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Constraints Faced by Farmers in Adoption of Biofertilizers

Agriculture

KEYWORDS : constraints, adoption, biofertilizers.

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ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out during 2011-2012 in Deoli Taluka of Wardha district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state for ascertaining the constraints faced by farmers in adoption of biofertilizers. The study revealed that a great majority of respondents (85.00%) reported the lack of confidence towards various biofertilizers practices. More than half of the respondents of the respondents (58.00%) reported that lack of knowledge about biofertilizers, followed by inadequate water availability (45.00%) and lack of guidance from extension personnel (41.00%). It is therefore, advisable that the extension agency should increase confidence level of farmers on use of biofertilizers. Information regarding utilization of biofertilizers through organizing of training programmes, guest lectures, method and result demonstration and Krishi Mela.

INTRODUCTION

Agriculture production depends upon availability and use of quality and quantity of farm inputs. The chemical fertilizers are supposed to be essential inputs for boosting up of production of hybrids and high yielding crop varieties. It has played a significant role in increasing agricultural production in the country since 'Green Revolution'. The continuous use of chemical fertilizers however, has deteriorated the soil fertility, destroyed soil microbial activity, disturbed environmental balance and ecological soundness.

This therefore, indicates a dire need to use such fertilizers that are eco-friendly, maintain soil fertility and increase crop production. Biofertilzers, most of which are nitrogen fixing microorganisms, are considered to be suitable alternative source of plant nutrition.

The use of biofertilizers is the recent attempt in increasing yield of different crops productivity as well as soil fertility by way of fixing atmospheric nitrogen, solublising insoluble phosphate present in the soil biologically along with production of growth hormones, vitamins and also helps improve soil structure, texture and water holding capacity.

The most prominent and contributing function of biofertilizers is substantial reduction in environmental pollution and improvement in agroecological soundness. Biofertilizers are affordable to farmers because of low costs and they are very significant in making available nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus to the crop plants. (Pandy and Pandey, 1995).

Despite having various potential activities biofertilizers yet did not get farmers acceptance adequately. There are various factors influencing the adoption of biofertilizers. By knowing the different constraints faced by the farmers in use of biofertilizers, the extent of adoption of biofertilizers can be increased by overcoming these constraints. The present investigation was therefore, aimed to ascertain the constraints faced by farmers with the following specific objectives.

1. Constraints faced by farmers in adoption of biofertilizers

METHODOLOGY

The present study was carried out in Deoli Taluka of Wardha district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. Deoli taluka consist of 144 villages among these 10 villages were selected by simple random sampling method. 100 farmers were selected by proportionate random sampling method from selected 10 villages of this Taluka. These farmers were considered as respondents for the present study. On the basis of the objectives of study, and exhaustive interview schedule was designed and developed. Data were collected from these farmers by personel interview method.

For the present study, constraints refer to problems and difficulties faced by the farmers during the adoption of biofertilizers. Efforts were made to identify the constraints faced by farmers in actual use of biofertilizers. The farmers were asked to indicate the difficulties they have encountered, regarding the various aspects connected with the use of biofertilizers such as technical constraints, financial constraints and other constraints. The difficulties reported by the farmers were listed out then frequencies and percentage to each were worked out and the rank was given to the each constraint based on the frequencies.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The constraints generally restrict the attitude of new farm technology. The problems faced by the farmer in use of biofertilizers were collected and depicted in Table 1.

Table 1: Distribution of farmers according to constraints faced by them in use of biofertilizers.

Sr. No.	Constraints	Respondent (N=100)		Rank
		Frequency	Percentage	
1.	Technical			
A	Lack of knowledge about biofertilizers	58	58	II
B	Non availability of biofertilizers	16	16	VI
C	Lack of guidance from extension personnel	41	41	IV
D	Inadequate water availability	45	45	III
2	Financial			
A	Lack of timely finance	18	18	V
B	Lack of subsidy on biofertilizers	15	15	VII
3	Others			
A	Lack of interest	10	10	IX
B	Complicated method	13	13	VIII
C	Lack of confidence towards various biofertilizers practices	85	85	I

It is seen from the distribution in Table 1, that in case of technical constraints, nearly majority of the respondents (58.00%) reported that lack of knowledge about biofertilizers, followed by inadequate water availability (45.00%) and lack of guidance from extension personnel (41.00%). The meagre per cent of respondent (16.00%) faced problem of non-availability of biofertilizers

In case of financial constraints, majority of respondents (18.00%) reported the lack of subsidy on biofertilizers and about one fifth of respondents (15.00%) reported the lack of timely finance as their constraint. In case of other constraints a great majority of respondents (85.00%) reported the lack of

confidence towards various biofertilizers practices. A meagre percentage of the respondents reported complicated method (13.00%) and lack of interest (10.00%) as constraints.

Similar to the present findings of Borkar (2000), Zade (1998), Wane (2000), Badake (2003), Jain and Bhattacharya (2000) Shinde (2003) and Kuthe (2006) reported that majority of the farmer lack of knowledge about biofertilizers, non availability of biofertilizers and lack of subsidy on biofertilizers as major constraints in use of biofertilizer.

This brings out that the important constraints in use of biofertilizers faced by the farmers were lack confidence towards various biofertilizers practices, lack of knowledge about biofertilizers, Inadequate water availability and lack of guidance from extension.

It is obvious to pointed out that there is a need increase confidance level of farmers on use of biofertilizers. Information regarding utilization of biofertilizers through organizing of training programmes, guest lectures, method and result demonstration and Krishi Mela.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present study was carried out during 2011-2012 in Deoli Taluka of Wardha district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state for ascertaining the constraints faced by farmers in adoption of biofertilizers. The study revealed that a great majority of respondents (85.00%) reported the lack of confidence towards various biofertilizers practices. More than half of the respondents of the respondents (58.00%) reported that lack of knowledge about biofertilizers, followed by inadequate water availability (45.00%) and lack of guidance from extension personnel (41.00%). It is therefore, advisable that the extension agency should increase confidence level of farmers on use of biofertilizers. Information regarding utilization of biofertilizers through organizing of training programmes, guest lectures, method and result demonstration and Krishi Mela.

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