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Short Communication

Knowledge and Adoption of the Recommended Package of Practices for Banana crop

C D Badgujar

Banana Research Station, Jalgaon-425001 (Maharashtra)

INTRODUCTION

Banana is an important fruit crop of Maharashtra state having about 80,000 ha. area under cultivation (Anonymous, 2011). The state is leading for productivity (62.9 MT) in the country. In Maharashtra banana is grown in Jalgaon, Dhule Nandurbar, Akola, Naded, Parbhani, Solapur, Pune , Ahmednagar and Ratnagiri districts. The highest area (49,000 ha.) is concentrated in Jalgaon district. The average productivity of Jalgaon is more than 65 MT, still there is vast scope to increase the productivity of banana in Jalgaon District. This indicates that there is urgent need to know their existing knowledge level, extent of adoption for deciding the future strategy in respect of promoting the recommended banana production technology. In view of this the study was conducted with objectives to know the level of knowledge of banana and adoption of the recommended package of practices of banana.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in nineteen villages of five Talukas of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra being the large area under banana cultivation during 2007-08. The list of banana growing villages and growers was obtained from Taluka Agriculture Officer (TAO). From this list, nineteen villages were selected and out of this hundred banana growers were selected for this study. An interview schedule based on the objectives was prepared in local language (Marathi). The data were collected with the help of pre-designed interview schedule by contacting banana growers personally. The information collected was processed and data was presented in the form of percentage.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Practice wise knowledge of recommended package of practices of banana cultivation

The data (Table1) revealed that 92 and 4 per cent of respondents, respectively had complete and partial knowledge of selection of proper planting material. The number of plants/ha., an important cultivation aspect was known completely to 58 per cent and partially to 28 per cent of respondents. The knowledge of proper time of planting was known by 56 per cent respondents, however 42 per cent were aware of it partially. 26 per cent respondents were knowing correct organic and chemical fertiliser dose, while it was known partially by 54 and 72 per cent respondents, respectively. Majority of respondent *viz.* 62, 46 and 60 per cent were knowing the package of practices regarding watering, plant protection and timely harvesting, partially, however their complete knowledge was dealt by 38, 20 and 36 per cent respondents, respectively. The package in respect of plant protection was unknown to 34 per cent whereas use of organic manure for banana crop was unknown to 20 per cent of respondents. Therefore in order to boost the productivity of banana, the extension efforts on plant protection techniques and use of organic manure should be on top priority for improving the knowledge level of banana growers. Ramshetwad *et al.* (2002) have reported similar findings in respect of grower's knowledge about plant protection measures in banana cultivation. From the data (Table 2) it was evident that majority (60%) of respondents had medium level of knowledge followed by 26 per cent having low knowledge and only 14 per cent had high level of knowledge. Thus, it can be concluded that

*Corresponding Author's Email: badgujarcd@gmail.com

Table 1. Distribution of banana growers according to practice wise knowledge and adoption of recommended package.

Sr. No	Recommended package of practice	Per-cent respondent					
		Knowledge level			Adoption		
		Complete	Partial	Un-known	Complete	Partial	Non-adoption
1	Selection of planting material (Suckers/Tissue culture plants)	92	04	04	96	02	02
2	Number of plants/ha (Spacing)	58	28	04	46	54	00
3	Time of planting	56	42	02	46	54	00
4	Recommended organic manures'	26	54	20	30	60	10
5	Recommended chemical fertilizer	26	72	02	28	72	00
6	Recommended water management	38	62	00	64	34	02
7	Recommended plant protection	20	46	34	14	76	10
8	Harvesting of banana	36	60	04	56	44	00

significant percentage of respondents were aware about the recommended banana cultivation practices. Similar findings were reported by Walke *et al*. (1995) and Patil (1998).

Practice wise adoption of recommended package of practices of banana cultivation

It was observed (Table 1) that 96 per cent respondents completely adopted the package regarding selection of planting material, while 46 per cent respondents adopted the proper plant spacing and proper planting time. More than 50 per cent respondents partially adopted recommended spacing, proper time of planting and recommended organic and chemical fertilizers along plant protection measures. The range of non adopters for recommended package of practices was 0 to 10 per cent. Proper time of harvesting and water management were partially adopted by 44 and 34 per cent respondents. Majority (72%) of respondents were having medium level of adoption followed by 16 and 12 per cent of the respondents with high and low level of adoption for recommended package of practices of banana cultivation respectively. These findings were in the line with the findings of Walke *et al*. (1995); Patil (1998); Pandya and Vekaria (1994) and Waman and Wagh (2009).

Table 2: Distribution of banana growers according to their level of knowledge and adoption.

Sr. No	Category	Per cent respondents	Per cent respondents
1	Low	26	12
2	Medium	60	72
3	High	14	16

CONCLUSION

The investigation was carried out in five tehsils (Rawer, Muktainagar, Yawal, Chopada and Jalgaon) of Jalgaon district where banana is more extensively grown. The present investigation was undertaken with a view to know the level of knowledge and adoption of the recommended package of practices of banana cultivation. The results revealed that majority of banana growers possessed medium level of knowledge and adoption of recommended packages of practices of banana cultivation. The significant findings conclude that planned guidance through trainings should be performed for expansion of knowledge as well as adoption of recommended package of practices.

It can be concluded that there is an urgent need of conducting organised trainings for upgrading of knowledge adoption of recommended package of practices for banana crop.

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