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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Adoption of integrated pest management practices by pigeonpea growers

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ABSTRACT

The present study was conducted mainly with the objective to study the adoption of integrated pest management technology by pigeonpea growers. For this study, Latur and Osmanabad districts were selected randomly by considered the large area under pigeonpea cultivation.It was noticed that, majority of the respondents with 11 to 29 years of farm experience, were educated upto Primary as well as Secondary level, small farmers in land holding, medium in family size, low annual income, agriculture and subsidiary enterprises of occupation, medium social participation, medium extension contact, medium risk orientation and medium economic motivation. It was observed from study that majority (46.67 %) of respondents had medium level of adoption. Out of ten independent variables family size, annual income, occupation, social participation, and risk orientation had positive but non-significant relationship with adoption of pigeonpea growers regarding IPM technology in pigeonpea.

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INTRODUCTION

Red gram also known as pigeonpea (Arhar or tur in local language) is an important pulse crop of India, and is being cultivated on 35.6 lakh ha area. Among total pulses, the red gram accounts for 14.5 per cent in area and 15.5 per cent in productivity. Maharashtra is the largest producer with approximately 10.51 lakh ha area with average productivity of 6.03 q/ha .

At present agriculture, productivity of pigeonpea crop in India is very low as compared to world standard. This is due to the lack of management practices and attack of various pests. Pest is responsible for causing damage to many of field, horticulture and plantation crops. Pest problems are originated with the origin of agriculture *i.e.* growing of single species of plants over a large area. In pigeonpea various pests attacks reduce the production of crop. So, it is necessary to control the pest attack by using integrated pest management technology. Integrated pest management can reduce the human and environmental exposure to hazardous conditions. It also helps in lowering the overall cost of pesticide application.

Integrated pest management technology emphasizes not only on the reduction in use of pesticide and control the level of pest causing economic injury but also to facilitate the use of cultural, mechanical, chemical and biological methods of pest control.

Thus, it implies that farmers need to acquire the maximum skill necessary to make self decision based on specific farm condition and discourage the discriminate use of pesticides. Therefore, the present study was selected with the following objectives :

–To study the personal characteristics of pigeonpea growers, to study the adoption of pigeonpea growers about integrated pest management technology and to study the relationship of the personal characteristics of pigeonpea growers with their adoption of integrated pest management