

Knowledge level of farmers in management of bacterial blight in pomegranate in Northern Karnataka

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in surrounding areas of KVK, Bijapur district of Karnataka State to know the knowledge level of farmers on bacterial blight and problems encountered by them. The study revealed that, majority of the farmers had medium to high level of knowledge, 48 % and 36 %, respectively on overall management of bacterial blight in pomegranate. The independent variables viz., education, media contact and extension contact were significantly correlated with knowledge level of farmers. With regard to problems faced by them, cent % felt that blight spread from neighbours field as greater problem, while 92.00 % expressed that it is severe in the village itself.

INTRODUCTION

The pomegranate [*Punica granatum* (L.)] is one of the ancient and highly praised favourite fruits. It is commercially grown, apart from India, in a number of countries for its sweet acidic fruits, which provide a cool refreshing juice and is valued for its medicinal properties. To high light its importance it was chosen as a symbol of 18th International Horticultural Congress held during 1970. Pomegranate can be successfully cultivated even under conditions of severe drought. In the recent past, pomegranate gained momentum due to the production technologies developed by the scientists.

In India, approximately 56,250 hectares area is under pomegranate. It is grown commercially in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Among the different states Maharashtra is leading in pomegranate cultivation which accounts for 78 % of the total area in India. Next to Maharashtra maximum pomegranate cultivation takes place in of Karnataka State having 12700 ha area with the production of 1,24,000 metric tonnes (Sheikh, 2006). Recently the area under pomegranate is reducing in Karnataka state because of severe problem of bacterial blight. Keeping this in view the present study was designed with the objectives to know the knowledge level of farmers on bacterial blight in pomegranate, to know the correlation between socio-personal

characteristics and knowledge level of farmers and to understand the extent of problems faced by farmers.

METHODOLOGY

The present study was conducted in Bijapur district, selecting fifty farmers. A teacher made test was developed to test the knowledge level and to identify the problems faced by the farmers. The data were collected through personal interview method and the same were analyzed with the help of frequency, percentage and simple correlation tests. The results obtained are presented below.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results presented in Table 1 revealed that a majority of trained farmers had medium knowledge (48%) on bacterial blight. While 36 % of them had high knowledge. This study gets the support of findings of Noorjahan *et al.* (2004) and Kavaskar and Santha (2006). Most of the farmers were above 50 years of age with medium level of education, possessed big

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Table 1: Overall knowledge level of farmers on bacterial blight in pomegranate n=50

Knowledge level	No.	%
Low X - 0.425 S.D.	08	16.00
Medium X ± 0.425 S.D.	24	48.00
High X + 0.425 S.D.	18	36.00
Total	50	100.00

Mean 20.08, S.D. 6.12