

Perception and adoption of organic farming practices among mulberry cultivators

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ABSTRACT

The study was conducted purposively in selected three taluks of Kolar. The study revealed that cent per cent of the mulberry cultivators perceived organic manures as more useful, followed by composting of organic wastes (96.67%), organic mulches and green manures (81.67%) and intercropping (75.83%). Cent per cent of the farmers completely adopted organic manures, followed by composting of organic wastes (95.83%) and intercropping (73.33%). Majority of the mulberry cultivators have not adopted vermicompost (70.83%) and bio-fertilizers (65.83%). Out of seven characteristics selected for the study, five viz., education, land holding, social participation, risk orientation and decision making ability had significant relationship with perception and adoption. Besides this, innovative proneness had significant relationship with perception. Thus, it is necessary to intensify the extension educational programmes such as trainings, discussion meetings, demonstrations, field visits etc., for needed perceptual changes in mulberry cultivators. This will enable the farmers to adopt organic farming practices which inturn will help in the production of quality cocoons and pollution free environment.

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INTRODUCTION

Crop production by using fertilizers and chemicals indiscriminately and injudiciously has resulted in pollution of soil and environment. Further, chemical farming undetermined the natural mechanism operating in the ecosystem. On account of environmental concerns and food safety, organic farming has regained momentum in the recent past. The methods in organic farming entails significant restrictions on the use of the fertilizers and chemicals. It avoids use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides and relies on maximum use of legumes, green manures crop residues, animal manure, vermicompost, bio-fertilizers etc., The need of plant nutrients have to be met through these organic or in combination of them with inorganic fertilizers. It is considered to be sustainable and safe for environment. In addition, much of the organic technologies are cheap, user friendly and suitable for small and marginal farmers.

The success of organic farming depends on how the farmers perceive and adopts. In this context, the present study was undertaken to assess the perception of mulberry cultivators about the usefulness of organic farming practices, to study the adoption level of organic farming practices by mulberry cultivators and to find out the relationship between characteristics of mulberry cultivators with

their perception and adoption level of organic farming practices.

METHODOLOGY

Expost-facto research design with two stages and random sampling method were used for this study. At the first stage, out of five taluks of Kolar district, three were purposively selected on the basis of maximum area under mulberry cultivation. The villages having maximum area under mulberry were listed and two villages from each taluk were selected purposively. In each village, a list of mulberry cultivators was prepared separately and 20 farmers from each village were selected randomly, thus making a total sample of 120. The data were collected with the help of structured pretested interview schedule and analysed for drawing conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings obtained from the present study are presented below:

Perception of mulberry cultivators regarding organic farming practices:

The results presented in Table 1 indicate that cent per cent of mulberry cultivars perceived organic manures as more useful followed by composting of organic waste

Key words :

Perception, adoption, Organic farming practices, Mulberry cultivators

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