

## Usefulness of Information About Cotton Production Practices Given During *Krishi Mahotsav*

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### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in jurisdiction of KVK, Mangal Bharti, Vadodara district. Total 10 villages were randomly selected in Sankheda taluka respondents were randomly selected from each village. Respondents of the study were beneficiary farmers of *Krishi Mahotsav* programme which is organized every year by Government of Gujarat. The study was undertaken to know usefulness of information on cotton production practices given during *Krishi Mahotsav*. The study revealed that during *Krishi Mahotsav* programme, the majority of farmers gained new knowledge about land preparation, soil treatment methods, place of availability of soil treatment inputs, name of advantageous chemical fertilizers, deficiency symptoms of major plant nutrients and trade name of weedicides, seed rate, sowing time, spacing, seed treatment inputs, calculating the doze of chemical fertilizer, gap filling, hand weeding, bio-fertilizers, organic manures, fertilizer management during irrigation, critical stages of irrigation and insect management were found useful to the farmers.

**Keywords :** Cotton production practices, Socio-economic characteristics

### INTRODUCTION

The Government of Gujarat celebrates the '*Krishi Mahotsav programme*'. The main aim is to boost up the Agriculture, Animal husbandry and allied production. Gujarat is one of the cotton producing states in the country. Gujarat state has second largest area under cotton after Maharashtra in India. Cotton is widely grown, particularly in Vadodara district. Thus, cotton crop plays an important role in the rural economy. Looking to the importance of cotton crop for farmers, the study was carried out to know the usefulness of *Krishi Mahotsav* on farmers regarding information about cotton production practices given.

### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To know the socio-economic characteristics of farmers
- (ii) To know the usefulness of information about cotton production practices given during *Krishi Mahotsav*

### METHODOLOGY

The study was undertaken by *Krishi Vigyan Kendra*, Mangal Bharti in Vadodara district under middle Gujarat. Total 10 villages were randomly selected in Sankheda

taluka of Vadodara district namely Hareshwar, Kasumbiya, Manjarol, Orwada, Bhuriyakuwa, Aritha, Aambapura, Sundarpura, Kathmandava and Ratanpur. From each village, 10 respondents were randomly selected for the study. Thus the total sample size of the respondents became 100. The data were collected through interview schedule and analyzed with simple statistics.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Socio-economic characteristics of farmers

##### Age

The data indicated that the majority of farmers (61.00 per cent) were in middle age group followed by 26.00 per cent of farmers belonging old age group and 13.00 per cent were under young age group.

##### Education

Nearly one-half of farmers (47.00 per cent) were an educated up to primary school level followed by 32.00, 9.00, 6.00 and 6.00 per cent were an education up to secondary level, up to higher secondary level, up to graduate and illiterate respectively.

**Type of family**

The more than half (59.00 per cent) of farmers had nuclear family followed by 41.00 per cent had joint family.

**Family size**

The data depicted that majority of farmers (59.00 per cent) possessed above 4 members i.e. big family size followed by 33.00, 8.00 per cent had 3 to 4 members (medium family), up to 2 members (small family size) respectively.

**Land holding**

The majority of farmers (80.00 per cent) belonged to marginal to small land holding categories followed by 12.00, 6.00, 2.00 per cent were in landless, medium and big land holding categories respectively.

**Milch animal size**

The more than half farmers (53.00 per cent) had

possessed 3 to 4 numbers of milch animals followed by 31.00 and 16.00 per cent of them possessed above 4 animals and up to 2 animals respectively.

**Annual income**

The data indicated that 29.00 per cent farmers had annual income of ₹ 20,001 to ₹ 30,000, while 20.00, 19.00, 12.00 per cent of them had up to ₹ 30,001 to ₹ 40,000 and up to ₹ 10,000, ₹ 10,001 to ₹ 20,000, above ₹ 40,000 annual income respectively.

**Membership in organization**

The majority of farmers i.e. 62.00 per cent had membership in one organization followed by 20.00 and 3.00 per cent of them had membership in more than one organization and office bearer respectively and 15.00 per cent farmers had no membership in organization.

**Usefulness of information about cotton production practices****Table 1 : Usefulness of information about cotton production practices given during *Krishi Mahotsav***

n=100

Sr. No.	Practices	Not given (%)	1 <sup>st</sup> time known correct information (%)	Usefulness (%)	
				Useful (%)	Most useful (%)
1	Sources of seed	09	91	34	66
2	Suitable high yielding variety for the area	11	89	13	87
3	Rate of seeds	100	00	00	00
4	Land preparation	63	37	100	00
5	Soil treatment methods	88	12	100	00
6	Place of availability of soil treatment inputs	91	09	100	00
7	Seed rate	19	81	79	21
8	Price of soil treatment inputs	100	00	00	00
9	Sowing time	40	60	80	20
10	Depth of sowing	38	62	83	17
11	Method of sowing	38	62	50	50
12	Spacing	12	88	78	22
13	Seed treatment inputs	19	81	74	26
14	Gap filling	22	78	79	21
15	Price of fertilizers	100	00	00	00
16	Place of availability of fertilizers	100	00	00	00
17	Name of advantageous chemical fertilizers	45	55	100	00
18	Method and time of fertilizer application	28	72	20	80
19	Nutrient requirements of crop	31	69	72	28
20	Calculating the doze of chemical fertilizer	27	73	85	15
21	Deficiency symptoms of major plant nutrients	87	13	100	00
22	Bio-fertilizers	10	90	10	90
23	Making organic matter from farm waste	79	21	76	24

Sr. No.	Practices	Not given (%)	1 <sup>st</sup> time known correct information (%)	Usefulness (%)	
				Useful (%)	Most useful (%)
24	Organic manures	14	86	93	07
25	Chemical weed control	50	50	58	42
26	Price of weedicides	100	00	00	00
27	Place of availability of weedicides	55	45	88	12
28	Trade name of weedicides	60	40	100	00
29	Hand weeding	35	65	93	07
30	Schedule for irrigation	30	70	64	36
31	Critical stages of irrigation	32	68	83	17
32	How to save crop during shortage of water	52	48	68	32
33	Fertilizer management during irrigation	46	54	81	19
34	Method of irrigation	40	60	63	37
35	Insect management	25	75	25	75

As seen from Table 1. Information in *Krishi Mahostav* regarding land preparation, soil treatment methods, place of availability of soil treatment inputs, name of advantageous chemical fertilizers, deficiency symptoms of major plant nutrients and trade name of weedicides found cent percent use full to the farmers. More than two third percent farmers found information use full regarding seed rate, sowing time, spacing, seed treatment inputs, calculating the doze of chemical fertilizer ,gap filling, hand weeding ,bio-fertilizers, organic manures, fertilizer management during irrigation, critical stages of irrigation and insect management. While, Information regarding rate of seeds, price of soil treatment inputs, price of fertilizers, place of availability of fertilizers and price of weedicides were not given during *Krishi Mahostav*.

### CONCLUSION

It could be concluded that majority of the farmers (87.00 per cent) had in middle to old age group. Majority of farmers (79.00 per cent) had an education up to primary to secondary level. It was also observed that the majority of farmers (80.00 per cent) belonged to marginal to small land

holding categories, 53.00 per cent farmers had three to four numbers of milch animals. It could be found that during *Krishi Mahotsav* programme, information regarding cotton production practices like land preparation, soil treatment methods, place of availability of soil treatment inputs, name of advantageous chemical fertilizers, deficiency symptoms of major plant nutrients and trade name of weedicides ,seed rate, sowing time, spacing, seed treatment inputs, calculating the doze of chemical fertilizer ,gap filling, hand weeding ,bio-fertilizers, organic manures, fertilizer management during irrigation, critical stages of irrigation and insect management were found useful to the farmers.

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