RESEARCH NOTE

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Knowledge and adoption of papaya growers regarding improved technical of papaya

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ABSTRACT

Anand district, was chosen for the study. Fifteen papaya growing villages were randomly selected from five Talukas, out of which 120 papaya growers with minimum 3 years of experience in papaya cultivation were selected randomly. Findings of the study revealed that about 70.00 per cent and 62.50 per cent of the papaya growers had medium level of knowledge and adoption regarding improved package of practices of papaya, respectively.

KEW WORDS : Knowledge, Adoption, Papaya, Papaya growers

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India has a place of pride on horticultural development map of the world. It is the second largest producer of fruits in the world. Papaya (*Carica papaya*) is an important fruit crop in India. The total production and productivity of papaya crop in India and Gujarat look impressive but are not up to the mark of its potential. One way by which extension scientists can contribute to this task is to find out better ways and means of promoting papaya cultivation technology. There is a great scope of increasing its export by increasing its quality production through adoption of improved cultivation technology. Thus, looking to the importance of factors related with knowledge and adoption regarding papaya cultivation technology of papaya, the study was under taken with the following specific objectives: to study the knowledge of papaya growers regarding improved technology of papaya and adoption of improved technology of papaya by papaya growers.

Anand district, was chosen for the study. Anand, Petlad, Borsad, Anklav and Umreth Talukas of Anand district were purposively selected, because these Talukas have more papaya growing areas as compared to other Talukas. Fifteen papaya growing villages were randomly selected from five Talukas. For the study 120, papaya growers who had minimum 3 years of experience in papaya cultivation were selected randomly. Measurements of knowledge about improved technology of papaya crop was done by using teacher made test and measurements of adoption improved technology of papaya by papaya growers was done by using scale developed by Sengupta (1967) with slight modification. The data were collected with the help of well-structured, pre-tested, Gujarati version interview schedule through personal contact. The data were then compiled, tabulated and analyzed to get proper answers for objectives of the study. The statistical tools used were percentage, mean score and standard deviation.

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

Knowledge of papaya growers regarding improved technology of papaya:

Knowledge refers to know-how about different papaya cultivation technology possessed by the papaya growers. The data regarding level of knowledge are presented in Table 1.

It is obvious from Table 1 that majority (70.00 per cent) of the papaya growers had medium level of knowledge regarding improved technology of papaya,

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Table 1 : Distribution of papaya growers according to their knowledge level regarding improved technology of papaya (n = 120)

Sr. No.	Level of knowledge	Number	Per cent
1.	Low (<60.97)	11	09.16
2.	Medium (between 60.97 to 92.67)	84	70.00
3.	High (> 92.67)	25	20.84
	Total	120	100.00

Mean = 76.82 SD = 15.85

while 20.84 and 09.16 per cent of them had high and low level of knowledge regarding improved technology of papaya, respectively. Thus, it can be concluded that vast majority (90.84 per cent) of papaya growers had medium to high level of knowledge regarding improved technology of papaya cultivation. The finding is in line with the results of Patel (2005).

Adoption of improved technology of papaya growers:

Adoption has been defined as the degree to which a papaya grower adopts improved package of practices of papaya at an appropriate stage. The data were collected, analyzed and the papaya growers were grouped into three categories as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 : Distribution of papaya growers according to the adoption of improved package of practices of papaya crop (n = 120)

Sr. No.	Level of adoption	Number	Per cent
1.	Low (< 40.24)	20	16.67
2.	Medium (between 40.24 to 58.06)	75	62.50
3.	High (> 58.06)	25	20.83
	Total	120	100.00

Mean = 49.15 SD = 8.91

The data of Table 2 depict that more than three-fifth (62.50 per cent) of the papaya growers had medium level of adoption followed by 20.83 per cent and 16.67 per cent of the papaya growers who had high and low level of adoption regarding improved package of practices of papaya, respectively. The present findings are in agreement with the results reported by Jadav and Munshi (2004) and Patel (2005). The probable reason might be the fact that majority of papaya growers had medium level of literacy status, good papaya cultivation experience, good extension contact, mass media exposure and participation in extension activities.

Conclusion:

The result of findings indicated that majority (70.00 per cent) of papaya growers had medium level of knowledge regarding improved technology of the papaya crop and 62.50 per cent of the papaya growers had medium level of adoption regarding improved technology of papaya. It might be due to good literacy status, good papaya cultivation experience, good extension contact, mass media exposure and participation in extension activities.

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