

Access the technological gap between recommended and adopted apple production technology in district Baramulla, Kashmir

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ABSTRACT

A study conducted to access the technological gap between recommended and adopted apple production technology in district Baramulla of Kashmir valley with 240 purposely selected apple growers. The study revealed that the highest technological gap was 54.20 per cent in propagation of quality and feasible varieties, followed by manure/fertilizer application 49.77 per cent. The practices like Insect pest control and grading showed 67.09 per cent and 57.26 percent technological gap, respectively. The study further revealed that 52.73 per cent average technological gap was recorded in small apple growers followed by medium (49.14 %) and big growers (37.75 %) showed major deviation

Key words : Production technology, Varieties, Quality, Apple

Apple (*Malus pulmila* M.) is undoubtedly the most important temperate fruits of Kashmir with an excellent keeping quality and wide variety of tastes and flavours. It is through the efforts of consciousness of beauty, taste and flavour and agro-climatic conditions of valley which has made it ideally suited state for production of apples. Apple industry is a major sector of the economy of Kashmir valley and the fruit industry in the state has indeed become the bull work of rural economy (Wani *et al.*, 1993). The area under apple fruit has increased but the productivity has not improved to a satisfactory level. Even productivity of 10-12 metric tonne per hectare has shown decline in last few years. The decline was experienced even in primary apple growing areas of the valley like Baramulla district (Hakeem *et al.*, 2006). The transfer of technology from research institutions through various extension services and development departments is being carried to the growers for the maximum production. However, there are still some loop holes and lapses which have rendered our apple industry in such a state that we are not in a strong position to compete with the global market. Therefore, the present research was undertaken to examine the technological gap between recommended and adopted apple production technology.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

District Baramulla produces high quality apples, the district lies in the extreme north of the Jammu and Kashmir state. Four blocks from the district were selected on the basis of maximum area under apple orchards. From each block 6 villages were selected and 10 apple growers having maximum area under apple orchards were

purposely selected for the study. Thus in total 24 villages and 240 apple growers were taken for the future study. After the selection of respondents, then they were categorized on the basis of land holding size in which the growers having up to 0.75 hectares were considered small, 0.75-1.5 hectare were considered medium and above 1.5 hectare were considered big apple growers. The data were collected through pre-tested interview schedule and statistical methods were used to find out the results. The technological gap was computed in percentage by the following formula:

$$\text{Technological gap } \% = \frac{\text{Recommended} - \text{Extent of adoption}}{\text{Recommended}} \times 100$$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation are summarized below

Determination of technological gap in improved package of practices:

Important improved practices were aggregated and then grouped into following major practices.

The perusal of Table 1 revealed that the major gap has shown in propagation (54.20 %), followed by age of root stock for transplanting (51.31 %). Layout of orchards (50.02 %), selection of plants (49.34 %), month of transplanting (41.34 %) and spacing (36.50 %) showed technological gap in decreasing order. Above table also indicated the existing technological gap on small, medium and big holding with respect to these sub practices of