

## A Study Of Knowledge Level Of Farmers Regarding Drip System Of Irrigation In Maharashtra

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### ABSTRACT

Irrigation is prime requirement of plant growth but now a days farmers are facing water scarcity problem. To make effective use of water farmers have to adopt various irrigation methods. Present study was conducted to study knowledge level of farmers regarding drip irrigation. It was revealed that medium educated farmers having medium socio-economic status procured information from progressive farmers. But as far as Knowledge level of drip irrigators it was found that near about fifty percent having medium level of knowledge. It was observed that education, size of land holding, annual income and scientific orientation bring changes in the level of knowledge. However, socio-economic status and risk orientation were negative and exhibited non-significant contribution in the dependent variable knowledge.

**Key words :** Farmers, Drip system, Irrigations.

### INTRODUCTION

In India, 33 per cent (83 million ha) area is under irrigation out of total cropped area (237 million ha). In Maharashtra out of 21.1 million hectares cultivated area only 15.4 per cent area (3.3 million ha) is under irrigation. Drip irrigation was introduced in India during early seventies and significant development has taken place in the research on drip irrigation from eighties till date. The technology of drip irrigation is becoming increasingly popular in regions of water scarcity where the available water is not sufficient to irrigate the command area by surface irrigation. In Maharashtra, the area under drip irrigation has been increased up to 60% 1,41,981 hectares till 1999.

The study is undertaken with a view to understand actual situation of drip irrigation system in project area with following specific objectives.

1. To study the different socio-economic aspects of drip irrigators.
2. To study the awareness amongst the farmers about drip system in selected area.
3. To know the relationship of personal, socio-economic and psychological variables of respondents with their knowledge of drip irrigation system

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted in Malshiras tahsil of Solapur district of Maharashtra state. The ten villages were selected

from Malshiras tahsil considering the availability of drip irrigation sets-List of villages and farmers having drip irrigation sets in working condition were obtained from the office of Malshiras panchayat samiti and from dealers. All the farmers were considered for study. Randomly ten villages and hundred respondents were selected. A specially designed interview schedule was used as an instrument of data collection. There were twenty five knowledge item included in the teacher made knowledge test. Two scores were assigned for knowing the practice fully. One score was assigned for knowing the aspect partially and Zero score was assigned for total lack of knowledge. Maximum total possible score was 50 and minimum was 0. The data were subjected to the statistical tests such as frequencies. Percentages, coefficient of correlation and multiple regression for drawing inferences

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Personal, socio-economic psychological characteristics of drip irrigations :*

The study pointed out that most of the drip adopters had (40.00 per cent) secondary education and majority of drip adopters (66.00 per cent) had medium land holding while two third of respondents (61.00 per cent) had medium level of income. It was observed that over two third of the respondents belonged to medium level of socio-economic status. Majority of the respondents (60.00 per cent) had medium level of risk orientation category. However, two

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