



Profile of the farmers adopting turmeric production technology

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Abstract : Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is an important crop for its wide use in processing industry and its medicinal value. The present study was conducted in Wai tahsil of Satara district. Ten villages having maximum area under turmeric crop was selected for study purpose. From the selected villages 120 turmeric growers were randomly selected and interviewed. The data were collected, tabulated and statistically analysed. The study revealed that, highest proportion of turmeric growers belonged to 'middle' age, received 'secondary' education, 'medium' size of land holding, 'medium' size of family, 'low' level of annual income, 'medium' socio-economic status, 'medium' social participation, 'medium' cosmopolitanism, 'medium' level of source of information, 'medium' risk orientation and 'medium' experience in farming. It was also observed that the highest percentage of turmeric growers had 'medium' level of adoption of improved cultivation practices of turmeric.

Key Words : Socio-psychological characters, Adoption, Turmeric production technology

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INTRODUCTION

Turmeric (*Curcuma Longa*) is important indigenous spice and one of the most ancient spices in India. In fact, it was one of the important spices which is cultivated in India times immemorial. It is grown to a limited extent in selected locations, in almost all the states of India. It is grown in Maharashtra on an area of 6789 ha with production of 8508 tones (Anonymous, 2010).

The rhizomes of turmeric are fleshy and possess a fragrant, peppery aroma, slightly bitter and musky flavour with warm spicy taste. Turmeric is an important constituent of curry powder and is utilized for unchanging flavour of food items. It is also used as a condiment in vegetables and prepared custard, because of its colour and mild flavour. It is used in pickles and other food stuff as a preservative. It is also used for dyeing wool, silk and cotton textile. As a medicine turmeric has been used in Ayurvedic system of medicine in India. It is claimed to be a stomachic tonic, blood purifier, antiseptic, antacid and carminative.

Looking to the importance of the crop, it is necessary to increase production and productivity of the crop. However, it is observed that full production potential is not tapped by the cultivations because large numbers of farmers are still using the traditional methods of cultivations of this crop. It was felt necessary to undertake the present study of turmeric growers with following specific objectives to study the personal and socio-psychological background of the turmeric growers and to study the extent of adoption of recommended package of practices of turmeric.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in Wai tahsil of Satara district. Out of 29 turmeric growing villages, 10 villages were selected purposively, having maximum area under turmeric crop. From each village, 12 turmeric growers were selected by using random sampling method. Thus, total of 120 respondents were selected for the study. The data were collected by specially structured personal interview schedule focusing on the above

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