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Factors responsible for adoption of soybean cultivation

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ABSTRACT : The study was conducted in Buldana district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State. Findings revealed that the majority of the respondents had a high level of adoption of recommended cultivation practices of soybean. Most of the respondents had completely adopted recommended practices like harrowing, recommended variety, intercultural operations, harvesting stage, sowing time, spacing, ploughing, sowing depth and seed rate. Regarding relational analysis, out of fourteen characteristics studied, eleven variables namely education, land holding, occupation, soil type, annual income, cropping pattern, experience in soybean cultivation, social participation, socio-economic status, extension contact, scientific orientation were positively and significantly correlated with the adoption of soybean growers about soybean cultivation practices. The findings of the regression analysis revealed that all the fourteen independent variables contributed 43.51 influences in adoption of the respondents.

Key Words : Adoption, Soybean, Pulse crop

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Soybean in Indian agriculture as a pulse and oil seed crop has attained importance due to its nutritional and industrial value. It occupies an important place as it gets more foreign exchange from the export of soya powder due to its greater demand in the international market. It is highly nutritious food item, as it contains 20 per cent oil and 40 per cent protein. In addition, it also contains 21 per cent carbohydrates, 11.5 per cent iron, 4 per cent mineral salts like calcium, phosphate and many important vitamins too (Damordjati *et al*., 1996).

Soybean crop is originated from China. In India it is cultivated in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Chattisgarh. In Maharashtra state, the area under soybean cultivation during 2004-05 was 21,02,200 hectare with total production of 18,92, 400 metric tones. Maharashtra is the second largest soybean growing state in the country. In Vidarbha region, the area under soybean cultivation during 2004-05 was 13,27,600 hectares with production of 10, 50,100 metric tones. From the statistical information available, it is surprising to note that the area under cotton and other crops is decreasing and the area under soybean is increasing practically every year in Vidarbha region.

In Buldana district the area under soybean crop was 1,23,300 hectares and production was 1,49,800 metric tones with productivity of 1217 kg/ha in the year 2003-04, which increased upto 1,41,200 hectares and production of 1,32,100 metric tones with productivity of 936 kg/ha in year 2004-05. Soybean cultivation has become more prominent in Buldana district, in Buldana, Chikhli and Mehkar Panchayat Samitis in particular from last 14 yeas as it fetches higher price and less input requirement and therefore, it has replaced the crops like cotton, sorghum, udid, mung etc. to some extent.

The area under soybean crop is increasing gradually year after year. Hence, there is a need to increase the average yield of soybean. The present investigation, therefore, aims to ascertain the factors responsible for adoption of improved cultivation practices of soybean by the farmers.

Research Procedure

The study was carried out in purposively selected Buldana, Chikhli and Mehkar Panchayat Samitis of Buldana district of Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State, as the area under soybean crop is increasing every year and topping the list of Panchayat Samiti in rank order of first, second and third, respectively. Out of the 13 Panchayat Samitis in Buldana district, Buldana, Chikhli and Mehkar Panchayat Samitis were selected considering the increasing trend of soybean area since last eight years, and ranking first, second and third, respectively in soybean area as compared to other panchayat samitis. From each of the three panchayat samitis thus selected five villages were considered for study. The total sample villages thus