



Paddy growers profile, knowledge and adoption of plant protection measures

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in the randomly selected villages of Talukas of Raichur district during 2009-2010. Manvi and Sindhanur Talukas were purposively selected since these Talukas were having more number of paddy growers and occupied more area under paddy cultivation as compared to the other Talukas in the district and also based on the criteria of high diseases and pest infestation level. Majority of the farmers (88.57 % and 62.85%) had knowledge about brown plant hoppers and ear head cutting caterpillar. Majority (77.14%) of the farmers knew about Phorate. About 46.85 per cent of the farmers adopted Furadan pesticide for control of stem borer. Only 17.14 and 21.71 per cent of them adopted proper concentration of Carbofuran and Dimethoate, whereas 58.28 per cent of the farmers had adopted proper concentration of Endosulfan 35 EC. High majority (96%) of the respondents possessed television sets. Vehicles and sprayers and dusters were possessed by 90.85 and 89.71 per cent of the respondents, respectively. Lack of knowledge about chemicals, lack of knowledge about to number of sprays and lack of knowledge with regard to technology application were the major constraints as expressed by 43.42, 62.85 and 83.42 per cent of respondents, respectively. High cost of chemicals and high cost of equipments were also the major constraints expressed by 76.00 and 51.42 per cent of respondents.

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INTRODUCTION

Paddy (*Oryza sativa* L.) is one of the important cereal crops of the world and forms the staple food for more than 50 per cent of population and is known as "king of cereals". The United Nations General Assembly, in a resolution declared the year of 2004 as the "International Year of Rice", which has tremendous significance to food security. It very eloquently upheld the need to heighten awareness about the role of rice in alleviating poverty and malnutrition (Barath and Pandey, 2005). It is an important food crop of India and stands first in area and second in total food production. The yield levels in India are low as compared to other major rice producing countries viz., Japan, China and Indonesia. About 67 per cent of the area under paddy in India is under high yielding varieties.

In India, the highest area under paddy is in Uttar Pradesh (59.20 lakh ha), followed by West Bengal (56.90 lakh ha), Orissa (44.50 lakh West Bengal (56.90 lakh ha), Orissa (44.50

lakh ha), Andhra Pradesh (39.80 lakh ha) and Karnataka (14.20 lakh ha). Production-wise, West Bengal stands first (147.50 lakh tonnes), followed by Andhra Pradesh (118.70 lakh tonnes), Uttar Pradesh (111.20 lakh tonnes) and Karnataka (34.50 lakh tonnes). The highest yield is observed in the state of Punjab (3870 kg/ha), followed by Assam (3360 kg/ha) and Karnataka (2464 kg/ha) (Anonymous, 2008). In plant protection plays a vital role in modern agriculture. Fertilizers, plant protection measures, irrigation and improved seeds are the key elements of modern agriculture. The new technology is associated with the high pests and disease incidences. In the absence of adequate plant protection measures, the positive contribution of improved seeds, fertilizers and irrigation to output could completely nullify and farmers may incur heavy losses.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the randomly

Key words :

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