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PB Raviya

Senior Research Fellow,
Directorate of Extension
Education, JAU, Junagadh,
Gujarat, India

LK Mokariya

Field Assistant, Directorate of
Extension Education, JAU,
Junagadh, Gujarat, India

KP Vaghasiya

Department of Agril. Extension,
College of Agriculture, JAU,
Junagadh, Gujarat, India

Knowledge level of cotton growers about recommended cotton production practices

PB Raviya, LK Mokariya and KP Vaghasiya

Abstract

Cotton is one of the most important fiber and cash crop of India and plays a dominant role in the industrial and agricultural economy of the country. It provides the basic raw material (cotton fibre) to cotton textile industry. Cotton in India provides direct livelihood to 6 million farmers and about 40 -50 million people are employed in cotton trade and its processing. Cotton farming sustains small and marginal farmers across numerous states, especially in Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh. It provides income and stability to rural communities. A study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state. Four villages from three random talukas were selected. Ten cotton growers from each village and make a sample of 120 cotton growers who having highest area under cotton cultivation. Three fifth (60.00 percent) of the respondents had medium level knowledge group followed by 21.66 percent and 18.34 percent of respondents were in high and low level of knowledge group about recommended cotton practices.

Keywords: Knowledge, cotton, production practices, farmers

Introduction

Cotton (*Gossypium* spp.) is one of the most important ancient and commercial fiber crop of India. Besides food and housing, clothing is one of the primary needs of human being. On an average 14.2 meter cloth is required per head per annum to fulfill clothing need. Cotton had provided the most versatile fiber and till today. It continues to rule as the “King of Apparel Fiber”. It is playing a key role in economic, political and social affairs of the world. Due to its importance in agricultural as well as industrial economy, it is known as “white gold”. Cotton is cultivated in about 60 countries of the world. The countries such as USSR, USA, China, Brazil, Pakistan, Turkey, Egypt, Mexico and Sudan account for nearly 85.00 percent of the total cotton production.

Almost all the districts of Gujarat state, including Vadodara, Surendranagar, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Bharuch, Kheda, Surat, Rajkot, Junagadh and Kutch are the major cotton producing districts (Anonymous, 2016) ^[1]. Junagadh is one of the remarkable cotton growing district of the state. The farmers of the district are pioneer in introducing cotton cultivation. The district comprises of 9 talukas, of which Mendarada, Manavadar and Visavadar taluka has been considered as productivity potential region of cotton crop due to assured irrigation facilities and favorable soil and climatic conditions. The farmers are not knowledge full package of recommended practices. This study was undertaken to assess the knowledge level of cotton growers about recommended cotton production practices.

Objective

To assess the knowledge level of cotton growers about recommended cotton production practices

Methodology

The study of ex-post facto research design. Multistage simple random sampling was used to draw the sample. This involved selecting three talukas out of the total nine in Junagadh, focusing on those with the maximum area under cotton cultivation. Twelve villages were then randomly selected from these three talukas, and ten cotton growers from each village were chosen as respondents. The total sample size was 120 cotton growers from twelve villages. The study was conducted in Junagadh district of Gujarat state, which consists of nine talukas. The selection of talukas was based on the criterion of having the maximum area under cotton cultivation. To measures the knowledge level of respondents about recommended cotton

Corresponding Author:

PB Raviya

Senior Research Fellow,
Directorate of Extension
Education, JAU, Junagadh,
Gujarat, India

production technology, a teacher made test based on scale developed by Jha and Singh (1970) [5] was used with slight modification to in suit the present study.

The list of cotton production technology as recommended by GAU and JAU was collected from Cotton Research Station and Office of Director of Research, JAU Junagadh. These selected practices were considered as index. To measure the knowledge level of respondents with respect to cotton production technology recommended by GAU and JAU. The respondents were asked to answer correct or incorrect and yes or no. They were asked to answer some direct questions. The correct answer was tick marked and assigned one score. The total number of tick marked items were summed up and considered as the knowledge score of the individual respondent. Following formula was used for calculating the knowledge index of individual respondents. Structural interview schedules were used for data collection. This suggests that the data were gathered through interviews that followed a predetermined structure or set of questions. The respondents were the selected cotton growers. The collected data were analyzed and interpreted. The specific methods of analysis were not detailed in the provided information.

Results

The knowledge of respondents recommended cotton production practices is presented in Table 1 and depicted in Fig.1

Table 1: Distribution of respondents based on their knowledge about recommended practices of cotton

(n=120)			
Sr. No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Low level of knowledge (up to 55.68 score)	22	18.34
2	Medium level of knowledge (55.69 to 76.30 score)	72	60.00
3	High level of knowledge (Above 76.30 score)	26	21.66
Total		120	100.00
Mean = 65.68 S.D. = 10.62			

From the Table 1 and Figure 1, it is clear that 60.00 percent of the respondents were from medium level knowledge group with respect to recommended cotton production practices followed by (21.66 and 18.33 percent) of respondents were in high and low knowledge group respectively.

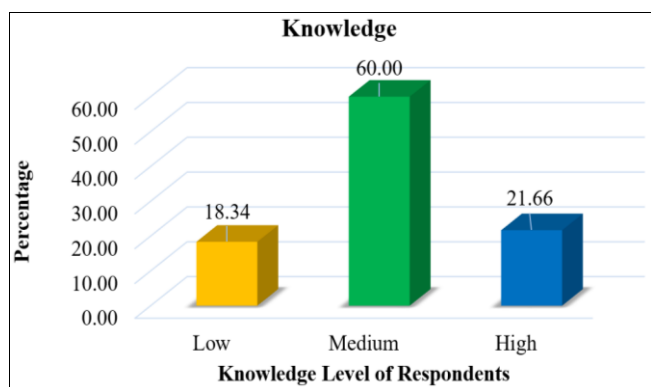


Fig 1: Knowledge level of respondents about recommended practices of cotton

Conclusion

Exactly three-fifth (60.00 %) of the respondents had medium level of knowledge about the recommended practices of cotton. Whereas, 21.66 percent and 18.34 percent respondents had high and low level knowledge about recommended practices of cotton.

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