

RESEARCH NOTE

Knowledge level of Kharif Rice Growers regarding Plant Protection Practices

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INTRODUCTION

Rice is one of the most important crops in Kheda district and is grown since long time with canal and tubewell irrigation facilities. The crop is heavily infested with numerous insect pests and diseases, some of the appearing as on epidemic form.

Advancement of improved plant protection technology including introduction of very effective seed treatment, chemicals, insecticides, pesticides and fungicides could not reach upto the farmers' field as latter were lacking in knowledge of utilizing them. The introduction of High Yielding dwarf varieties, use of continuous chemical fertilizers and multiple cropping pattern have enhanced food production but at the same time have also aggravated the pest and disease problem in rice.

Farmers' ultimate aim is to get maximum profit out of existing inputs, so in order to fulfil it, one should keep the attack of pest and disease below economic threshold. To findout lacking on farmers side regarding knowledge level of kharif rice growers in plant protection measures, this study was undertaken with following objectives :

1. To assess the knowledge level of the rice growers regarding plant protection practices.
2. To ascertain the relationship between

personal, socio-economic characteristics with knowledge level of rice growers regarding plant protection practices.

METHODOLOGY

Anand Taluka of Kheda district was purposively selected for this study. The list of villages growing kharif paddy was obtained from sub-divisional Agriculture officer (Training and Visit system). Five villages viz. Gamdi, Pansora, Vansol, Ajar-pura and Thamna were selected randomly. From the selected villages the list of kharif rice growers was obtained from concerned VLWs. From each village 10 rice growers were selected. The data were collected with help of interview schedule.

To measure rice growers' knowledge regarding plant protection practices a teacher made test based on Jha and Singh (1970) scale with slight modification have been used and the respondents were classified into three groups viz. Low, Medium and High level of knowledge.

The relationship between personal socio-economic characteristics with knowledge was measured through coefficient of correlation (r).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge level of rice growers

The information regarding knowledge

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Table 1. Distribution of the respondents according to their level of knowledge regarding recommended plant protection practices.

N = 50		
Category	Number	Per cent
Low (below 26.67)	9	18.00
Medium (26.67 to 49.37)	34	68.00
High (above 49.37)	7	14.00
Total	50	100.00

level of rice growers has been presented in Table 1.

Data presented in Table 1 indicate that majority of the respondents 34 (68.00 per cent) were in medium level of knowledge regarding plant protection practices in kharif rice.

Relationship of socio-economic characteristics with knowledge level

The information regarding relationship and socio-economic characteristics of rice

growers with their knowledge level is presented in Table 2.

The data presented in Table 2 indicate that out of nine independent variables age, education, caste, type of family, size of family, land holding, annual income, occupation and social participation, only one independent variable education was found significant in relation to knowledge of the farmers relating to plant protection practices in kharif rice. This might be due to the fact that educated farmers having

Table 2. Relationship between socio-economic characters with knowledge.

Sr. No.	Independent variable	'r' value
1.	Age	0.21079
2.	Education	0.35527*
3.	Caste	0.16363
4.	Type of family	-0.07300
5.	Size of family	-0.10257
6.	Land holding	0.05227
7.	Annual income	0.25948
8.	Occupation	-0.08829
9.	Social participation	-.1749

r = Co-eff. of correlation * Significant at 0.05 per cent level of significance.

progressive outlook might be eager to utilise latest plant protection measures.

of knowledge and education found directly related with knowledge regarding plant protection practices in kharif rice.

CONCLUSION

It may be concluded that majority of the respondents possessed medium level

Either follow or remember

- ☞ Theory guides, practical decides.
- ☞ Nature destroys one organism to create to new one.
- ☞ Enthusiasm without knowledge is just like to travel in dark.
- ☞ Disappointments can come only to those, who makes appointment with future.
- ☞ You will come to realise that :
 "Life is not a problem
 but
 it is a mystery to solve it."