

# Knowledge level of the paddy farmers on integrated management practices

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## ABSTRACT

The research was conducted in three villages of Sindhudurga district of Maharashtra. A sample of 120 respondents growing paddy crop was selected from the selected three villages by following the proportionate random sampling technique. Knowledge level of the respondents on the integrated management practices was measured with the help of specially constructed schedule, which was prepared by discussing with experts. The practices such as selection of suitable variety, purpose of seed treatment, summer ploughing, planting, cropping system, water management, nutrient management, weed management, plant protection were taken into consideration for studying the knowledge level.

**Key words :** Knowledge level, Paddy farmers, Integrated management practices.

## INTRODUCTION

Rice is the staple food of 65 per cent of the total population in India. It constitutes about 52 per cent of the total foodgrain production and 55 per cent of total cereal production. The area under rice in India is 44.80 million hectares and production 89.30 tonnes in 2000-01. But the Agriculture out put however depends up on monsoon as nearly 60.00 per cent of area is rainfed. Unfavourable weather condition in the year 2002-03 adversely affected the agriculture production. According to fourth All-India advance estimates of agriculture production for 2002-03, the food grain production is expected to be 182.57 million tonnes, which is less than the production of 212.02 million tonnes in 2001-02 by 29.45 million tonnes (13.9 %). The estimated production of rice at 75.72 million tonnes is lower by 17.36 million tonnes (18.7 %) as compared to 2001-02 production level. India needs food grain security.

Since rice is the important crop in India, the expansion of the area under rice is not possible and the demand has to meet out only by increasing productivity. The concept of integration was, therefore, introduced during 1980s in the formulation of technological recommendations for rice crop management, with the development of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Weed Management (IWM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) programmes (Shastry *et al.*, 1996). These approaches attempted to broaden the understanding of the range of factors affecting pest or weed growth and development or fertilizer response of rice and to involve these factors in the farmer's decision-making process. While these programmes created improvements and benefits, the technology focus was still relatively narrow, generally involving only specific areas of crop management, pest management, weed management or nutrient provision. However, the concept of integrated management was beginning to develop and influence attitudes towards crop management (Way and Heong, 1994).

In order to unearth the status of the farmers with regard to integrated management practices, a study was undertaken with the following specific objectives.

1. To study the characteristics of paddy farmers.

2. To assess the knowledge level of paddy farmers about integrated management practices in paddy cultivation.
3. To study the relationship between characteristics of paddy farmers and their knowledge level.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Paddy growing farmers of the selected three villages of Sindhudurga district of Maharashtra were the respondents of the present study. A sample of 120 farmers was considered for the study. There were totally 5107 paddy growers in the three selected villages. From this, a sample of 120 farmers was selected by using proportionate random sampling technique. The number of respondents for each village was fixed based on the probability proportionate random sampling method.

## FINDINGS

### Age:

Majority of the respondents were belonged to middle aged (52.50 %) followed by old (31.66 %) and young aged (15.84 %) category.

### Education:

Primary level of education was found with more than one-fourth (25.83 %) of the respondents followed by functionally literate (24.17 %) and illiterate (19.17 %).

### Occupation :

Majority (23.34 %) of the respondents had farming + service as their profession. Equal proportion (21.66 %) of the respondents were found farming + business and Farming + wage earners as their occupation.

### Farming experience :

Majority of the respondents (40.00 %) possessed more than ten years of farming experience followed by 34.17 per cent with less than five years and 25.83 per cent of the respondents with medium level of farming experience.

### Farm size :

Majority of the farmers (37.50 %) were found to operate

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