

## Extent of awareness of indigenous plant protection practices

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### ABSTRACT

The present Ex-post facto study was conducted at Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu with the aim of analysing the extent of awareness of farmers about the indigenous agricultural practices in the study area. Three hundred respondents were indentified by proportionate random sampling method for the collection of relevant data. Percentage analysis was applied and interpretations were made. The results revealed that majority of the farmers in the study area were aware of most of the indigenous agricultural practices. Many of the indigenous agricultural practices on land preparation, seeds and sowing, plant protection and post-harvest technologies were known to more than 50.00 per cent of the respondents.

### INTRODUCTION

Indigenous knowledge is local knowledge that is unique to a given culture or society. Indigenous knowledge is the systematic body of knowledge acquired by local people through the accumulation of experiences, informal experiments, and intimate understanding of the environment in a given culture. According to Haverkort (1991), indigenous knowledge is the actual knowledge of a given population that reflects the experiences based on traditions and includes more recent experiences with modern technologies.

Indigenous agricultural knowledge is the information base for a society and it facilitates eco-friendly environment. It is dynamic, it changes through creativity and innovativeness as well as through contact with other systems.

Sustainable agriculture is a complex issue associated with producing food while maintaining our biophysical resources including soil, water and biota with no adverse impacts on the wider environment.

In India, the total use of pesticides account for about 90,000 tonnes annually, out of which 63 per cent is for agriculture. Among the pesticides used, 70 per cent are insecticides, 12-15 per cent are fungicides and 4-5 per cent herbicides.

The indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and unplanned use of irrigation water have threatened the

sustainability of agricultural production. They increased the health hazards and pollute soil, water and environment.

It is strongly suggested that indigenous plant protection practices serve for sustainable environment and sustainable agricultural production.(Warren, 1991).

Considering the significance of indigenous agricultural practices an attempt has been made to find out the extent of awareness of indigenous plant protection practices in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu State in India.

### METHODOLOGY

Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu was purposively selected for the study considering the significance of the availability of large number of agricultural families in this district. Ex-post facto design was followed. Data were collected from 300 respondents identified based on simple random sampling method. Statistical tools like percentage analysis was employed for the study and the results obtained were tabulated and appropriate inferences were drawn.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The extent of awareness of indigenous plant protection practices identified in the study area are presented in Table 1.

It is observed from the above table that a number of farmers are aware of the various

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