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Short communication

Awareness about banana farming practices among the banana growers of Gulbarga district

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ABSTRACT

The study conducted in Gulbarga district of Karnataka during 2010-11 reveled that most of the farmers (47.50%) belonged to medium level of knowledge about farming practices. As high as 97.50 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about recommended hybrids/varieties. Majority (93.33%) of banana growers were aware of spacing while 94.17, 92.50 and 84.17 per cent had knowledge regarding diseases, irrigation and pesticides respectively.

Keywords: Banana; farming practices; awareness; farmers

INTRODUCTION

Karnataka is a progressive state in the field of modern horticulture in the country. Karnataka is the 3rd largest producer of fruits and stands at 5th position in area and production of vegetable crops (www.nhm.nic.in). Banana is one of the main fruits in international trade. In terms of volume it stands first among exported fruits and second after citrus in terms of value. The development of any nation depends primarily on the role played by entrepreneurs. Hence the role played by entrepreneurs is of vital importance in a developing country like India. The studies on entrepreneurial behaviour of farmers have not been conducted in a systematic way especially those involving banana growers. Hence the present study was designed to know the awareness about the farming practices of banana among the growers.

MATERIAL and METHODS

The present study was conducted during 2010-11 in Gulbarga district of north Karnataka. This district was purposively selected as it had higher area under banana cultivation. From each of the four selected Taluks of Gulbarga disrtict five villages and six farmers from each village were selected randomly for the study thus making a sample size of 120. A list of 9 items was

developed for the purpose and each practice was administered in the form of question to respondents to obtain the response. The data were collected personally with the help of structured pre-tested interview schedule. The collected information was tabulated and analyzed using frequency and percentage.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

The results depicted in Table 1 indicate that most of the farmers (47.50%) had medium level of knowledge about farming practices whereas 33.33 and 19.17 per cent of the respondents fell in high and low level of knowledge category respectively. The reason for it might be that majority of the banana growers were educated and were exposed to mass media which provided them the information about new technology. The results also show that variables like cosmopolitness, extension contact, innovativeness, risk orientation and economic motivation influenced the awareness level of farmers about cultivation practices of banana crop.

The data presented in Table 2 reveal that 97.50 per cent of the respondents had knowledge about recommended hybrids/varieties followed by

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to their overall awareness of banana cultivation practices (n=120)

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<7.76)	23	19.17
Medium (7.76-8.65)	57	47.50
High (>8.65)	40	33.33

Mean= 8.21, SD= 1.04

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to their awareness of individual banana cultivation practices (n=120)

Parameter	Frequency	Percentage
Variety/hybrid	117	97.5
# suckers/acre	95	79.17
Frequency of irrigation	108	92.50
Pit size	85	76.66
Dose of NPK	108	90.00
Herbicides	43	35.83
Mixed cropping pattern	63	52.50
Pests	83	69.17
Pesticides	101	84.17
Diseases	113	94.17
Fungicides	27	22.50

diseases (94.17%), frequency of irrigation (92.50%), NPK doses (90.00%), pesticides (84.17%), number of suckers per acre (79.17%), pit size (76.66%), pests (69.17%) and mixed cropping pattern (52.50%). Possibly regular extension agency contact might have helped the respondents to gain correct knowledge about recommended practices of banana cultivation. The other reasons could be long farming experience and medium cosmopolitness, risk orientation, innovativeness and economic motivation of the respondents.

Only 35.83 and 22.50 per cent growers had awareness of application of herbicides and fungicides respectively which could be due to lack of regular trainings. The findings of the study are in agreement with the results obtained by Kadam (1999), Raghavendra (2007) and Rajashekhar (2009).

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