



Research Paper

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Adoption of chemical fertilisers in orchards of mid-hills in J&K state

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ABSTRACT : The study was conducted in district Ramban of J&K state with 60 respondents selected from 6 villages under the district using random sampling. The study revealed that majority of respondents (63.3 %) used recommended nitrogen source of fertilizers in their orchards. The percentage of farmers using recommended dose of phosphorus fertilizers was very low (21.6 %). The major constraints in adoption of chemical fertilizers in orchards were lack of knowledge of fertilizers (76.66 %) and non availability of fertilizers (66.66 %).

KEY WORDS : Chemical fertilisers, Mid-hills, Orchards

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The agro climatic conditions of the state of J&K vary from sub-tropical to temperate and cold deserts making the state suitable for growing temperate to sub-tropical fruits. The hilly district of Ramban too possesses an agro climate which is suitable for growing temperate fruits like apple, pear, plum, apricot, almond and walnut etc. Horticulture occupies an important place in this hilly district of J&K state because it is the only vocation which helps to overcome inherent problem like low land to man ratio, undulating topography, lack of irrigation facilities, uncertain rains, excessive soil erosion and low cereal crops productivity. In spite of being a horticulture dominant state, the productivity of horticulture products has remained lower than that in other developed countries. There are so many factors which contribute to higher productivity and chemical fertilizers are one of the most critical inputs among them. Among the various factors contributing towards the poor productivity levels, inadequate knowledge of fertilizers, low adoption and non-availability of chemical fertilizers play a major role. Keeping this in view, a study was undertaken to find out the level of adoption of chemical fertilizers among the farmers and constraints in its adoption in the orchards.

RESEARCH METHODS

The study was conducted in 6 villages of district Ramban

in J&K state. The villages were selected randomly. The total number of subjects were 60 for the study. Teacher made type schedule was developed with the help of horticulture and extension specialists having deep interaction with the farmers. The farmers were interviewed during 2010. The collected data were pooled, tabulated and analysed. In the present study, nature, recommended dose of a particular fertilizer and time of application were considered and decision and choice of the respondents about them were analyzed.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data presented in Table 1 revealed that 60 per cent of small farmers and 70 per cent of large farmers applied nitrogen as per recommendation while 27.5 per cent of small farmers and 30 per cent of large farmers applied nitrogen less than recommended dose. However, 5 per cent of small farmers did not apply nitrogen source to the plants which is very low. This might be due to popularity of nitrogenous fertilizers among the farmers and their easy availability and low cost as compared to other fertilizers.

The data presented in Table 2 indicated that 12.5 per cent of small farmers and 40 per cent of large farmers applied phosphorus as per recommended dose and 37.5 per cent of small farmers and 50 per cent of large farmers applied phosphorus less than recommended dose. No one applied