

Relationship of personal characteristics of the farmers with their awareness and knowledge about cultivation of safed musli

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ABSTRACT

Safed musli is common medicinal plant cultivated on a small area by most of the tribal farmers and they are getting good income in comparison to their traditional crop. The entire Dang district is full of number of plant species having medicinal value. These valuable plants have not received due attention of the common rural people and a handful of knowledgeable persons have exploited these species for their own benefits. The study revealed that there was significant and positive relationship between education, land holding annual income with the levels of awareness and knowledge about safed musli cultivation.

Key words : Safed musli, Level of knowledge, Level of awareness.

Traditional knowledge of human health and medicine has recently become a major global concern. Traditional knowledge of medicinal plants is now considered to play vital role in addressing the health care, needs of developing countries and indigenous people. The Dang region of Gujarat state is a rich source of medicinal plants. The region is not outwardly beautiful but encompasses numerous species of medicinal plants having great importance. Safed musli is common medicinal plant cultivated on a small area by most of the tribal farmers and getting good income in comparison to their traditional crop. The entire Dang district is full of number of plant species having medicinal value. These valuable plants have not received due attention of the common rural people and a handful of knowledgeable persons have exploited these species for their own benefits. Now a days world has developed a new sense and interest for Ayurvedic medicine. Therefore, an investigation was carried out to know relationship of personal characteristics of the farmers with their awareness and knowledge about cultivation.

METHODOLOGY

For attaining the objectives' the present investigation was carried out in Dang district of Gujarat state. Fifteen villages from the district and ten safed musli growers from

each village were selected. The study was confined to total 145 respondents. Keeping in view the objectives of the study interview schedule was prepared and the respondents were interviewed by the researchers themselves. Frequency percentage and coefficient of correlation (r) were calculated to know the relationship.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the present study as well as relevant discussion have been summarized under following heads:

Relationship between selected characteristics of respondents and their awareness about safed musli cultivation:

The findings are presented in Table 1 and 2.

To find out the relationship between selected characteristics of tribal farmers and their awareness about safed musli cultivation the correlation, coefficient values were computed. The findings are presented in Table 1.

It is apparent from Table 1 that out of six personal characteristics, only three were positively and significantly related with the awareness of safed musli growers they were -education ($r = 0.469$), Land holding ($r = 0.172$) and the annual income of the framer ($r = 0.213$).

Age and awareness:

So far as the age of the respondents is concerned, it showed positive but non-significant relationship with their awareness about cultivation of safed musli. This means that there was no influence of age on the awareness of farmer about safed musli crop cultivation.

If can be said that farmers irrespective of their age have more or less similar awareness. This finding is in conformity with those of Tawade *et al.* (1998), Mewara

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