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Adoption of recommended PAU practices for capsicum cultivation

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ABSTRACT

The investigation was undertaken to study the socio-personal characteristics of capsicum growers and to find out the level of adoption of recommended PAU, practices by them. The results showed that all the respondents visited *Kisan Melas* and attended demonstrations regularly followed by 52.50 per cent who attended field days regularly. Majority of the respondents attended group discussions regularly and 92.50 per cent contacted officials of Punjab State Farmers Commission (PSFC) once in a month and only 7.50 % contacted them once in a season. Progressive farmers were the main source of motivation for all of the respondents followed by the officials of PSFC (97.50%) and friends (80.00%). All the respondents who used non-recommended quantity used less then recommended quantity of FYM and potash fertilizer. All the respondents (100%) used recommended method and recommended time of application of FYM. Majority of respondents applied more than recommended quantity of nitrogenous fertilizer, did not follow the recommended time and method of fertilizer application. Majority of the respondents followed only mechanical method of weed control and 93.75% used recommended weedicides. All the respondents followed recommended time of application of weedicides and irrigated the crop following recommended duration in summer as well as in winter. Majority (90.00%) of respondents did not face any disease problem in cultivation of capsicum crop. All the respondents (100%) started picking fruit at the recommended time and stage.

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INTRODUCTION

India has achieved self-sufficiency and a good degree of stability in food production but the population is increasing at a very fast rate. Thus, there is an urgent need for providing health security to our population. India is the world's second largest producer of vegetables next to China. However, our per capita vegetable consumption is quite low. An average person needs 284g of vegetables/day as recommended by dieticians, but we are able to provide only 200g of vegetables/day. Hence, there is a need to increase the production and productivity of vegetables to meet the demand of growing population and to ensure better nutrition (Singh, 2000). The total area and production of vegetable cultivation in India is 6.3 million hectares and 99.4 million tones, respectively (Anonymous, 2006a). While in Punjab, this figure accounts to 106380 hectares with a production of 2467 thousand tones. The average vegetable production in Punjab is 15.1 tones per hectare (Anonymous, 2006b). Vegetables are one of the most important components of a balanced diet and play a vital role in maintaining the health as these are rich sources of vitamins and minerals besides having medicinal values (Sidhu, 1998). Consumption of green vegetables helps in easy digestion and proper bowel movement. Vegetables provide nutritional security for the increasing population of the country and help in reducing the malnutrition being faced by the underfed by providing required nutrients such as carbohydrates, fats, vitamins, minerals and digestive proteins.

The gap between the requirement and supply of proteins as well as fats has to be bridged through some vegetable sources because of religious and social preferences in country. Vegetable cultivation also helps in generating employment avenues to the unemployed masses (Arya, 2002). Vegetables are quick growing and yield immediate and high returns to the growers. The Punjab State Farmers' Commission is playing a vital role in disseminating the technologies recommended by Punjab Agricultural University for the cultivation of vegetables. No systematic study has been conducted yet, to know the contribution of Punjab State Farmers' Commission in agricultural development.

Keeping the above facts in view, the present study was undertaken with the following objectives:

Objectives of the study are as : To study the socio- personal characteristics of capsicum growers and to find out the adoption of recommended PAU practices by the farmers as disseminated by the Punjab State Farmers'