

## Awareness And Adoption Of Wheat Production Technology By Farmers

G.K. Waman\* and M.C. Ahire

Directorate of Extension Education, M.P.K.V., Rahuri – 413 722 (M.S)

### ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out in Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon district (M.S.) in year 2002-03 to assess the knowledge level and extent of adoption of recommended package of practices of wheat production technology. The data of 180 wheat growers revealed that the majority of wheat growers were having medium level of knowledge and also medium level of adoption of recommended package of practices of wheat production technology. The adoption were noticed to be comparatively less in fertilizer application, seed rate per hectare and spacing while, none of them used any plant protection measures to control pests and diseases.

**Key words :** Knowledge, Adoption, Wheat production technology and recommended practices of wheat crop.

### INTRODUCTION

Wheat is one of the important cereal crop which is a staple food in certain major areas like Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and in Maharashtra. The irrigated area in the north-west comprising Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan is 94-98 per cent and in the Central India comprising Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat 70 per cent. Area under wheat in Maharashtra state was 7.60 lakh hectares and total production was 68.89 million tonnes. The average yield per hectare was very low i.e. 1256 kg/ha as compared to national average 2503 kg/ha (Anonymous, 2003-04).

The agricultural scientists have no doubt thrived very hard to increase the production and productivity per unit area of this important cereal. But it was observed that yield of wheat crop per unit area was very low as compared to national average. That was because of non-adoption of recommended package of practices of wheat crop. With view of above, the present investigation was carried out with the specific objectives. To study the knowledge level of wheat growers about wheat production technology and to know the extent of adoption of recommended package of practices of wheat production technology by the respondent farmers.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra state. One tahsil from each district was purposively selected having highest area under wheat crop in those districts. Then villagewise area under wheat crop from each tahsil was collected from respective tahsil. From each tashil, three villages were

purposively selected where wheat crop was cultivated on large scale. Thus total nine villages were selected from three districts.

List of wheat growers were prepared from each village and from these lists, proportionate number of wheat growers were selected by n<sup>th</sup> number random sampling method.

The data collected from 180 wheat growers with the help of personal interview schedule specially structured for the purpose and the data were analysed.

For computation of knowledge level and adoption level of wheat growers, ten selected improved practices of wheat crop were considered and the respondent were given 2 score for complete knowledge, 1 score for partial knowledge and zero score for no knowledge about recommended package of practices of wheat production technology. Similar scoring technique was utilized for computation of adoption level.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### *a. Knowledge of respondents about wheat production technology*

The knowledge of wheat growers in respect of 10 critical package of practices of wheat production technology was assessed and the data are presented in Table 1.

It was revealed that more than three fourth proportion of respondents had complete knowledge about inter culturing (78.89 per cent), while majority of them had complete knowledge of practices like time of sowing (69.44 per cent); proper time of harvesting (69.44 per cent); preparatory tillage operations (68.89 per cent); water management (67.78 per cent) and recommended soil type

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\*Author for correspondence