



Dynamics of biofertilizers in North Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

Biofertilisers are low cost and high value agriculture inputs playing a vital role in maintaining the sustained agriculture production. Looking at the importance, the study highlighted present trends of biofertilisers production, demand, supply and their gap and utilization pattern of biofertilisers. A total sample of ninety farmers and thirty dealers / retailers were randomly selected from fifteen villages in selected Talukas. The data were subjected to compound growth rate (CGR) and tabular analysis. The results revealed that there was a growing trend of biofertilisers production with 2.52 per cent CGR and the entire district showed deficit supply of biofertilisers with -112.53 tonnes of gap in supply. Utilization pattern of biofertilisers showed that agricultural assistants were the major source of information (27.78%) for availability of biofertilisers and usage was concentrated more in case of pulse production. Jaggery solution treatment, mixed with compost and seedling dip methods were extensively adopted methods of biofertilisers application.

Yeledhalli, R.A., Pinjar, Peersab M., Ashoka, N. and Choudhary, Kuldeep (2011). Dynamics of biofertilizers in North Karnataka. *Agric. Update*, 6(2): 1-4.

INTRODUCTION

Biofertilisers are universally recognized to contain agriculturally important, beneficial and viable microorganisms capable of mobilizing nutritionally important elements from non-usable through biotic process. They are cost effective and renewable source of plant nutrients and can play supplemental role to chemical fertilizers. They constitute an essential facet of Integrated Plant Nutrient Supply (INPS) System – an integration of chemical, organic and biological sources of plant nutrients. In this way, they are effective for sustaining productivity as well as soil health (Gupta, 1983). The government of India and various State governments have been making constant and serious efforts to propagate use of biofertilisers for the last decades. However, even after efforts for such long period, performance has been rather dismal.

On the basis of the cultivated area of the country and standard seed treatment method, NBDC has estimated potential demand as high as 763272 MTs of biofertilisers. The high side,

potential demand has been estimated by other agencies like Biotech Consortium of India Limited (BCIL), Department of Agriculture and Co-operation (DOAC), Govt. of India and Fertilizers Association of India (FAI). However, based on the agro-climatic conditions and response areas, DOAC and FAI have worked out an achievable potential demand of about 50000 MTs by the 2011 AD, which has to be achieved. For this purpose, area having assured rainfall, irrigation, soils with organic matter and well managed farm practices should be given priority for biofertilizes use. Thus, the consumption level should reach 50000 MTs by the year 2011 at the incremental rate of 4000 tonnes per year.

In the recent past, private sector participation in production of biofertilisers has grown at a very high pace. Production has gone up from 2.5 tonnes in 1992-93 to 5584 tonnes in 2000-01. Accordingly, the number of firms engaged in biofertilisers has also gone up from 35 in 1992-93 to 122 in 2000-01.

Looking at the emerging importance and

Key words :

Dynamics,
Biofertilizers use,
Cost effective

Received:
February, 2011;
Accepted :
March, 2011