KNOWLEDGE OF FARMERS ABOUT SOIL FERTILITY

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ABSTRACT

This paper examined Navsari district of Gujarat state to access the Knowledge of farmers about soil fertility.This study has conducted in five villages' viz, Matvad, Aat, Partapor, Karadi, and Mora. A scale developed by teacher to measure knowledge of 50 farmers was aaproached personally by the investigators for the collection of relevant data. majority of less than half percent of farmer had medium level of knowledge of soil fertility followed low, very low, high, and very high level of knowledge about soil fertility respectively. And age, education, mass media exposure, social participation, economic motivation, innovativeness, cosmopoliteness and knowledge regarding soil health card programme is non significant with knowledge about soil fertility and extension contacts, land holding annual income is significant with knowledge about soil fertility and only scientific orientation is highly significant with knowledge about soil fertility.

Keywords : knowledge, soil fertility

INTRODUCTION

Indigenous knowledge of soils is defined as "the knowledge of soil properties and management possessed by people living in a particular environment for some period of time" Local farmers have acquired knowledge from generations of experience and experimentation, as they have had to adapt their agricultural systems using limited resource sunder harsh and insecure conditions. Understanding such knowledge is essential to understand the local realities of farmers and can be critical for the success or failure of agricultural development.

OBJECTIVE

To know the knowledge of farmers about soil fertility

METHODOLOGY

The present investigation was conducted in Navsari district of Gujarat state. All the five villages of Navsari district under were select for the study. Ten respondents from each village were selected randomly and thus total 50 farmers were selected as respondent. For collecting the data from the respondent, personal interview method was used. The statistical tool like Frequency. Percentages, correlation of coefficient were used to analyze the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

To measure the knowledge of farmers regarding soil fertility scale developed by teacher was applied. The experimental findings obtained from the present study have been discussed in following heads:

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge level regarding soil fertility

n = 50

Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Per cent
1	Very low (0 – 2 score)	08	16
2	Low (3 – 4 score)	16	32
3	Medium (5– 6 score)	17	34
4	High (7 – 8 score)	08	16
5	Very high (above 8 score)	01	02

The Table-1 concluded that majority of (34 per cent) farmer had medium level of knowledge of soil fertility followed by 32 per cent , 16 per cent , 16 per cent , and 2 per cent of farmer had low, very low, high, and very high level of knowledge about soil fertility. So from the above table it can be concluded that less than half per cent of the farmers had medium level about soil fertility

Relationship Between The Characteristics Of Farmers And Their Knowledge About Soil Fertility

Table 2 : Relationship between the characteristics of respondents and their knowledge about soil fertility n=50

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation Coefficient ('r' value)
X_1	Age	-0.153 NS
X_2	Education	0.053NS
X_3	Mass media exposure	0.138NS
X_4	Extension contacts	0.298*
X_5	Social participation	0.009NS
X_6	Land holding	0.358*
X_7	Annual income	0.331*
X_8	Scientific orientation	0.507**
X_9	Economic motivation	0.031NS
X_{10}	Innovativeness	0.160NS
X_{11}	Cosmopoliteness	0.237NS
X_{12}	Knowledge regarding soil health card programme	0.112NS

* = significant at 5% level of probability

**= significant at 1% level of probability

NS= non significant

The Table-2 concluded that age, education, mass media exposure, social participation, economic motivation, innovativeness, cosmopoliteness and knowledge regarding soil health card programme is non significant with knowledge about soil fertility and extension contacts, land holding annual income is significant with knowledge about soil fertility and only scientific orientation is highly significant with knowledge about soil fertility.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of above findings and discussion, it can be concluded that majority of farmer had less than half percent of medium level of knowledge of soil fertility followed low, very low, high, and very high level of knowledge about soil fertility respectively.. And age, education, mass media exposure, social participation, economic motivation, innovativeness, cosmopoliteness and knowledge regarding soil health card programme is non significant with knowledge about soil fertility and extension contacts, land holding annual income is significant with knowledge about soil fertility and only scientific orientation is highly significant with knowledge about soil fertility.

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