of trained personnel is a big challenge.

Grafting is a labor-intensive propagation process. More awareness is required about its benefits.

Every season the seedlings needed to be prepared or purchased which discourages large scale adoption.

Uniform production of promising rootstocks is also a big challenge for large growers.

### **Measures to popularize grafted plants for commercial cultivation among Indian Farmers**

Information regarding resistance/tolerance of commercially available rootstocks and potential germplasm usable for breeding new

rootstocks are need to be collected based on locally conducted trials and research.

Several weed species of different solanaceous vegetable can act as potential rootstock should be documented, tested and utilized.

For example, selected lines of *Solanum torvum* Swartz (Turkey berry emerged as a promising rootstock, which is a weed in Florida)

Utilization of biotechnological tools for developing rootstock has been also attempted by researchers in various countries and it should also be promoted in India.

For large scale cultivation of grafted vegetable seedling and the cost of grafting, must be reduced, for example by the introduction of robots for mass production.

Arrangement of awareness and training programme for farmers by the state government and state agriculture universities time to time with new updates regarding grafting techniques will help to motivate the farmers.

Providing initial subsidies to the farmers from the government for shifting from non-grafted to grafted seedling cultivation and helping them to set up small production unit for producing grafted seedlings will encourage quick adoption.

Mass awareness from government as well as private sectors and NGO's regarding the need of grafted plants to combat the pesticide laden cultivation in present day under changing climate scenario is the need of hour. Although India is the second largest producer of the vegetables but the use of grafted planting material for commercial cultivation is meagre Asian Nations Japan, Korea, China used more than 50% of their vegetable crop seedling in

the form of grafted plants. Several countries of the world are promoting grafted seedlings for different solanaceous vegetable. Considering the positive outcomes from numerous research works conducted round the globe on grafting of solanaceous crops it can be predicted that even if 25-30% area of the cultivated area of solanaceous vegetables can be converted into grafted plant cultivation a giant share money spent on chemicals like fungicide, pesticide, insecticide etc. can be saved thus farming will not only becomes environment friendly but also the amount saved can be spent by farmer to improve his livelihood.

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