



Integrated Horticultural Development Programme : An impact analysis

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat State. Total 128 beneficiary farmers (BFs) and 128 non-beneficiary farmers (NBFs) were selected as respondents. The level of knowledge and extent of adoption of respondents were measured using the developed standardized scales. Majority of the BFs (70.31 per cent) and NBFs (68.75 per cent) had medium level of knowledge about Improved Mango Production Technology (IMPT) with mean knowledge score 28.51 and 19.23, respectively. The practices like varieties, chemical fertilizers, planting distance, irrigation, disease control, tillage, organic manure, insect-pest control, use of hormones were adopted more than 60.00 per cent by BFs. Whereas, the higher per cent (more than 60.00 per cent) adopted practices of IMPT by NBFs were chemical fertilizers and variety. The adoption index of BFs was found significantly higher than NBFs. Majority (73.44 per cent) of the BFs had favourable attitude towards IHDP with respect 86.20 mean attitude score, whereas 64.84 per cent of the NBFs had favourable attitude towards IHDP with 56.20 mean attitude score.

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INTRODUCTION

Horticulture sector covering only 8.00 per cent of the total crop area in the country, contributes 24.50 per cent of GDP and 54.55 per cent to export earnings in the agriculture sector (Anonymous, 2001). Horticulture has become an integral part of food and nutritional security and an essential ingredient of economic security. Adoption of horticulture by small and marginal farmers has brought prosperity in many regions of the country.

The Gujarat State Government had launched a programme named "Integrated Horticultural Development Programme (IHDP)" in eighth five year plan. The main theme behind the programme was to increase the area and production of horticultural crops. The consequences impact of Integrated Horticultural Development Programme is reflected in terms of the level of knowledge and extent of adoption of mango production technology and attitude of beneficiaries towards Integrated Horticultural Development Programme. Therefore, it is felt worthwhile to investigate its impact with respect to level of knowledge and extent of adoption of

respondents about IMPT. Keeping these points in view, this investigation was undertaken with the objective to assess the level of knowledge and extent of adoption of BFs and NBFs and to analyze the practice wise adoption of IMPT by both of the categories of the farmers. It was also studied the attitude of BFs and NBFs towards IHDP.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat State. Total 128 beneficiary farmers (BFs) were selected purposively from 22 villages of five selected Talukas viz., Visavadar, Junagadh, Mendarda, Malia hatina and Una. The same number of non-beneficiary farmers (NBFs) were selected randomly from the respective villages. In order to measure the level of knowledge and extent of adoption of respondents, the standardized scales developed for the purpose were used. The selected independent variables were measured either with the help of developed scale or by developing schedules and indices. The data were collected by personal interview either at home or at farm. The data so collected were

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