

Level of knowledge and scientific orientation towards integrated pest management among vegetable growers

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ABSTRACT

Vegetables are rich in minerals and vitamins. That is why; vegetables are used in daily diet either in raw or cooked form. To combat the pest menace, the growers are using malpractices knowingly or unknowingly. These malpractices directly or indirectly influence the living beings and their surrounding. A study about the level of knowledge and scientific orientation towards plant protection practices more particularly in vegetables was undertaken with the help of scheduled questionnaire. The responses showed that a huge scope existed in time and space to educate the farmers. About one fourth respondents of sampled farmers exhibited low level knowledge, however, over half of the respondents showed scientific orientation towards IPM.

Pandey, Rakesh, Chaudhary, R.P., Chaturvedi, A.K. and Rai, T.N. (2011). Level of knowledge and scientific orientation towards integrated pest management among vegetable growers. *Internat. J. agric. Sci.*, 7(2): 396-399.

Key words : IPM, Level of knowledge, Vegetable, Scientific orientation

INTRODUCTION

Vegetables are the important ingredients in Indian diet. The intake of vegetables is found more or less in both rural and urban based consumers. It is utmost important as concerned with human health that the vegetables, taken under meal, free from pesticide residues. Generally, the vegetable growers are used to apply the pesticides injudiciously at frequent interval. This malpractice leaves toxic residues in vegetables and other processed vegetable's produce. Vegetables are harvested after spraying of pesticides without considering the waiting period and few of those marketed vegetables are consumed even without cooking. Not only leaving pesticide residues, synthetic pesticides play a very important role in disrupting the agro-ecosystem. Periodic exposure of chemicals, lift the natural control by killing the natural enemies and the other survivors competing with the harmful insect-pests, leading pest resurgence and insecticide resistance. In addition, it also pollutes the environment. The success of cultivation of vegetables depends on successfulness of pest management approach. Therefore, it is essential to measure the level of knowledge and scientific orientation towards IPM among the vegetable growers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To ascertain the knowledge level of pest management a study was conducted by KVK, Sant

Ravidas Nagar. Three villages namely Dalapur, Khetalpur and Kurmaicha were selected under Aurai, Bhadohi and Deegh block, respectively, of district Sant Ravidas Nagar during 2009-10. Thirty five farmers purposively selected from each village adopted by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sant Ravidas Nagar. Thus, the sample consisted of a total number of 105 respondents.

The data were collected from sampled farmers with the help of informal discussion with the experts. Different pest management practices were discussed with the experts. Different pest management practices were discussed to measure the level of knowledge. The respondents were requested to assemble at a place in each village on a scheduled date. The selected practices were asked one by one for rating the level of knowledge.

Level of knowledge:

All the scheduled questions about knowledge level were dichotomized having three dimensions as good, average and poor with assigned numeral value 3, 2 and 1, respectively. The range of scores obtained by the respondents might vary from 0 to 315 in the knowledge test which indicate the knowledge level of respondents. It was categorized in to three categories viz., Mean - SD, Mean \pm SD and Mean + SD as low, medium and high, respectively.

Scientific orientation towards IPM:

There were 15 statements about the scientific

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