

Impact of cotton farmers field school on knowledge of farmers

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to know the impact of FFS on knowledge of respondents and its relation with their profile. It is found that majority of the respondents had medium level of knowledge followed by high level of knowledge of cotton production technology. All of them had knowledge about selection of land for cultivation of cotton, importance of soil testing before sowing and use of improved variety of cotton. Regarding relational analysis variables like education, rural socio-economic status, mass media exposure, extension contact, scientific orientation of risk preference were having positive and significant relationship with knowledge of cotton production technology. From regression analysis, it was found that education, size of land holding, rural socio-economic status extension contact and risk preference had sufficient contribution to knowledge of cotton production technology. Statistical tools like frequency, percentage, correlation coefficient and multiple regression were used for analysis.

INTRODUCTION

The farmer field school (FFS) has become an innovative, participatory and interactive model approach for farmers education. The aim of FFS is to build farmers capacity to analyze their production systems, identify problems, test possible situations and eventually adapt the practices most suitable to their farming system. The knowledge acquired during the learning process enables farmers to adapt their existing technologies to be more productive, profitable and responsive to changing conditions or to test and adapt new technologies.

Broadly speaking, the FFS approach can be viewed as a capacity building investment in the sector education, information and training. Where the FFS fits in the spectrum of services and development support in this sector can be examined through two "window" one focuses on the FFS in relation to farmer-centered learning based approach. While training means to bring about continuous improvement in the quality of work performed by individual and is nothing but the educational process with difference only with degree of specificity. Therefore, the present investigation on impact of cotton farmers field school on knowledge of farmers was carried out with the following objectives. To study knowledge of farmers regarding cotton technology and to explore the relationship of selected characteristics with knowledge of cotton technology by farmers

attending farmers field school.

METHODOLOGY

Parbhani district was purposively selected for the present investigation because it has more area under cotton cultivation. Twelve villages were selected based on maximum area under cotton crop. From each village 10 respondents were selected randomly who were growing cotton crop. Thus, 120 respondents growing cotton crop constituted the sample for study. A list of farmers who participated in training programme under farmers field school and practicing the same was obtained from concerned authority and a total of 120 respondents were selected randomly as the sample for study. The information relevant to the decided objectives was collected from 120 respondents from 12 villages. The data pertaining to the objectives were collected with the help of specially structured interview schedule. In order to facilitate the analysis and interpretation of the data, statistical tools like frequency, percentage, correlation coefficient and multiple regression were used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation are presented below:

Overall knowledge of farmers regarding cotton technology:

From Table 1, it is observed that majority

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