

Attitude of Farmers Towards The IPM Practices in Dry Land Paddy

Key words : Dry Land Paddy, IPM

Dry land agriculture is the back bone of Indian agriculture as 75 per centage of our cultivated area is rainfed and the fortune of majority of farmers is linked with the progress of dry land agriculture. The low productivity of these dry land is due to poor fertility, aberrant weather, pest attack, poor resources, smaller size of land holding and traditional managment and non-adoption of IPM practices.

Therefore, this study on acceptance or rejection of particular technology and accessibility to the technical inputs and services for IPM practice.

Bhandara district of Masharashtra was purposively selected having highest acreage under paddy cultivation. For study 10 villages were selected randomly, from each village 15 farmers were selected randomly, Thus the total sample comprised 150 farmers. Measurement of attitude of IPM practices of paddy farmers, by using the likert method of summated rating type scale used by single item as well as total score on the attitude dimension was studied. Data were collected with the help of interview schedule. The respondents were asked each statement on a five point continuum ranging from "strongly agree to strongly disagree. The data were statistically analysed .

The data presented in the Table 1 indicate that majority (68.67%) of IPM respondents had moderately favourable attitude, followed by more favourable attitude (16.66%) and (14.67%) of respondents had less favourable attitude, respectively.

The majority of respondents had moderately favourable attitude. The selected respondents were the target group of the IPM training to mobilize positive attitude towards IPM technology. It could be natural and rather encouraging to have such distributions of respondents. This might be due to fact that they might have got convinced about the benefits of IPM technology. This findings are in conformity with Singh and Singh (1971), Singh (1980), Bhakri (1985) and Vekaria *et al.*, (1993).

It indicated that hte attitude statement towards IPM practices were positive and negative impressions. The Table 2 (Statment -1) indicated that IPM has unique importance in increasing yield ha-1, and improving quality of produce was strongly agreed (63.33%) and agreed (36.00%) of respondents, respectively. Statement - 2 indicates, IPM reduces pest and diseases occurrence strongly agreed (56.7%) followed by agreed (40.67%), farmers prefer IPM due to efficient pest management though it is complex (statement - 3) was agreed (49.33%) and strongly agree (44.00%). IPM approach can be adopted to local farmers needs, majority agreed (51.33%) followed by strongly agreed (34.00%). Majority (77.33%) of IPM paddy respondents strongly disagree with more risk is involved in IPM approach, followed by disagree (21.33%) respectively. Majority (54.67%) of respondents strongly agreed about knowledge of pest, diseases and predators makes farmers expert in their own field, followed by agree (39.33%) IPM practices gives

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to attitude towards IPM (Plant protection technology).

Category	Frequency (F)	Percentage (%)
Less favourable	22	14.67
Moderately favourable	103	68.67
More favourable	25	16.66
Total	150	100.00

Mean = 44.28

SD = 5.1467

Table 2. Attitude of respondents towards IPM practices.

		N = 150				
S.No.	Statement	SA	A	UD	DA	SDA
1.	IPM has unique importance in increasing yield per ha and improving quality of produce	95 (63.33)	54 (36.00)	1 (0.67)	- -	- -
2.	IPM reduces pest and diseases occurrence	85 (56.67)	61 (40.67)	4 (2.66)	- -	- -
3.	Farmers prefer IPM due to efficient pest mangement though it is complex.	66 (44.00)	74 (49.33)	10 (6.67)	- -	- -
4.	IPM approach can be adopted to local farmers needs.	51 (34.00)	77 (51.33)	22 (14.67)	- -	- -
5.	More risk is involved in IPM approach	-	-	2 (1.33)	32 (21.33)	116 (77.33)
6.	Knowledge of pest, diseases and predators makes farmers expert in their own field.	82 (54.67)	59 (39.33)	9 (6.00)	- -	- -
7.	IPM practices given good income compared to traditional method of plant protection.	60 (40.00)	71 (47.33)	19 (12.67)	- -	- -
8.	Environment hazards resulting form IPM is more.	-	-	10 (6.67)	48 (32.00)	92 (61.33)
9.	It is good that I consider the number of spraying are reduced by IPM adoption	55 (36.67)	92 (61.33)	3 (2.00)	- -	- -
10.	IPM requires community co-operation which is not possible.	-	-	14 (9.33)	57 (38.00)	79 (52.67)

SA = Strongly agree, A = Agree, UD = Undecided, DA = Disagree, SDA = Strongly disagree.

Figures indicated in parantheses are percentages.

good income compared to traditional methods of plant protection was agreed 47.33 per cent and 40.00 per cent strongly agreed. Majority (61.33%) of respondnets strongly disagree, environment hazards resulting from IPM is more, followed by disagree 32.00 per cent respectively. Majority (61.33%) of respondents agreed the number of spraying are reduced by IPM adoption, followed by strongly agreed (36.67%) Strongly disagreed IPM requires community co-operation which is not possible (52.67%), followed by (38.00%) disagreed, respectively.

Majority of farmers showed the favourable attitdde towards the IPM practices. Since they were convinced about the benefits of IPM practices. In case of the respondents who expressed undecided responses they can be motivated by organizing more IPM training programmes. Therefore, there is a need to motivate and educate the farmers about the IPM practices through trainings and other sources of information particularly by the field level extension personnel who have better rapport with farmers.

LITERATURE CITED

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