



Farmers Knowledge in Improved Cultivation Practices of Gram

KEYWORDS

Knowledge, Gram Growers

A. L. Khare

Ex PG Student, Dept. of Extension Education

P. K. Wakle

Associate Professor & Chief Editor, Directorate of Extension Education

D. M. Mankar

Professor & Head, Dept. of Extension Education, PGI

S. P. Salame

Assistant Professor & ETO, Directorate of Extension Education.

Dr. Panjabrao Deshmukh

Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola (MS)

ABSTRACT *The study was carried out in the year 2012-2013 Akola district in Maharashtra state to focus the knowledge level of improved cultivation practices of gram by the farmers. In all, 120 farmers were selected the study. The findings revealed that more than half of the gram growers (59.16 per cent) observed in medium level of knowledge of improved cultivation practices of gram. As regards practice wise knowledge all of gram growers had knowledge about land preparation (100 %) while sowing time (77.50%), type of soil requirement (76.66%), recommended variety (73.33%) and yield of gram (60.83%), recommended seed rate (60.00%), sowing method (50.00%) and recommended spacing (45.83%) had knowledge about cultivation practices of gram.*

INTRODUCTION

India grows a variety of pulse crop under a wide range of agro-climatic conditions and has a pride of being the world's largest producer of pulses. Major pulse crops grown in the country are chickpea, pigeonpea, urdbean, mungbean, lentil, fieldpea, lathyrus, mothbean and horsegram. Unique characteristics like high protein content (2-3 times more than cereals), nitrogen fixing ability, soil ameliorative properties and ability to thrive better under harsh conditions make pulses and integral component of sustainable agriculture particularly in dry land area. The most important pulse crop in the country is chickpea (gram), which accounts for (38 %) production followed by pigeonpea (16 %) mung bean (12%).

Gram is commonly known by various names in different states of India such as 'chana', 'chickpea', 'harbara', 'chhole' and 'bengal gram'. The name chana has been mostly derived from sanskrit word 'chanakam' or 'chen-nuka'. The most common Indian name is Gram. Gram contains 21.10% protein, 61.50% carbohydrates and 2.4-5.0% fats. Besides its contain iron, calcium, niacin in sufficient quantity and also contain malic acid and oxalic acid in chickpea.

In India, major states growing chickpea are Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh etc. Among these states Maharashtra ranks third in acreage under chickpea after Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Madhya Pradesh produces the major share of 40 per cent of total India's production.

It will be very useful to ascertain the factors responsible for knowledge gap as well as the extent of variation caused by independent variables in the knowledge level. The study will greatly help identifying inadequacies and reasons related to knowledge gap of chickpea production technology. So present study was carried out with the following specific objectives.

OBJECTIVES

To study the knowledge of farmers about improved cultivation practices of gram by the farmers

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in three Panchayat Samities of Akola district namely Akola, Barshitakli and Akot, in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State having large area under Gram cultivation. The exploratory design of social research was used for present study. Four villages from each Panchayat Samiti were selected randomly. Ten respondents were selected from each village by random sampling method, making a sample size of 120 in total. The data were collected with the help of interview schedule. On the basis of the objectives of the study, an exhaustive interview schedule was designed and developed. Necessary precaution was taken to keep the language simple so as to get desired responses from the respondents. The statistical methods used in the present investigation was mean, standard deviation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Knowledge

The knowledge refers to the actual awareness of the respondents about improved cultivation practices of gram for increase the yield of gram.

Practicewise knowledge about improved gram cultivation practices.

Distribution of respondents by practice wise knowledge of improved cultivation practices of gram is depicted in Table1.

The data in Table1 indicated that majority of the respondents had knowledge about land preparation (100 %), sowing time (77.50%), type of soil requirement (76.66%), recommended variety (73.33%) and yield of gram (60.83%), recommended seed rate (60.00%), sowing method (50.00%) and recommended spacing (45.83%) had knowledge about cultivation practices of gram.

In case of improved the yield of gram some plant protection practices was carried out by the farmers i.e. recommended FYM application (54.16%), seed treatment (45.00%), fertilizer application (36.66%), plant protection (31.66%), weedicide used (27.5%) and irrigation application (23.33%) etc for the diseases and pest control in gram.

Thus, it can be inferred that the respondents were having good knowledge level with regard to improved cultivation practices of gram.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents according to practice wise knowledge about improved gram production technology.

Sr. No.	Cultivation practices of gram	Yes		No	
		Frequ-ency	Per-cent	Frequ-ency	Per-cent
1	Land Preparation	120	100.00	Nil	Nil
2	Types of soil requirements(Medium to heavy soil)	92	76.67	28	23.33
3	Sowing Method	60	50.00	60	50.00
4	Sowing time	93	77.50	27	22.50
5	Recommended Seed rate	72	60.00	48	40.00
6	Recommended Varieties	88	73.33	32	26.67
7	Recommended Spacing	55	45.83	65	54.17
8	Seed Treatment	54	45.00	66	55.00
9	Recommended FYM applications	65	54.16	55	45.84
10	Fertilizer applications	44	36.66	76	63.34
11	Irrigation application for critical crop stage	28	23.33	92	76.67
12	Plant protections-Pest control	38	31.66	82	68.34
13	Weedicide used	33	27.50	87	72.50
14	Yield of gram	73	60.83	47	39.17

Levels of Knowledge

The data with regards to the level of knowledge possessed by the respondents about improved cultivation practices of gram has been presented in Table 2,

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their knowledge about adoption of improved cultivation practices of gram.

Sr. No.	Knowledge	Respondents (n=120)	
		Number	Percentage
1	Low (Up to 31.59)	23	19.17
2	Medium (31.60 to 77.43)	71	59.16
3	High(Above 77.43)	26	21.67
	Total	120	100.00

It was observed from the Table 2, that majority (59.16%) of the respondents had medium level of knowledge about improved cultivation practices of gram, whereas 21.67 per cent and 19.17 per cent of the respondent farmers were having high and low level of knowledge of improved cultivation practices of gram.

The above findings are in line with observation of Kadam (2003) and Zunar (2011) that majority of the farmers were medium category in respect of knowledge about the improved gram practices.

CONCLUSION

Thus study concluded that, majority of the respondent farmers had medium level of knowledge about adoption of improved cultivation practices of gram. As regards practice wise knowledge majority of the respondents had knowledge about land preparation (100 %), sowing time (77.50%), type of soil requirement (76.66%), recommended variety (73.33%) and yield of gram (60.83%), recommended seed rate (60.00%), sowing method (50.00%) and recommended spacing (45.83%) had knowledge about cultivation practices of gram.

REFERENCE

- Anonymous, 2009-10. Economic Survey of Maharashtra, Director of Economics and Statistics, Planning Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai. | Awasthi, D.K. 2004. Study of technological gap and constraints analysis of chickpea production technology. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis (unpub.), NDUAT, Kumarganj, Faizabad. | Badodia, S.K., K.K. Shrivastava and Lakhera, M.L., 2002. Technological gap in chickpea cultivation technology. Agril. Extn. Rev. (7): 25-28. | Jambhale, N.N. 2007. Technological gap in chickpea production technology. M.Sc.(Agri.) Thesis (unpub.) Dr. PDKV, Akola. |