INTRODUCTION

Banana becomes one among the most popular fruits due to its low price and high nutritive value. Insect pests of banana can cause significant damage to fruits. Integrated pest management is a system approach to pest control which combines biological, cultural and other novel approaches with the judicious use of pesticides.

The prime intent of IPM is to maintain pest levels below economically damaging levels while minimizing detrimental effects of pest control on human health and environmental resources. Generally, it is believed that formal education opens the mental horizon of an individual and helps in promoting analytical thinking which leads to develop attitude towards subjects or objects. Keeping the above facts in view, an attempt has been made to study education and its relationship with the level of knowledge of banana growers about IPM.

OBJECTIVES

(1) To study the education level of banana growers

(2) To ascertain relationship between the education of banana growers and their level of knowledge about integrated pest management practices

METHODOLOGY

The present study was undertaken in Anand district of Gujarat state. The level of knowledge of banana growers about IPM was studied with the help of the developed test. Five villages having fairly good number of banana growers adopting integrated pest management practices were selected from each of the Anand and Petlad taluka purposively. 10 banana growers adopting integrated pest management practices were randomly selected from each village. Thus, total sample size was 100 banana growers adopting integrated pest management practices.

Karl person coefficient of correlation (r) was calculated to find out the relationship between education and the level of knowledge of banana growers about integrated pest management.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Primary education (1st to 7th standard)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Secondary education (8th to 10th standard)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Higher secondary education (11th and 12th standard)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Graduate and above</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It refers to the formal education obtained by the banana growers in terms of their level of education. According to their level of education, they were classified into five groups and measured with score assigned to actual possessed education as under:

ABSTRACT

Education plays an important role in soaring the level of knowledge of banana growers about Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to study education and its relationship with the level of knowledge of banana growers about IPM. The result of study revealed that slightly less than four-fifth (78.00 per cent) of the banana growers had education from secondary to higher secondary and graduation level of education. Also found that, education of banana growers had positive and highly significant correlation (r = 0.283**) with their level of knowledge about IPM.

Keywords: education, knowledge, integrated pest management (IPM), banana growers
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Generally, it is an established fact that formal education plays a relevant role in bringing desirable changes in human behaviour and helps in promoting analytical thinking which leads to the development of an attitude towards subjects or objects. Considering this aspect, the formal education of banana grower was studied and data in this regards are presented in Table 1 and graphically depicted in Figure 1.

Table 1: Distribution of banana growers according to their educational level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No.</th>
<th>Educational level</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Illiterate</td>
<td>00</td>
<td>00.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Primary education (1st to 7th standard)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Secondary education (8th to 10th standard)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Higher Secondary education (11th to 12th standard)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Graduation and above</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data presented in Table 1 reveals that slightly less than two-fifth (33.00 per cent) of the banana growers had higher secondary level of education, followed by 26.00 per cent and 22.00 per cent of them had graduation & above and primary level of education, while 19.00 per cent of banana growers had secondary level of education and none of them were illiterate.

Conclusively, it can be said that slightly less than four-fifth (78.00 per cent) of the banana growers had education from secondary to higher secondary and graduation and above level of education.

The probable reason might be the easy access to schools by the farmers and also the realization of relevance and necessity of formal education in the present scenario. Due to the awareness programmes and continuous efforts undertaken by government and non-government agencies to achieve complete literacy across the country is also having a key role in soaring everybody’s aspiration to be literate enough.

This finding is more or less in conformity with those reported by Patel et al. (2017), Singh et al. (2016) and Sondarva (2017).

The probable reason might be the higher education level of banana farmers might have enabled them to comprehend the complex integrated plant protection measures in an easy, simple and better way. It is an established fact that an educated person is in a better position to gather information, better understanding capacity and interpret even complex information related to his enterprises. Hence, educated people are having unique ability for easy gaining and retention of knowledge and also they become more receptive to the innovative things compared to the less educated or illiterates farmers.

This finding conforms to the findings of Mulewa (2007), Manjunath et al. (2010), Patel et al. (2015) and Patel et al. (2017).

CONCLUSION

From above study it is revealed that slightly less than four-fifth (78.00 per cent) of the banana growers had...
education from secondary to higher secondary and graduation level of education. It is also revealed that there was positive and highly significant correlation ($r = 0.283^{**}$) between education of banana growers and their level of knowledge about integrated pest management.

REFERENCES


