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Attitude of farmers towards soil health card

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Abstract

The present study entitled —Attitude of farmers towards soil health card was carried out using a study sample of 120 respondents in the tehsils of Latur, Renapur, and AUSA in the state of Maharashtra. Randomly, four villages were chosen from each tehsil. From each of the chosen villages, ten respondents were chosen randomly. This research study employed an ex-post-facto research design. Multiple regression analysis, Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation, frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and other statistical tests and methods were applied. It was determined that, majority (71.67%) of the respondents had favourable attitude towards soil health card, while 16.67 per cent had more favourable and remaining 11.66 per cent of the respondents belonged to less favourable attitude towards soil health card.

Keywords: Attitude, soil health card

Introduction

Referring to the song, Vande Mataram in order to achieve a land that is truly. Sujalam, Suphalam it is necessary to nurture the soil.

On World Soil Day we reaffirm our commitment to making our soil healthier. When soil is in good health, our farmers get more wealth.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India (2015).

The Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi introduced the Soil Health Card Scheme in Suratgarh, Rajasthan, on February 19, 2015. The program's slogan is "Swasth Dhara Khet Haraa, I - Healthy Earth, Green Farm. Under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation promotes and administers these programmes. The government intends to provide soil health cards, which include crop-wise recommendations for each farm in every state, to all farmers. The Soil Health Card Scheme aims to promote environmentally sustainable agriculture by encouraging farmers to adopt practices that reduce soil degradation, such as minimizing the use of chemical fertilizers. The scheme aims to improve the livelihoods of farmers, increase crop productivity, and reduce input costs. Soil health card is a printed report that a farmer will be handed over for each of his holdings. Every three years, a farmer will receive a soil health card that will allow them to identify and address any nutrient deficiencies. It will contain the status of his soil with respect to 12 parameters, namely N, P, K (Macro- nutrients); S (Secondary- nutrient) Zn, Fe, Cu, Mn, Bo (Micro – nutrients); and pH, EC, OC (Physical parameters). Based on this, the soil health card will also indicate fertilizer recommendations and soil amendment required for the farm. After taking soil samples from the farmer's field, specialists will assess the soil's qualities and shortcomings and recommend remediation strategies. The cards will show the outcome and recommendation.

Soil health cards-which are prepared in 21 languages are given to farmers, as per Shri Singh. In line with the recommendations on the card, he added, farmers should apply nutrients in their fields. This will reduce the cost of production and increase the output and income of the farmers (Watts and Sally, 2014) [10].

When a continuous cropping system is used for extended periods of time without a sufficient supply of additional nutrients, deficiencies in vital nutrients may eventually arise. The overuse of chemical fertilizers and other agrochemicals in today's agricultural environment poses a major risk to the health of the soil and plants. Even though chemical fertilizers are essential to modern agriculture, overuse of them has a negative impact on the health of the soil, plants, and farmers' bottom line because their costs are rising daily.

Since fertilizer is one of the most expensive inputs needed, balanced scheduling for dose optimization is required to achieve maximum returns.

Methodology

The current investigation was carried out in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra state in Latur district in the year 2022–2023.

The Latur District consisted of ten tehsils, out of which Latur, Renapur and Ausa tehsils were selected by lottery method. Four villages from each selected tehsils were randomly selected for the study.

Ten respondents were randomly chosen from each of the villages that were considered, for a total of 120 respondents in the study.

For the purposes of the study, a sampling technique was used for selecting the respondents. To estimate the research, research design was ex post facto. The information gathered using a pretested interview schedule. Data analysis was conducted using statistical tests and methods, including frequency, percentage, means, standard deviation, and correlation coefficient. The main objective of the current investigation is to study - Attitude of farmers towards soil health card.

Objective

To measure attitude of farmers towards soil health card.

Results and Discussion

Allport (1935) [1] defined attitude as a mental state of readiness, organization through experience, exerting a device and dynamics influence upon individual 's responses to all objects and situations with which it is related.

Respondents were asked to state their frequency of attitude towards soil health card in terms of Strongly agree, Agree, Undecided, disagree 'and Strongly disagree. The numerical scores of 5, 4, 3, 2, and 1 were assigned to them respectively for the positive statement and for negative statement 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 score were assigned respectively.

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their attitude towards soil health card

Sl. No.	Category	Respondents	
		Frequency	Percentage
1	Less favourable	14	11.66
2	Favourable	86	71.67
3	More favourable	20	16.67
Total		120	100.00

The result in the Table 1 reported that, majority (71.67%) of the respondents had favourable attitude towards soil health card, followed by 16.67 per cent of the respondents had more favourable attitude towards soil health card and remaining 11.66 per cent of the respondents had less favourable attitude towards soil health card.

The probable reason may be due to majority of the respondents had excellent experience in farming also had completed secondary school, were involved in multiple organizations, used a variety of information sources, and had good contact with extension agents, which helped the respondents to get knowledge about the soil health card.

Thus concluded that majority of the respondents belonged to favourable attitude towards soil health card.

This finding are in the line with the findings of Lamkane

(2018) [6], Dhawale (2019) [4], Sanghamitra Kamble (2020) [9], Kumbhar (2020) [5], Borade (2021) [3] and Patel (2021) [7].

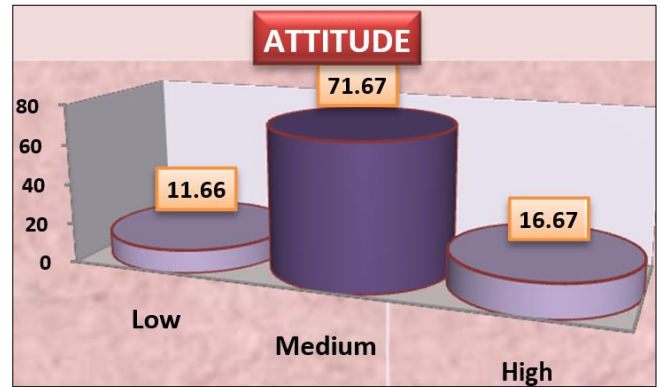


Fig 1: Distribution of the respondents towards soil health card

Conclusion

The outcome with reference to attitude of farmers towards soil health card revealed that, majority (71.67%) of the respondents had favourable attitude towards soil health card, followed by 16.67 per cent of the respondents had more favourable attitude towards soil health card and remaining 11.66 per cent of the respondents had less favourable attitude towards soil health card.

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