

Adoption of banana farming practices and constraints of growers in Gulbarga district of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The study conducted in Gulbarga district of Karnataka during 2010-11 revealed that most of the farmers (45.83%) belonged to medium level of adoption of banana farming practices. Cent per cent of banana growers adopted desuckering practices while 94.17, 91.67, 82.50 and 75.00 per cent had adopted variety, spacing, suckers type and FYM application practices respectively. The respondents indicated labour (94.17%) and electricity (90.83%) to be the most important problems faced by them. Around 75.00 per cent of the banana growers expressed the constraint of exploitation by middleman.

Keywords: Banana; farming practices; adoption; constraints

INTRODUCTION

Banana contributes to 31.72 per cent of the total fruit production. India is the largest producer of banana in the world having an area of about 647 thousand ha with production of 23205 thousand MT. In Karnataka area under Banana cultivation is 59.9 thousand ha with annual production of 1513.3 thousand MT (www.nhm.nic.in). In Gulbarga area under banana is 1666 ha with production of 46110 tons. Banana is a nutritious gold mine. It is high in vitamin B6 which helps to fight against infections and is essential for the synthesis of heme, the iron containing part of hemoglobin. It is also rich

in potassium and is a prominent source of fiber.

The present study was undertaken to document the adoption of farming practices and constraints faced by the banana growers in Gulbarga district of Karnataka.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted during 2010-11 in Gulbarga district of north Karnataka. This district was purposively selected because it had more area under banana cultivation. From each of the four

selected Talukas of Gulbarga district five villages and six farmers from each village were selected for the study forming 120 respondents in total. In total 11 recommended banana cultivation practices were selected to form an adoption test. The responses elicited from the respondents were quantified as full, partial and non-adoption of the recommended practices. Similarly the respondents were asked to indicate the constraints faced by them in adoption of the recommended practices. 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 (45.83%) belonged to medium level of adoption followed by 33.33 and 20.83 per cent belonging to low and high level of adoption category respectively. The reasons for majority in medium level of adoption category might be their medium level of knowledge, mass media exposure utility, extension contact and tendency of economic motivation, risk bearing ability and innovativeness.

The data presented in Table 2 reveal that the adoption of detailed recommended cultivation practices in order of priority were: cent per cent of banana growers adopted desuckering practices followed by variety (94.17%), spacing (91.67%),

number of suckers (78.33%), fertilizers (75.00%), pit size (74.17%), pest control and disease control (50.00%).

The data also reveal that the respondents did not adopt chemical weed control (19.17%) and sucker treatment (5.83%). It might be due to lack of regular training in sucker treatment and poor knowledge about weed control. The findings of the study are in agreement with the results obtained by Hanumanaikar (1995), Wase (2001) and Sudhakar (2002).

Among the different constraints (Table 3) labour (94.17), electricity problem (90.83%), storage facility (90.00%) were the main problems of the farmers whereas non-availability of planting material (30.00%) was the least important problem. Similar constraints were noticed in the studies of Sreenivasreddy (1995), Sharma (1997) and Ravikumar (2010).

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

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Low (<6.35)	25	20.83
Medium (6.35-7.50)	55	45.83
High (>7.50)	40	33.33

Mean= 6.93, SD= 1.35

Banana farming adoption and constraints of growers

Table 2. Distribution of respondents according to adoption of individual banana cultivation practice (n= 120)

Practice	Fully adopted		Partially adopted		Not Adopted	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Variety	113	94.17	7	5.83	0	0.00
Spacing	110	91.67	9	7.50	1	0.83
Pit size	89	74.17	19	15.83	12	10.00
# suckers	94	78.33	15	12.50	11	9.17
Sucker treatment	7	5.83	12	10.00	101	84.17
Suckers type	99	82.50	14	11.67	7	5.83
Chemical weed control	23	19.17	12	10.00	85	70.83
FYM	90	75.00	30	25.00	0	0.00
Desuckering	120	100.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Pest control	60	50.00	30	25.00	30	25.00
Disease control	60	50.00	4	3.33	56	46.67

Table 3. Distribution of respondents according to their constraints of banana cultivation practices (n= 120)

Problem	Frequency	%
Financial problem	102	85.00
Electricity problem	109	90.83
Cost of tissue culture plants	101	84.17
Lack of knowledge about INM, IPM and IDM	97	80.83
Non-available of planting material	36	30.00
Non-availability of chemical fertilizers	55	45.83
Labour problem	113	94.17
Storage facility problem	108	90.00
Exploitation by middlemen	90	75.00
Lack of knowledge about value added products	107	89.17

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