

Knowledge of recommended cultivation practices by the summer rice growers in Raigad, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Karjat, Roha and Mangaon tahsils of Raigad district of Konkan region. The sample was constituted 150 rice growers drawn from 15 villages. The respondents were interviewed with the help of a specially designed schedule. The exploratory survey design was used for the present study. The data regarding 'knowledge' about rice cultivation practices revealed that majority of the respondents had 'medium' knowledge. The data regarding practice wise knowledge revealed that majority of the respondents were known of the practices namely, 'first ploughing after the harvest of previous crop', 'removal and destruction stubbles', 'use of improved varieties', 'keep field free of weeds' and 'drying the crop in field for 2 days', 'use of 'Vaibhav' sickle for harvesting', 'water level upto 5 cm at grain filling stage', 'planting in row, shallow and line transplanting', 'application of 5 t green manure/ha at the time of puddling' and '10 cm water level in field before and after panicle initiation.

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) has recognition as a supreme commodity to mankind, because rice is truly life, culture, a tradition and a means of livelihood to millions of people all over the world. It is the staple food of nearly half of the world population. It is not only a cereal crop, but also a way of life in Asian countries. It contributes about 40 to 70 % of the population's total calorie intake. Hence, sustained production and increased productivity of rice crop is critical for food and nutritional security in Asia.

Rice production in India in the year 2004-05 was 83.130 million tonnes, which is projected at a record 91.00 million tonnes in the year 2006-07. Summer rice was cultivated on an area of about 205 metric ha with total production of 490 metric tonnes in the year 2004-05 in Maharashtra. Konkan region accounts for summer rice area of about 154 metric ha with total production of 371 metric tonnes in the year 2004-05. (www.agri.mah.nic.in).

Among the four districts of Konkan region, Raigad is the major rice producing district which accounts for 55.19 % area and 57.41 % production of summer rice in Konkan region. According to 2004-05 estimates, in Raigad district, summer rice occupied about 85 metric ha area with the production of 213 metric tonnes. The data with respect to summer rice growers in the Konkan region are scanty. It is said that there is a tremendous gap

between available knowledge and actual knowledge level of farmers. The present study is an attempt to understand the knowledge level of the farmers. Hence, the study was undertaken to study the knowledge level of the summer rice growers about recommended cultivation practices of summer rice.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted by interviewing 150 summer rice growers from 3 Tehsils and 15 villages of Raigad district of the Konkan region. An interview schedule was prepared, so as to collect the information in line with the objective of the study. Personal interview technique was used for data collection.

All the practices for summer rice cultivation recommended by Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli were considered. Score of '1' and '0' was given for 'correct' and 'incorrect' responses, respectively. Based on the cumulative knowledge score obtained, the respondents were categorized into three categories viz., low, medium and high.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Knowledge level:

The knowledge level of the respondents was studied in the context of recommended summer rice cultivation practices.

Key words :

Rice grower,
Knowledge,
Cultivation
Practice, Pudding
respondents

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