

Awareness Level of Organic Farming Followers About Organic Farming of South Gujarat

C.D.Patel¹, R.M.Naik² and V.P.Vejpara³

1 PGStudent, NMCA, NAU, Navsari - 396450

2 Assistant Extension Educationist, DEE Office, NAU, Navsari -396450

3 Programme Organizer, SSK, NAU, Navsari -396450

Email : rmnaik@nau.in

ABSTRACT

Organic management system is one of the options to improve in natural resource or even improve the degraded land. The Gujarat State has total 48518.91 hectare area under certified organic cultivation. An Ex-post-facto research design was under in the present investigation. All six talukas of Navsari district were purposively selected. 120 organic farming followers were selected. The structured shedule ws used to measure the awarness of organic farming followers towards organic farming. Majority of the organic farming followers had medium level of awarness about organic farming.

Keywords: Organic farming, Awarness level

INTRODUCTION

As the natural resources of any country are the national treasure, we need proper planning to make best use of them. Therefore, suitable management practices are urgently needed to preserve the production potential of agricultural lands. Efficient management and maintenance of soil health/quality is the key to accomplish sustained high productivity, food security and environmental safety. So, a renewed attention is being given to soil due to rapidly declined land area for agriculture, declining soil fertility and increasing soil degradation, improper land use policies and irrational and imbalance use of input. All these factors call for a shift in research away from maximum crop production to the “sustainable crop production system” without degradation of soil health and environmental quality. Developing and adopting an ideal management system can intact or improves the quality of natural resources is the urgent need of the era. Organic management system is one of the options to improve in natural resource or even improve the degraded land. The Gujarat State has total 48518.91 hectares area under certified organic cultivation. Many farmers of the State are practicing organic farming and as a result about 0.5 per cent of land has been recorded under organic farming. (Yadav, 2012). It is important to know the awareness of the organic farming followers. Considering the above view in mind, study was carried out to know the “Awareness level of organic farming

followers about organic farming of South Gujarat”.

OBJECTIVE

To know the awareness level of organic farming followers about organic farming

METHODOLOGY

An *Ex-post-facto* research design was used in the present investigation. The study was conducted during March-April 2015 in purposively selected Navsari district of South Gujarat. The present study was carried out in Navsari district of South Gujarat region. This district was selected purposively. The total list of organic farming followers in South Gujarat were prepared purposively from the different sources like Research Centre on Organic Farming (NAU, Navsari), Krishi Vigyan Kendra (NAU, Navsari), Gujarat Organic Products Certification Agency (GOPCA, Ahmedabad) and JATAN (NGO, Vadodara) and other sources. More number of organic farming followers were in Navsari district. i.e. 140. To justify the main objective of the study, 120 organic farming followers were selected from the complete list by using simple random sampling method.

The structured schedule was developed to measure the awareness of organic farming followers towards organic farming.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Awareness referred as an individual is exposed to the idea but lacks complete information about organic farming. The response of the organic farming followers about their awareness level were collected by asking the 80 questions related to organic farming practices which were developed with the consultation of research scientist (organic farming), NAU, Navsari and other experts. The responses from the respondents on all practices were collected, summed up and on the basis of total score obtained by them they were categories by using mean and standard deviation as (i) low level of awareness(up to 44 score), (ii) medium level of awareness (46 to 76 score)and (iii) high level of awareness(above 76 score). The results on this aspect are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their level of awareness about organic farming
n=120

Sr. No.	Level of awareness	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low level of awareness	14	11.66
2	Mediumlevel of awareness	80	67.34
3	Highlevel of awareness	26	21.00

Mean= 60.78

S.D=15.81

It is observed from the Table 1 that the majority (67.34per cent) of the organic farming followers had medium level of awareness about organic farming, followed by 21.00

and 11.66 per cent of respondents had highand low level of awareness, respectively.

Thus, it is clear from the data that the majority of the organic farming followers (88.34 per cent) had medium to high level of awareness about organic farming. This finding is in line with the results reported by Shashidahra (2012), Slathia *et al.* (2013) and Parmar (2015).

CONCLUSION

Majority of the organic farming followers had medium level of awareness about organic farming.

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