RESEARCH NOTE

Knowledge Level of the Farmers getting Above and Below State Average Yield regarding Castor Production Technology

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INTRODUCTION

Castor is an important non-edible oil-seed crop of the Banaskantha district. The district ranks first in area and production in State. A tremendous gap has been observed between available castor production technology and its actual adoption by the farmers. Knowledge level, being a prime factor in adoption proces, has been attempted to study.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Deesa and Palanpur talukas of Banaskantha district of Gujarat State. These talukas were having the highest average area under castor cultivation during the last three years (1986-87 to 1988-89) and hence selected purposively. Five villages were randomly selected from each of the talukas for the study. From the selected villages, eight above State average yield farmers and eight below State average yield farmers who were castor growers were randomly selected, making a sample of 80 above and 80 below State average yield farmers. The data were collected with the help of well structured and pretested interview schedule.

For the purpose of this study, knowledge was operationalized as the amount of information and understanding of the respondents regarding castor production technology. A suitable teacher made type test was developed to measure knowledge of the castor growers about castor production technology.

A test had 28 questions covering the recommended package of practices. The answer of the respondents to each question was marked as correct of incorrect. A score of one was given to correct answer and zero to an incorrect answer. The possible total score that a respondent could obtain would vary from 0 to 42. The knowledge index was calculated for each of the respondents. Using the formula stated below, all the respondents based on their knowledge index were grouped into three levels of knowledge.

$$K.I. = \frac{\text{Knowledge score obtained}}{\text{Total knowledge score}} \times 100$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Data presented in Table 1 reveal that about two-thirds (66.25 per cent) of the farmers getting above state average yield and a great majority (91.25 per cent) of the farmers getting below state average yield were found in medium level of knowledge. About one-third (33.75 per cent) farmers getting above state yield and only 2.50 per cent farmers getting below state average yield had high level of knowledge.None of the farmers getting above state average yield had low level of knowledge while 6.25 per cent farmers getting below state

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Table 1. **Knowledge level of the farmers getting above and below state average yield of castor production technology.**

Level of knowledge	Farmers getting above state average yield		Farmers getting below stat average yield	
	No.	Per cent	No.	Per cent
Low	00	0.00	5	6.25
Medium	53	66.25	73	91.25
High	27	33.75	2	2.20

average yield was in low level of knowledge group.

To know the difference in the knowledge level about recommended castor production technology of farmers getting above and below state average yield, 'Z' test was applied and the results are presented in Table 2.

The farmers getting above state yield had significantly higher knowledge regarding castor production technology than the farmers getting below state average yield. The probable explanation for this might be that the farmers getting below state average yield would have low extension contact, low literacy level, unavailability of farm literature and low exposure to mass media than the farmers getting above state average yield.

The present findings were in line with the findings of Prasad (1980), Mundhwa and Patel (1987) and Patel (1989).

CONCLUSIONS

It could be concluded that majority of the farmers getting above state average yield and the farmers getting below state average yield were found to have a medium level of knowledge. However, the farmers getting above state average yield had significantly higher knowledge of castor production technology than the farmers getting below state average yield.

IMPLICATIONS

The present study indicated that still the farmers are in lack of the scientific knowledge about castor production technology. Hence, extension agencies, department of agriculture, and training institutions are required to concentrate their efforts to train the farmers in the scientific farming.

Table 2. **Mean score of knowledge regarding castor production technology**

Respondents	No.	Mean score of knowledge	Mean sum of square	'Z' value
Farmers getting above state average yield	80	62.97	120.42	7.86**
Farmers getting below state average yield	80	50.86	69.33	