

RESEARCH NOTE :

Knowledge level of sapota growers about scientific package of practice

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SUMMARY : Knowledge of farmers plays an important role in adoption of scientific package of practices. Study was conducted out in Navsari district of Gujarat to study the knowledge level of sapota growers about scientific package of practice. Total 200 respondents were selected. Study on overall knowledge of scientific package, knowledge regarding selected scientific package, overall adoption of scientific package and adoption of critical operation for sapota production technology were carried out. The study indicated that majority (51.00 %) of the sapota growers had medium level of knowledge. There were only 14 per cent of the sapota growers who had high level of knowledge about scientific package of practices of sapota.

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Knowledge, Scientific package of practice, Sapota

Sapota [*Manilkara achras* (mill) fosberg] syn. (*Achras sapota* L.) is an important fruit of tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. In India, it was introduced probably in 1898 and now it occupies a significant position among the fruit crops, as largest producer in the world. It is mainly grown in the humid tropical coastal region. In India, sapota is widely cultivated in the states of Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Orissa, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu with an annual production of 14.95 lakh MT. However, South Gujarat occupies nearly 45 per cent of the total area under sapota in Gujarat. The medium black soil, warm and moist climate prevailing in this region are well suited for this crop. It is grown in Gujarat in 28,800 ha with an annual production of 309.9 thousand MT (Anonymous, 2012). To increase the sapota production it is necessary to obtain and adopt scientific package of practices of sapota, and it is also necessary to speedy transfer through effective and efficient transfer of technology. Therefore, to understand the usefulness of scientific package, the present study was

undertaken.

The present study was conducted in Navsari district. Total 200 farmer respondents were selected. All were sapota growers since decade. The data were collected through personnel interview. The interview schedule was prepared by keeping the objectives of the study in mind. The necessary care was taken to collect the unbiased and correct data. The data were collected, tabulated and analyzed to find out the findings and draw conclusion. The statistical tool like percentage was employed to analyze the data. The constraints as perceived by respondents were scored on the basis of magnitude of the problem as per Meena and Sisodiya (2004). The respondents were recorded and converted in to mean per cent score and constraints were ranked accordingly as per Warde *et al.* (1991).

The present study was conducted in Navsari district of Gujarat state. Major sapota growing taluks were selected, sample size was 200. Overall knowledge of scientific package of practices of sapota the low, medium and high level of knowledge before contact with Krishi Vigyan

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Kendra was 46, 40 and 14 per cent, respectively and it was increased up to 19, 51 and 30 per cent after contact with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Table 1). Javat *et al.* (2011) reported the same results. In case of selected knowledge regarding selected innovations for INM, high level knowledge regarding scientific innovations were found, except use of micronutrient and use of plant growth regulators (Table 2). Majority of the farmers had a low level of knowledge 55 per cent before contact

Table 1 : Overall knowledge of scientific package of practices of sapota (n=200)

Category	Before contact with KVK	After contact with KVK
Low level of knowledge	46	19
Medium level of knowledge	40	51
High level of knowledge	14	30

Table 2 : Knowledge regarding selected scientific innovations for sapota cultivation (n=200)

Sr. No.	Selected scientific innovations	Low	Medium	High
1.	Time of fertilizer application	11	47	42
2.	Method of fertilizer application	19	46	35
3.	Use of bio fertilizer	14	27	59
4.	Use of bio fungicides	22	29	49
5.	Dose of fertilizer application	15	21	64
6.	Use of micronutrients	33	45	22
7.	Use of plant growth regulator	39	40	21
8.	Integrated pest management	18	25	57
9.	Value addition (grading)	9	22	69

Table 3 : Overall adoption of scientific package of practices of sapota (percentage) (n= 200)

Category	Before contact with KVK (%)	After contact with KVK
Low level of adoption	55	20
Medium level of adoption	36	56
High level of adoption	9	24

Table 4 : Adoption of critical sapota production technology (%) (n=200)

Sr. No.	Name of technology	Adoption (%)	Rank
1.	Time of fertilizer application	74	II
2.	Method of fertilizer application	65	IV
3.	Use of bio fertilizer	63	V
4.	Use of bio fungicides	57	VII
5.	Dose of fertilizer application	69	III
6.	Use of micronutrients	54	VIII
7.	Use of plant growth regulator	42	IX
8.	Integrated pest management	59	VI
9.	Value addition (grading)	79	I

with Krishi Vigyan Kendra. After contact with Krishi Vigyan Kendra 24 per cent of the farmers had a high level of knowledge regarding selected scientific innovations (Table 3). Godawat (2011) supported the facts.

Under the adoption of scientific sapota production, value addition (79 %) with first rank, time of fertilizer application (74%) with second rank and the dose of fertilizer application as and when required (69%) with third rank and followed by method of fertilizer application (65%) with fourth rank. Other shortfalls in order of importance were use of bio fertilizers (63%), integrated pest management (59%), use of bio fungicides (57%), use of micronutrients (54%) and use of plant growth regulators (42%) (Table 4) Borate *et al.* (2012).

Conclusion :

For the above discussion, it can be concluded that knowledge level and scientific package adoption level of sapota growers were amplified after imparting training and conducting demonstration by Krishi Vigyan Kendra scientists. The demonstrations conducted on scientific package of practices cultivation in sapota at farmer's field in Navsari district revealed that the farmer's could improve their economy by practices using value addition. This study draws the attention for extension workers for effective and efficient transfer of technology in the field of agriculture extension.

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