

## Problems faced and suggestions expressed by the chilli growers in optimum use of pesticides in Tunga Bhadra Project area of Bellary district of Karnataka

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### ABSTRACT

The cent per cent of chilli growers expressed the problem of increased pests and diseases infections which enforced them to use excess pesticide dosages for their control. Farmers also felt that their inability to read the instructions given by manufacturers on the labels of containers, difficulty in diagnosis of pest and diseases, adulteration and inefficacy of the pesticides, non-availability of suitable pesticide application equipments and lack of technical guidance made them to deviate from the optimum use of pesticides. Organising intensive extension programme like trainings, field days, Kisan mela seminars, organising demonstrations by Scientists and Extension agents. broadcasting and telecasting radio and television programmes on usage of pesticides and hazards of indiscriminate use of them were some of the suggestions expressed by chilli growers

### INTRODUCTION

Chilli (*Capsicum annum L.*) is universal spice crop. It is one of the important commercial crops in India. Chilli also called, as red pepper, is being famed as important condiment crop, grown for its pungent fruits which are used both as green and ripe to impart pungency to food. Chilli is good source of vitamin C, A and B. Oleoresins and essential oils of chilli are the active principal contents, inducing characteristics pungency, flavour and aroma are the main ingredients in food, pharmaceutical, and beverage industries.

India occupies an area of 6.5 lakh hectares with annual production of 10.64 lakh tonnes of dry chilli. The important chilli growing states are Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Orissa. The chilli is also exported to Srilanka, Kuwait, Nepal, United States of America, Russia and other countries. The area and production of dry chilli in Karnataka is 1.61 lakh hectares and 0.95 lakh million tonnes of dry chilli, respectively. The crop is being extensively cultivated in Tunga Bhadra Project (TBP) area of Bellary district in an area of 16,880 hectares and production of 17,393 tonnes. Good canal irrigation facilities, ideal soil and climatic conditions and high market prices make the farmers of the district to opt for chilli

cultivation.

Mean while the Bellary district stands first in consumption of pesticides in the Karnataka state. The chilli-growing farmers of the district are using indiscriminate quantity of pesticides to control the pest and diseases. This indiscriminate use of pesticides led to serious problems challenging the very existence of human society. Now-a-days the pesticidal problem has become a major issue not only to the academicians and environmentalist but also to the farmers who are the actual users. Hence, the study was conducted in TBP area of Bellary district with the objectives : to identify the problems faced by the chilli growers in optimum use of pesticides and to identify the suggestions as expressed by the chilli growers to overcome the constraints encountered in optimum use of pesticides

### METHODOLOGY

The research study was conducted in the purposively selected Bellary district of Karnataka in consideration of convenience, resource constraints and familiarity of the researcher with the district. Bellary taluka among seven talukas of Bellary district was selected purposively because the taluka ranks first in area and production of chilli crop in the district. There are seven A.A.O. ranges and

### Key words :

Problems, suggestions, Chilli growers, Use of pesticides

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