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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Adoption gap in integrated pest management technology of cotton

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ABSTRACT

The study was undertaken in Parbhani district of Marathwada region in Maharashtra state, as in this district, MKV has implemented ICAR sponsored project on integrated pest management during the year 2010- 11 in ten villages of three talukas. The study of adoption gap was made in terms of personal characteristics of cotton growers. involvement of cotton growers in performing social participation. In the present study, majority of respondents were observed in farm experience of 9-31 years, having education upto secondary school level. Majority of them were having medium family size. Most of the them were having small landholding and their family income was from Rs. 57,326/- to Rs. 2,82, 190/-. In this present study, it was observed that majority of the respondents had medium level of adoption gap.

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INTRODUCTION

Cotton, being a cash crop, is of great economic importance for the Indian farming community. Nevertheless, it is highly prone to a number of insect pests and diseases. A good crop with minimum pest attack brings prosperity, while a severe pest attack brings misery. Pests also became resistant to chemical pesticides and cause significant increase crop losses. Pesticides do not provide lasting control and so needed repeated applications. Continued use of pesticides builds up high level of toxic residues in food, ground water and air. Several important cash crops are now tested for pesticide residues before being accepted as import items by various countries. This is more so in the rainfed areas where opportunities for growing alternative crops are limited due to marginality of the production environment. Thus, pest is an important determinant of the prosperity of the rainfed farmers. Excess use of insecticides also increases cost of cultivation. This knowledge has led to a shift towards eco-friendly technologies in pest management. Integrated pest management therefore, has emerged as a solution to avoid excessive use of insecticides. Integrated pest management is the integrated use of pest control strategies in a way that not only reduces pest population to satisfactory level but is sustainable and non-polluting. It is therefore necessary to see the contents of use of integrated pest management by cotton growers. The pest problem though cannot be eliminated altogether, it can be minimized through application of appropriate pest management strategy, be it chemical pest control, biological control or integrated pest management (IPM). The chemical-based pest management, however, has been losing its efficiency mainly due to rising problem of insecticide resistance. An IPM package comprised of cultural practices, resistant varieties, insect scouting, beneficial insects and the selective use of insecticides was developed and tested under field conditions. The effectiveness of IPM gets maximized when all growers use them on a community basis over area-wide. The goal of IPM does not aim for reduction of the insect population to zero but merely to a level below the economic damage. IPM strategies focus on an appropriate mixture of eco-friendly practices. It includes eco-friendly practices which are grouped as cultural, mechanical, biological and chemical. Adoption gap means operationalized as the gap between recommended IPM practices and actual adoption of