Agriculture Update
Volume 7 | Issue 1 & 2 | February & May, 2012 | 23-26

Research Article

Study on knowledge and adoption of *Kharif* green gram cultivation practices

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Article Chronicle :
Received :
16.11.2011;
Revised :
10.12.2011
Accepted :
26.12.2011

SUMMARY : Present investigation was undertaken with an objective, to study the knowledge level of respondents about recommended package of practices of green gram and to study the extent of adoption of *Kharif* green gram cultivation practices. The study was conducted in the Parbhani district of Maharashtra state. On the area basis, Parbhani and Selu talukas were purposively selected. Pre-structured and pre-tested questionnaire was developed for data collection. Personal interview technique was used for collection of data. Data were analysed by SPSS software. It was observed that 49.33 per cent of the respondents were having knowledge of land requirement for green gram crop. While 34.00 per cent of them were having knowledge about recommended varieties of the green gram. Majority of the respondents (70.00 per cent) had medium knowledge followed by 17.33 per cent of them having low knowledge and 12.67 per cent of them had high level of knowledge. It was further observed that 19.33 per cent and 12.00 per cent of respondents fully adopted practices like recommended varieties and control measures for diseases like powdery mildew, respectively, whereas negligible per cent of respondents (*i.e.* 0.07%) fully adopted Rhizobium seed treatment practice. In relationship between selected nine independent variables and adoption level, it was found that out of five variables *viz.,* education, land holding, annual income, source of information and knowledge had positive and significant relationship with adoption level at 0.01 level of probability while single variable economic motivation had positive and significant relationship with adoption level at 0.05 level of probability.

How to cite this article : Mane, S.S., Kolgane, B.T. and Khogare, D.T. (2012). Study on knowledge and adoption of *Kharif* green gram cultivation practices. *Agric. Update*, **7**(1&2):23-26.

Key Words :
Knowledge level, Adoption, Green gram cultivation

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

India occupies the largest area in the world under pulse crops. The important pulse craps in India are Bengal gram, Green gram, Black gram etc.

Pulses are grain legume crops grown universally in the country as they are chief source of protein in vegetarian diet of Indian population. Pulses contain 17.25 per cent protein and are rich source of energy, minerals and some vitamins such as vit. B. (Srilakshmi, 2003).

Pulses serve as an excellent forage and grain concentrates in the feed of the large cattle population of the country and some of them are the excellent green manuring crops adding much needed for humus formation and plant nutrients to the soil. Under poor soil fertility conditions, pulses are able to do better because of their ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen through root nodule bacteria (Ghuge, 1993).

Hajare (1998) has stated the erratic distribution of rainfall exposed green gram crop either to moisture stress or to excessive wet condition at the time of harvesting during *Kharif* season responsible for low and poor quality yield of green gram. This irregular behaviour of rainfall posed challenge for cultivation of green gram during *Kharif* season. This creates most uncertainty in production. There may be late sowing due to late monsoon or sometimes due to complete dry spell many times farmers could not compensate cost of cultivation also.

Keeping in view above facts, the present investigation was undertaken with an objective, to study knowledge level of respondents about