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Research Article

Knowledge level of cauliflower growers about recommended cauliflower production technology

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SUMMARY : Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*) is one the most important as well as popular winter vegetable crops, which is grown through out the country.Vegetables play an important role in the maintenance of human health. These make diet nutritive and balanced. A balanced diet requires a proper quota of fresh vegetables. About 300 g of vegetables are needed (90 g root vegetables, 120 g green vegetables and 90 g other vegetables). But, about 220.8 g vegetables per day per capita are available. The present study was conducted in Jaipur district of Rajasthan which was selected purposively. The Jaipur district consists of 13 Panchayat Samities, out of which two Panchayat Samities namely Govindgarh and Amber were selected purposively on the basis of the highest area and production. In all 12 villages were selected from the selected Gram Panchayats by using simple random sampling technique and a sample of 84 cauliflower growers was selected from these villages by using proportionate random sampling technique. It was found that 42.86 per cent respondents were categorized in medium knowledge level while 32.14 per cent respondents were in high knowledge level and 25 per cent respondents in low knowledge level about recommended cultivation practices of cauliflower.

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Cauliflower (*Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*) is one the most important as well as popular winter vegetable crops, which is grown through out the country. It is one of the oldest vegetables cultivated in the world believed to be since 2500 BC by Greeks and Romans it is cultivated in India from mughal period. Vegetables play an important role in the maintenance of human health. These make diet nutritive and balanced. A balanced diet requires a proper quota of fresh vegetables. About 300 g of vegetables are needed (90 g root vegetables, 120 g green vegetables and 90 g other vegetables). But, about 220.8 g vegetables per day per capita are available.

RESOURCES AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Jaipur district of Rajasthan which was selected purposively. The Jaipur district consists of 13 Panchayat Samities, out of which two Panchayat Samities namely Govindgarh and Amber were selected purposively on the basis of the highest area and production. Amber and Govindgarh Panchayat Samities comprised of 48 and 45 Gram Panchayats, respectively. Among these, 3 Gram Panchayats from Amber Panchayat Samiti and 3 Gram Panchayats from Govindgarh Panchayat Samiti were selected randomly. In all 12 villages were selected from the selected Gram Panchayats by using simple random sampling technique and a sample of 84 cauliflower growers was selected from these villages by using proportionate random sampling technique.

OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The results of the present study as well as

relevant discussions have been presented under following sub heads:

Knowledge level of cauliflower growers about recommended cauliflower production technology :

The knowledge about the technology had influenced on the decision-making about its adoption. With this view in mind the knowledge test was applied to the cauliflower growers to know their knowledge about cauliflower cultivation.

The data in Table 1 revealed that on the whole 42.86 per cent of cauliflower growers were having medium knowledge level about cauliflower cultivation practices and 32.14 per cent respondents were having high knowledge level, whereas 25 per cent of respondents were having low knowledge level about recommended cultivation practices of cauliflower.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents under different knowledge levels regarding recommended cauliflower production technology (n=84)

Sr. No.	Knowledge level categories	Number of respondents	Percentage of respondents
1.	Low knowledge (Scores below 25.65)	21	25
2.	Medium knowledge (Scores from 25.65 to 48.55)	36	42.86
3.	High knowledge (Scores above 48.55)	27	32.14
	Total	84	100

$\overline{X}$ = 37.10 score, σ = 11.45 score

The data in Table 2 indicate that knowledge level of cauliflower growers regarding various aspects like seed rate and seed treatment, sowing and high yielding varieties, application of manures and fertilizers, processing, preparation of land and soil testing, plant protection measures, harvesting and storage, transplanting and irrigation management were found to be 75.00, 74.40, 72.80, 72.62, 70.53, 70.15, 67.85, 66.67 and 66.07 MPS and ranks were assigned I,II,III,IV,V,VI,VII,VIII and IX, respectively.

Table 2 : Knowledge levels of respondents about recommended cauliflower production technology (n=84)

Sr.No.	Knowledge level about different practices	MPS	Rank
1.	Preparation of land and soil testing	70.53	V
2.	Seed rate and seed treatment	75.00	I
3.	Sowing and high yielding varieties	74.40	II
4.	Transplanting	66.67	VIII
5.	Application of manures and fertilizers	72.80	III
6.	Irrigation management	66.07	IX
7.	Plant protection measures	70.15	VI
8.	Harvesting and storage	67.85	VII
9.	Processing	72.62	IV

From the findings it is clear that majority of the respondents (75%) had medium to high knowledge about recommended cultivation practices of cauliflower, because most of the respondents were literate, due to which they might have read literature regarding recommended cultivation practices of cauliflower. Most of the respondents were using more sources of information and hence, were gaining more knowledge.

They were also participating more in social organizations due to which they might have gained more knowledge by discussing with other respondents, group members about recommended cultivation practices of cauliflower.

A few of the respondents were having low knowledge which might be attributed to the fear among them about the new innovations. Respondents and lack of specialized trainings about recommended practices of cauliflower in the area.

From the findings, it is also evident that majority of the respondents were having high knowledge about the “seed rate and seed treatment” and “ sowing and high yielding varieties”. This might be due to the reason that majority of the respondents were regularly growing cauliflower for market purpose and these practices were most critical from the point of view of the cauliflower production. A slight carelessness in these practices may reduce the production of cauliflower drastically, so the respondents remain most careful about these practices. Also for producing good quality cauliflower, they mostly remain in contact with the extension agencies, sales agents etc., resulting in gain in knowledge about these recommended cultivation practices.

The respondents had low knowledge about irrigation management and transplanting practices about recommended cauliflower production technology. The findings of the study are in conformity with the findings of Chaturvedi (1997) and Choudhary (1999). Similarly Chaturvedi (1997) studied the knowlege and adoption of improved practices of cauliflower among the farmers of Udaipur district (Rajasthan).

Conclusion :

– It was found that 42.86 per cent respondents were categorized in medium knowledge level while 32.14 per cent respondents were in high knowledge level and 25 per cent respondents in low knowledge level about recommended cultivation practices of cauliflower.

– Seventy five per cent respondents had knowledge regarding the seed rate and seed treatment. Whereas, 74.40 per cent farmers were well aware about the sowing and high yielding varieties and 72.80 per cent farmers were well aware about the application of manures and fertilizers at the same time 72.62 per cent respondents were found well aware about

the processing, followed by preparation of land and soil testing by 70.53 per cent, plant protection measures by 70.15 per cent, harvesting/storage by 67.85 per cent, transplanting by 66.67 per cent and irrigation management by 66.07 per cent respondents.

Recommendation :

Special training programmes which are related to various aspects like, seed treatment, their specific methods of use, doses and time of application and recommended doses of different fertilizers and chemicals, preparation of soil and soil testing, plant protection measures, storage and marketing of farm products etc. should be organized at the village level.

Efforts be made to develop and make available more disease resistant varieties of cauliflower.

Proper storage and marketing facilities be provided to the cauliflower growers for their farm products.

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