

Determinants of knowledge of cotton growers about integrated weed management practices

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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out in Vadodara District of Gujarat state with specific objective to study the knowledge of cotton growers regarding integrated weed management practices, revealed that nearly two-third (65.00 %) of cotton growers found in the category of high level of knowledge regarding basic knowledge about weeds, slightly less than half (49.16 %) of cotton growers had very high level of knowledge about preventive measures of weed management in cotton. Whereas more than two-fifth (42.50 %) of cotton growers falls under the category of high level of knowledge about cultural method. Exactly one third (33.33 %) of cotton growers had high level of knowledge about chemical method, more than two-fifth (41.66%) of cotton growers had medium level of knowledge about biological method and two-fifth (40.00%) of cotton growers found with medium level of knowledge about safety measures of weed management. While exactly two-third (66.66 %) of the cotton growers had high level of overall knowledge pertaining to integrated weed management practices followed by 19.67 per cent and 14.67 per cent had medium and very high level of overall knowledge and independent variables like education, social participation, mass media exposure and land holding had positive and significant correlation with their knowledge level.

Key Words : Knowledge, Cotton growers, Weed management

INTRODUCTION

Weed management is an essential agricultural operation to boost yield of cotton as weeds reduce yields by competing with crop for water, nutrients, and sunlight directly and reduce profits indirectly by hindering harvest operations, and lowering crop quality. Integrated weed management is a system approach aims at whole land use planning is done in advance to minimize the very invasion of weeds in aggressive forms by some kind of preventive, cultural, biological chemical means. Every method of weed control has its own advantages and disadvantages. No single method is successful under all weed situations. An integrated weed management is new concept involves the utilization of a combination of mechanical, chemical and cultural practices of weed management in a planned sequence without affecting the ecosystem. The convenience of using integrated weed management depends on knowledge, attitudes skill and other situational factors of the farmer. Since, change in knowledge and attitude preceded adoption of an innovation and hence it is essential to analyze

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