

Characteristics and adoption of integrated disease management technology by banana growers in Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in six villages of Nanded and Hingoli districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State to study the socio-personal, economic and psychological profile of the banana growers and their relationship with adoption of IDM technology. The data collected with help of well constructed interview schedule from 150 respondents indicated that majority of the respondents had middle-age, education between primary to middle school and had medium level of land holding, annual income, social participation, socio-economic status, extension contact, economic motivation and use of information sources. Further, data revealed that education, land holding, annual income, social participation, socio-economic status, extension contact, economic motivation and use of information sources were positively and significantly related with adoption of recommended practices of IDM technology. While age was not found to be related to adoption of IDM.

INTRODUCTION

Banana is one of the most important fruit crops of Maharashtra State both in terms of area and production. The highest area of banana crop is in Jalgaon district, followed by Nanded, Parbhani, Hingoli and Nandurbar in the state. Except for sporadic incidence of mosaic virus and heart rot disease, banana growing in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state has been considered free from pests and diseases till recently. But suddenly the first epidemic of a foliar disease, Sigatoka leaf spot was encountered in 1995 rainy season in Nanded and later in Parbhani and Hingoli districts. The disease established soon and practically appearing every year since then causing grave concern to growers, scientists, planners and extension agencies. The disease disturbs the physiology of fruit, resulting in premature ripening, which causes total marketable yield loss. Marathwada Agricultural University, Parbhani and Banana Research Centre, Jalgaon diagnosed the disease and recommended the Integrated Disease Management (IDM) technology for controlling the disease which includes cultural, eradication and chemical methods. The adoption of IDM technology by banana growers is not uniform. Hence, an attempt was made to identify which farmer's characteristics are responsible for variation in adoption of Integrated Disease Management technology. Specific objective of

the investigation was to study the socio-personal, economic and psychological profile of the banana growers and their relationship with adoption of IDM technology.

METHODOLOGY

Basmat taluka from Hingoli district and Ardhapur taluka from Nanded district in Marathwada region of Maharashtra state were purposively selected for the study because in these talukas, severe out-break of the disease was observed. From each taluka, three villages, which had occupied sufficient area under banana crop were selected. Finally, 25 respondents were selected randomly from each selected village. Thus, total sample size comprised of 150 banana growers. The respondents were personally interviewed with a well constructed and pre-tested interview schedule. The data were subjected to the statistical tests such as frequencies, percentage, coefficient of correlation, multiple regression etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characteristics of the respondents:

Data were classified and analysis in respect of socio-personal, economic and psychological characteristics of the respondents, which presented in Table 1. It was observed that the sample constituted predominantly of the respondents having

Key words :

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