

Research Note

Farmers perception on tuber crop production technology

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SUMMARY : The present study was conducted in Khowai district of Tripura to understand the farmers perception on tuber crop mainly elephant foot yam, colocasia, dioscoria and casava production technology. The study revealed that perception of famers on tuber crop germination rate was more, *i.e.*, 67 per cent followed by weed management (48 %), after care (58 %) and cost of cultivation (55 %) was as usual as other crop production technology. 78 per cent of the respondents revealed that there was no difference between tuber crop and other crop production technology for overall rating. The respondents were reported that water management (65 %), nutrient management (64 %), disease incidence rate (58 %), pest infestation rate (61 %) and labour requirement (68 %) were less as compared to other crop production technology.

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Tuber crops constitute the important link to fill the food security gap with the ability to respond to climate change in an efficient manner. This necessitates a continuing need for the tuber crops to maintain strong productivity growth. Adaptation measures, including improved agricultural technologies, will be particularly important in reducing the potential impact in this context. Only 45-60 per cent adoption of production technologies in major tuber crops growing states hinting at the need to make concerted efforts to improve the diffusion/ adoption of varieties and production technologies in different agro-ecological situations (www.ctcri.org.in). Traditionally, root and tuber crops have been considered primarily as food crops with some by-products and wastes used for animal feed. In reality, these crops are applied to a wide variety of uses which vary considerably across countries and regions, and indeed among the individual crops. Keeping in view, the present study was conducted to know the perception of farmers on tuber crops production technology, because incorporation of tuber crop in their cropping system can be a workable solution to raise the farmers' family income.

The study was conducted in Khowai district of Tripura to understand the farmers perception on tuber crop mainly elephant foot yam, colocasia, dioscoria and casava production technology. One hundred respondents were randomly selected from the Khowai district for the study. Data collection was done with the help of a structured research schedule through personal interview method to achieve the objective formulated for the present study. The collected data were calculated to find out percentage and rank for each response category. The socio personal characteristics of the respondents were also measured under this study.

The socio personal characteristic of the respondents presented in Table 1 reveals that majority of the respondents were in the age group of 35 years and above (52%) with up to class X educational level (62%) which have low mass media exposure (51 %) and majority of the respondents were married (94%) with nuclear family type (54%). Data presented in Table 2 reveal that perception of famers on tuber crop germination rate was more, *i.e.*, 67 per cent which got I rank. Similarly, weed management (48 %, Rank I), after care (58 %, Rank I) and cost of

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Table 1 : Distribution of the respondents according to their socio-personal characteristics (n= 100)

Characteristics	Categories	Percentage
Age	20- 24 years	3
	25- 29 years	11
	30- 34 years	34
	35 years and above	52
Educational level	Illiterate	0
	Can read and write	6
	Up to primary school	13
	Up to class X	62
	Up to class XII	19
	Up to degree level or above	1
Mass media exposure	Low	51
	Medium	45
	High	4
Marital status	Single	6
	Married	94
Family type	Nuclear	54
	Joint	46

Table 2: Distribution of respondents based on their perception on tuber crop production technology (n= 100)

Sr. No.	Parameters	Response	Percentage	Rank
1.	Germination rate	More	67	I
		Usual	33	II
		Less	0	III
2.	Weed management	More	32	II
		Usual	48	I
		Less	10	III
3.	Water management	More	6	III
		Usual	29	II
		Less	65	I
4.	Nutrient management	More	2	III
		Usual	36	II
		Less	64	I
5.	Disease incidence rate	More	0	III
		Usual	42	II
		Less	58	I
6.	Pest infestation rate	More	0	III
		Usual	37	II
		Less	61	I
7.	Cost of cultivation	Cheaper	41	II
		Moderate	55	I
		Costly	4	III
8.	After care	More	36	II
		Usual	58	I
		Less	6	III
9.	Labour requirement	More	9	III
		Usual	23	II
		Less	68	I
10.	Overall rating	Superior	18	II
		No difference	78	I
		Inferior	4	III

cultivation (55 %, Rank I) is as usual as other crop production technology where as 78 per cent of the respondents revealed that there was no difference between tuber crop and other crop production technology for overall rating. The respondents reported that water management (65 %, Rank I), nutrient management (64 %, Rank I), disease incidence rate (58 %, Rank I), pest infestation rate (61 %, Rank I) and labour requirement (68 %, Rank I) was less as compared to other crop production technology.

Conclusion :

An alternative approach would be to compare the crops in terms of energy and protein production relative to human dietary needs. However, this approach also has its limitations in that no single crop adequately meets the balanced requirements of the human diet, which in addition to protein and energy includes specific essential amino acids, minerals, trace elements and vitamins. Tuber crops vary considerably in these different components and in turn are markedly different from other staples, most noticeably in terms of protein content. Food protein is particularly important for the poor as their choice of food is often limited to one or two staple crops (Dutta *et al.*, 2009). So, from the above findings it is concluded that the farmers of our region have potentiality, but they are not using these, after regular training, demonstration and guidance can make the farmer an expert for tuber crop production technology which ultimately can raise their individual family income as a whole.

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