

A study on knowledge level and adoption behaviour of improved cultivation practices of pearl millet growers in Bijapur district of Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Pearl millet is predominantly cultivated as a rainfed crop in diverse soils and climate. It is a drought and heat tolerant crop among cereal crops. It has the highest water use efficiency under drought stress. The features associated with cultivation of this crop are low value status, adoption to poor resource base production and consumption of poorer section of the society. In northern Karnataka, Bijapur district stands for highest area and production. The study revealed that majority of the respondents belonged to the medium level of knowledge as this crop grown with the long experience of farmers and cultivation practices being simple and easy to adopt. Majority of the respondents belonged to the medium level of adoption category followed by high and low adoption category. The practices like harrowing, varieties/hybrids, seed rate, optimum time of sowing and right time of harvesting were fully adopted by majority of farmers. Cent per cent of respondents not adopted spraying to control ergot of bajra.

INTRODUCTION

Pearl millet is the most drought and heat tolerant crop among the cereal crops. It is predominantly cultivated as rainfed crop in diverse soils, climates and is an indispensable of semi-arid and arid regions in the country. The features associated with cultivation of this crop are low value status, adoption to poor resource base, production and consumption by poorer sections of society, stagnant demand and price structure.

Karnataka is the 6th major pearl millet growing state in the country both in terms of area and production. Pearl millet is the most important and indispensable *Kharif* cereal crop of shallow to medium black and red soils of the state and is largely cultivated in northern districts. In Northern Karnataka among the *Kharif* cereals, pearl millet is the most important and most assured crop among many other crops. In Karnataka Pearl millet growing districts are Bijapur, Bagalkot, Koppal and parts of Belgaum, Dharwad, Gadag and Raichur. Among the pearl millet growing districts, Bijapur has the largest area. In Bijapur district, Bijapur, Indi, Basavan Bagewadi Talukas stand first, second and third place in area and production, respectively. The present study was undertaken with the specific objectives to know the level of knowledge and adoption of improved cultivation practices of pearl millet by the farmers of Bijapur district.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Bijapur district during the year 2009. From Bijapur district, Bijapur and Indi Taluks were purposively selected as they stand first and second in area and production, respectively. In each Taluka six villages were selected by random sampling method. A list of pearl millet growing farmers of selected villages was obtained from Department of Agriculture. Ten farmers from each village were randomly selected as respondents for the study. Thus, the sample size constituted 120 respondents. The information was collected by personal interview method with the help of prestructured schedule. The data were analysed with the help of frequency and percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been presented under following heads:

Categorisation of respondents according to their knowledge level:

It was observed from the Table 1 that 61 per cent of the respondents had medium level of knowledge followed by 25 per cent of the respondents possessing high level of knowledge and 13.33 per cent of the respondents belonged to low level of knowledge category. This might be due to their long

Key words :

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