

Perception of Oil Palm Growers on Ablation Tool Performance in Oil Palm Cultivation

M V Prasad, T Vidhan Sing H, S Shivashankar and Ananta Sarkar

ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research, Pedavegi, A. P.

ABSTRACT

The process of removing of unopened inflorescence during 1-3 years after planting of oil palm is called Ablation. Most of the farmers either ignore or partially practice ablation, which will affect the growth and yield. Ablation tool was developed by ICAR-Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research for removal of inflorescence during 1-3 years. Farmers are using ablation tools in their oil palm plantations during juvenile period to remove inflorescence. The present study was conducted to know the perception of oil palm growers about the performance of Ablation tool. A structured interview schedule was administered to 34 randomly selected ablation tool users. Results indicated farmers used ablation tool in 2-4 years age oil palm plantations. Tool was operated in an area of 2 ha. Farmers used ablation tool for more than 1 year. Respondents perceived tool is good. Ablation tool users found that tool is easy. Cent percent tool users responded that tool is useful, does not have any complications while using, less energies used, comfortable, safe, no damage to plant, angle is good and weight of ablation tool is satisfactory. Ablation tool can be operated satisfactorily from a distance of 2 meters from plant and U shaped wedge is appropriate for removing inflorescence. They revealed that, one person could operate in 0.8 ha in a day. Users took 1 minute time for removing one inflorescence. Users revealed that ablation tool doesn't require any modifications.

Key words: *Ablation tool, Oil Palm, Perception and Removal of inflorescence.*