

DETERMINANTS IN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT RECOMMENDED PACKAGE OF PRACTICES OF ROOT AND TUBER CROPS

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ABSTRACT

With a view to know the correlation of knowledge about recommended package of practices of root and tuber crops with the root and tuber crop growers characteristics, the present study was undertaken in Navsari district of Gujarat. Majority of root and tuber crop growers had medium level of knowledge about recommended package of practices of root and tuber crops. The independent variables viz., farming experience, social participation, mass media exposure, education, size of land holding, annual income, extension contact and extension participation were positively and significantly correlated with knowledge about recommended package of practices of root & tuber crops.

Keywords : knowledge, root tuber crops, package of practices

INTRODUCTION

Tropical root and tuber crops are considered as the third important group of food crops after cereals and grain legumes. They contribute 6 percent of the average daily calorific intake of human beings. Mostly tropical tuber crop produced, that are used for human food and animal feed. Elephant foot yam, Greater yam, Aerial yam, Colocasia, Tannia, and Sweet potato play a major role in the socio-economic condition of small and marginal farmers of tribal areas of Gujarat region in context of food and nutrition security. It is believable that to motivate farmers for adopting recommended package of practices of root & tuber crops for food security and nutritional security is very much essential. Final decision of farmers to adopt root & tuber crops cultivation is usually the result of their knowledge about recommended package of practices of tuber crops. Knowledge of the root and tuber crop growers can be affected by their various characteristics. In this context, an attempt has been made to carry out the present investigation.

OBJECTIVE

To know the determinants in knowledge about recommended package of practices of root and tuber crops

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted during April-June 2016 in Navsari district of Gujarat state. Gandevi, Chikhali and Khergam Talukas were randomly selected from Navsari district. From each taluka three villages were selected randomly with maximum number of root and tuber crop growers. In each of the selected villages farmers were selected according to random proportionate sampling to form 70 respondents as a sample size for the study. In order to measure correlation between profile of root and tuber crop growers and knowledge of recommended package of practices, various scale developed by different social scientist were adopted with due modification and correlation of coefficient (r) test was applied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Relationship between the personal, socio-economic characteristics of root and tuber crop growers and their knowledge

The association between the profile of root and tuber crop growers and their knowledge about recommended package of practices of root and tuber crops were worked out with the help coefficient of correlation. The findings were presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Relationship between profile of the root and tuber crop growers and their knowledge regarding recommended package of practices of root and tuber crops

n=70

Sr. No.	Independent Variables	Correlation-Coefficient ('r' value)
X ₁	Age	0.099 NS
X ₂	Education	0.736**
X ₃	Farming experience	0.204*
X ₄	Size of land holding	0.299**
X ₅	Annual income	0.535**
X ₆	Material possession	0.122NS
X ₇	Extension contact	0.491**
X ₈	Extension participation	0.344**
X ₉	Social participation	0.250*
X ₁₀	Mass media exposure	0.201*

NS= non-significant

* = significant at 0.05 level

**=significant at 0.01 level

The data manifested in the Table 1 revealed that in case of root and tuber crop growers, characteristics such as age ($r = 0.099$) and material possession ($r = 0.122$) was positive and non-significantly correlated with knowledge level. The characteristics such as farming experience ($r = 0.204$), social

participation ($r = 0.250$) and mass media exposure ($r = 0.201$) was positive and significantly correlated with knowledge level. Education ($r = 0.736$), size of land holding ($r = 0.299$), annual income ($r = 0.535$), extension contact ($r = 0.491$) and extension participation ($r = 0.344$) were positive and high significant with knowledge level.

CONCLUSION

There were positive and significant relationship between farming experience, social participation, mass media exposure, education, size of land holding, annual income, extension contact and extension participation with the level of knowledge about recommended package of practices of root & tuber crops.

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