

Technological gap in banana production technology

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation was carried out in Raver and Yaval tahsils of Jalgaon district (M.S.) to assess the level of knowledge and adoption level of banana growers as well as to study the technological gap in adoption of banana production technology. The results of study revealed that a large majority of banana growers had high level of knowledge and had also high level of adoption of recommended banana production technology. The overall technology gap was only 25.33 per cent. The variables viz., education, social participation, extension contact, knowledge level and adoption level were negatively and significantly related at 1 per cent level of probability. It means that higher the education, more social participation and extension contact, more level knowledge and adoption, lower was the technological gap in the recommended practices of banana production technology

Key words : Knowledge, Adoption, Technological Gap, Knowledge index, Adoption index and Technological gap index

INTRODUCTION

Banana (*Musa paradisiaca*) is one of the oldest fruit of the world. It's antiquity can be traced back to gardens of paradise, whereas eve was said to have used its leaves to cover her modesty. It can be one of the reason why the banana is called as 'Apple of Paradise'. It is a rich source of energy in the form of sugar and starch.

In India during the year 2003 area and production of banana was 4,82,800 ha and 161.67 lakh metric tonnes, respectively. In Maharashtra area and production was 72,200 ha and 43.31 lakh metric tonnes, respectively. In Jalgaon district, about 49,000 ha area was under banana and production was 32.30 lakh metric tonnes. Average productivity of banana in India was 34.30 t/ha, Maharashtra 60.00 t/ha while in Jalgaon it was 65.00 t/ha (Anonymous, 2003).

The new technology developed by Agricultural Universities and Research Institute, it has been observed that either the same has not reached to the farmers field or the farmers are reluctant to use this technology. However, the gap between the know how already attained and their application in common farmer's field is quite big. This has been proved beyond doubt, though the yield of research station and demonstration plot. The technological gap is a major problem of increasing agricultural production in the country. It was, therefore, thought necessary to carryout the present investigation with following specific objectives.

1. To study the level of knowledge and adoption level of banana growers.
2. To study the average technological gap in adoption of banana production technology.
3. To study the relation between personal and social economic characteristics of banana growers with their knowledge, adoption and technological gap in banana production.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present research study was conducted in Raver and Yawal tahsils of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra state during 2002-03 which was selected purposively for the purpose of study as large area under banana cultivation. Five villages from each tahsil thus total ten villages were selected by using random number table. List of banana growers were prepared from the selected villages. From these lists, 20.00 per cent banana growers were selected randomly by using nth number method. Thus a sample of 120 respondents was drawn. The data were collected from 120 respondents with the help of personal

interview schedule specially structured for the purpose. The data were presented in form of frequency and percentage.

Measurement of variables

1. Knowledge level

For the measurement of knowledge 49 questions of recommended practices were asked to the respondents. The respondents were given one score for each correct answer and zero score for incorrect answer. Thus, the maximum possible score was 49. The total knowledge index (K.I.) of each respondents was computed by using the following formula.

$$K.I. = \frac{\text{Score obtained}}{\text{Maximum possible score}} \times 100$$

The respondents were then grouped into three categories on the basis of their knowledge indices as given below.

| Sr. No. | Level of knowledge | Knowledge Index (K.I.) |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Low | Upto 50 |
| 2. | Medium | 51 to 70 |
| 3. | High | 71 and above |

2. Adoption level

Score viz., one to partial adoption, two to full adoption were allotted. There were total 45 questions included in an interview schedule about adoption of recommended practices including sub-practices. Thus, the maximum possible score an individual respondent could obtain was 90.

The adoption index of each respondents were computed by using the following formula.

$$\text{Adoption Index (A.I.)} = \frac{\text{Total score obtained}}{\text{Maximum possible score}} \times 100$$

The respondents were grouped into three categories on the basis of their adoption indices as given below.

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