

Economics of INM Technologies for Sustainable Cotton Production and Fiber Quality: A Five Year Study in Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT

This study has been undertaken to make cotton production in the state of Andhra Pradesh globally competitive by reducing the cost of production at farmer's level through adoption of Integrated Nutrient Management (INM). A sample of ten experimental and ten control plots has been taken for each technology in two villages every year consecutively for 5 years period. Every year the farmers were changed from the same village. The study has revealed that the adopters of INM could get higher yield as compared to that by non-adopters. These technologies have been found cost-effective due to reduced cost per quintal production by Rs. 114. These technologies have been found to generate more income as the adopters could earn Rs.4105 ha⁻¹ as compared to that by the non-adopters. This was apparent from the results that saving in fertilizer cost by Rs. 94 and reduction in plant protection is 1004/- with reduced sprays by 1.4 times. The INM technologies do not have any negative impact on the quality parameters of cotton. These technologies will reduce the chemical fertilizer-consumption and enhance the productivity of cotton on sustainable basis with lower cost of production, which in turn would protect the environmental health and economic condition of the debt ridden cotton growers on a long-term basis.

Key words : Cotton production, Fiber quality, I N M Technologies.p